How Art Works System Map

At the core of the map are variables related to *Arts Creation* and *Arts Participation*, which have cascading effects, represented by *Benefit of Art to Individuals (cognitive and emotional)* and *Benefit of Art to Society and Communities (economic and civic)*. According to the *How Art Works* hypothesis, these benefits lead to second-order effects, represented by *Societal Capacity to Innovate and Express Ideas*, which, in a virtuous cycle, feeds back into the two key inputs of the system: *Arts Infrastructure* and *Education and Training* in the arts.

The NEA's research agenda includes several projects in each "node" of the system map. ORA has set milestones for those projects which it tracks and updates annually. The projects and milestones serve three ORA goals:

- Identify and cultivate new and existing data sources in the arts.
- Investigate the value of the U.S. arts ecosystem and the impact of the arts on other domains of American life.
- Elevate the public profile of arts-related research.

Public Affairs

The NEA runs three blogs through its website: the Big Read Blog, which supports the Big Read initiative and covers literary subjects; the Blue Star Museums Blog, which supports the Blue Star Museums initiative and covers military and museum-related topics; and the Art Works Blog, a more general blog that covers the arts in communities across the United States. In addition, the Public Affairs office produces a weekly audio podcast segment, consisting of interviews with artists, arts administrators, and creative thinkers about both the practical

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