Arts and Culture Nonprofits and Community Sustainability: Examining the Role of Organizational Strategy

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This article investigates the relationship between elements of organizational strategy and arts and culture nonprofits’ engagement in community sustainability. We ask the following research question: What are the drivers of the various roles associated with cultural nonprofits’ engagement in community sustainability? Drawing on data collected from the survey of 175 nonprofits in the State of Michigan, the article reports findings about the arts and culture organizations’ engagement in community sustainability, and factors that foster or inhibit such engagement. The article also discusses how these findings inform broader scholarly discourse on the role of culture and arts nonprofits in a society, and what organizational factors are likely to foster the positive effects of the arts and culture organizations on sustainable development in local communities.

Alisa Moldavanova, PhD, is an assistant professor in the Political Science Department at Wayne State University. Her research areas include organization theory, public and nonprofit management, collaboration and inter-organizational relationships, and ethics and sustainability studies. Her previous publications investigate sustainability in the context of arts and culture organizations, as well as theoretical foundations of sustainable public administration.

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