

MISSION

Leveraging Investments in Creativity is a 10-year initiative to improve artists' ability to make work, build social capital and contribute to democratic values. We seek to assist the people, organizations, and communities already at work in supporting artists, and to serve unaddressed needs. Our efforts include funding community-wide strategies to improve conditions for artists; building online information resources concerning live/work spaces and health insurance for artists; and working with field leaders to advance knowledge and best practices.

VALUES & APPROACH

We value artists as the shapers and carriers of cultural values as tradition-bearers; idea generators; change agents; and social entrepreneurs.

We value artists as an important aspect of the independent workforce, generating economic benefits for themselves and the communities in which they live.

We are dedicated to the development of innovative practices that serve and support artists.

We support the development of replicable and scalable programs in communities around the country by animating a collaborative network of practitioners to help artists be productive members of the workforce.

We make technical information concerning health insurance and developing artist spaces available— promoting it widely to encourage replication without unnecessary duplication.

Through the publication and promotion of stories, best practices, and information related to LINC's themes, LINC raises awareness of local efforts and the context in which artists are making work and contributing to the greater good.

OUR PROGRAMS

Creative Communities

LINC has invited local partners in 15 communities to identify and address issues that affect artists working in all disciplines. These partner organizations receive planning and implementation grants and information resources from LINC, as well as regular opportunities to meet and share lessons from each other's work.

Creative Communities is a nationwide network of organizations that work to improve the environment for artists by addressing the following issues:

- Affordable space;
- Affordable health insurance/health care;
- Training and professional development;
- Demand and markets for artist's work; and
- Direct support and validation of individual artists.

In addition to financial investments, the Creative Communities program places a high value on information-sharing and its goal to build field knowledge of strategies and programs that can serve as models for other communities across the country. See lincnet.net for a full list of active communities.

Space for Change: Building Community Through Innovative Art Spaces

Through a funding collaboration of MetLife Foundation and the Ford Foundation, and in partnership with MIT's Department of Urban Studies and Planning, LINC has created *Space for Change* to promote best practices in the development of affordable artist spaces. Through a suite of grants, learning opportunities, and research, LINC is committed to increasing the knowledge of how artist spaces are created and sustained, and to promote the contributions artist space development (ASD) projects and artists can make to communities socially, physically, and economically. LINC has designed ASD-related resources on www.lincnet.net/artist-space to be useful for a range of stakeholders, including: local municipalities and public agencies; artist-focused organizations; community development corporations (CDCs); developers; and artists themselves. Specifically, LINC is working toward providing and/or supporting:

- Information, examples, and strategies needed by organizations, developers, and artists to make ASD projects come to fruition;
- Research that helps demonstrate the contributions artists make to community life; and
- Research that stimulates the development of artist space by identifying and acknowledging innovative projects, programs, or strategies that result in affordable spaces for artists to work or live, including the dissemination information about best-practices.

ARTOGRAPHY: Arts in a Changing America

On behalf of the Ford Foundation, LINC offers this unique grant and documentation program aimed at supporting exemplary art-making set within the landscape of changing demographics in America. *ARTOGRAPHY* aims to broaden the language used to define aesthetics and artistic practice, so that it more accurately reflects the impacts of changing populations, cultures, and aesthetics on the future of art-making in the United States, by nurturing arts communities that encourage diversity and artistry while engaging the wider public in a critical dialogue. *ARTOGRAPHY* charts the distinctive activities of arts organizations and shares their knowledge and practices with the arts field at large.

In the final cycle of this program, LINC has also brought the cohort of *Shifting Sands* grantees—a separate Ford-funded initiative that examined how arts and cultural organizations work at the intersection of arts and community development—together with the *ARTOGRAPHY* community. The *ARTOGRAPHY* community as a whole will benefit from LINC's larger network of resources through the Creative Communities, National Artist Health Insurance, and National Artist Space programs. For more information, please visit www.artsinachangingamerica.net.

National Artist Health Insurance/Health Care Initiative

LINC's health insurance and health care information resources are designed with the needs of individual artists in mind. Our goal is to deliver valuable information about existing programs for accessing affordable health care options. LINC's *National Artist Health Insurance/Health Care Initiative* is structured around three core activities:

- Delivering information and resources to artists, organizations, and communities regarding options for affordable, local health care and health insurance;
- Providing financial resources and direct support for arts organizations in the LINC network who are engaged in programming to meet the unique needs of individual artists in the areas of health care and health insurance; and
- Supporting and disseminating research and other valuable information on the conditions that artists face within the U.S. health care and health insurance systems.

To achieve its goals, LINC also partners with the Artist Health Insurance Resource Center (AHIRC) of The Actors Fund to deliver online information at www.ahirc.org. LINC also supports AHIRC's efforts through www.ArtistsUnitedforHealthCare.org, a forum where artists can stay up to date on potential changes to the U.S. health care and health insurance systems. Both online resources aim to create a better understanding of the structural challenges artists face in obtaining affordable health care, giving artists opportunities to become involved in this critical conversation.

