Organizational Connectedness and Engagement in Community Sustainability: Insights from the National Survey of Arts and Culture Nonprofits

This paper investigates the role that different forms of organizational social connectedness play in fostering the engagement of arts and culture organizations in the various roles associated with local sustainable development. Drawing on the survey of 438 arts and culture nonprofits located in ten major metropolitan areas in the U.S., the study shows that how well-connected an arts organization is, is a more consistent predictor of its engagement in community sustainability, as compared to the various factors related to organizational capacity. We also find that not all forms of organizational social connectedness are created equal. The number of active partnerships that an organization has, as well as how strong and diverse its local networks are, appear to be more important for organizational engagement in community sustainability than an affiliation with a professional network or alliance.

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