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Cultural Policy  
11/17/2015  
Notable Quote Assignment #6

**Mankin, L. D.; Perry, R.W.; Jones, P.; Cayer, N. J. (2006). Executive directors of local arts agencies: Who are they?. Journal of Arts Management, Law, and Society, 36 (2), 86-103.**

*“The executive directors of these agencies are highly educated, with educational backgrounds primarily in the arts disciplines and related fields. Few of them have a formal university background in arts management or an administrative field (Mankin, et. al., 2006, p. 102).”*

The data in this study really demonstrated the professionalization of the field of arts management, specifically within the context of local arts agencies. The high level of education persistent across the study, as well as the previous studies by DiMaggio and Jahn in 1987 and 1985, indicates that there are likely high expectations in regards to knowledge and experience. Although it is interesting the article mentions that even though there was a general high level of education, much of duties within the positions, such as those related to grants and fundraising, were learned through experience. It is interesting that education specifically in arts management was not a common attribute amongst executive directors in the study. I expect that there will likely be more executive directors with arts management education as the field continues to professionalize, emphasizing the unique nature of management within the arts.

**Lane County Cultural Coalition. (2013). Lane County Cultural Coalition: Envisioning a Vibrant Cultural Life for Lane County. pp. 1-14.**

*“The Coalition will review and score grant proposals on their ability to address the above goal with measurable qualitative and quantitative outcomes (Lane County Cultural Coalition, 2013, p. 5).” The “above goal” being referred to states “the Lane County Cultural Coalition seeks to increase cultural accessibility, awareness, and education to all areas of the county through Cultural Opportunity Grants (Lane County Cultural Coalition, 2013, p. 4).”*

Much of our discussion throughout the course of the class has revolved around debates of excellence and access, especially in regards to focus on distribution of funds and grant selection. I found it interesting here that the Lane County Cultural Coalition has chosen specifically to focus on access, as well as awareness and education, which both contribute to access. There is no mention of “quality” or “excellence” as part of the grant selection standards. Even though the cultural plan mentions that grants are open to individuals, I wonder whether or not this focus on access gives an advantage to organizations over individuals, who have greater ability to reach a wider audience. Individuals, specifically individual artists, likely have a greater focus on “excellence” or “making good work” rather than reaching the largest possible audience.