CultureSource is Southeast Michigan’s coalition of arts and culture organizations.

We grow the capacity of our members to serve their communities, offer access to resources and information, and network creative people and organizations for collective impacts.

“CultureSource’s role as a resource to the Southeast Michigan cultural sector strengthened in 2019 as we focused on re-establishing our connectivity and centrality in the region’s ecosystem of creative activity. The positioning gained by our better footing attracted new members and partners and allowed us to feel anchored in boldly exploring new ideas and paradigms for impact. Notably, the legacy of investments made since our founding in 2007 enabled this year’s success, and we are grateful to all of our supporters for making future progress toward our vision possible.”

Omari Rush, Executive Director
2019 MEANT NEW CONNECTIONS / NEW IDEAS

Our programs leveraged national relationships to help regional arts organizations thrive and flourish.

ART IN PUBLIC
A highlight of our partnership with Mural Arts Philadelphia was an April symposium we designed featuring 1) a public dialogue about art in urban landscapes with city of Detroit officials and University of Michigan faculty, 2) a roundtable with real estate developers, and 3) a “fan luncheon” for long-time admirers of Jane Golden, Mural Arts founder.

DIGITAL TECH AND THE ARTS
The National Endowment for the Arts, in collaboration with the Ford and Knight foundations, is conducting a national scan of creative activity that uses digital and electronic technology—and CultureSource has joined this initiative, having a seat on the study’s technical working group, helping host Detroit-based activities, and using the focus to spark local cross-sector collaborations.

SUCCESSION PLANNING
Boston-based Koya Leadership Partners, one of the nation’s leading executive search firms, collaborated with CultureSource on keeping our cultural sector resilient by offering three days of skill-building workshops in November about succession planning and talent development.

CREATIVE ECONOMIES
Through our biannual member meetings, we explored ways artistic enterprises can be successful: Laura Callanan of Upstart Co-Lab shared strategies for impact investing through a creativity lens, and Laura Zabel of Springboard for the Arts shared key considerations in helping independent artists thrive financially and engage our member nonprofits.

PLUS “MEAT & POTATOES”
Addressing the core needs of our members to raise money and attract audiences framed the development of our new monthly workshop series, which all included lunch: “Sustainable Fundraising” with Aly Sterling Philanthropy (February - June), and “Digital Marketing Strategies” with Justin Dunn of Increase Branding & Design (August - November).
2019 MEANT EXPANDING SERVICES TO EXPAND ACCESS

In the last two years, we’ve been growing our ability to expand access to capital for creative enterprises, leading to three new services.

RE-GRANTING: CREATORS OF CULTURE
With support from area foundations, we launched Creators of Culture, an annual fund to boost the capacity of small, new, or informal creative activities to have positive impacts.

FISCAL SPONSORSHIPS: CONCERT OF COLORS
Aligned with our guiding principles, we proudly became the home of Concert of Colors, a long-standing festival highlighting the diversity of cultural expression in the Detroit metro.

PHILANTHROPIC ADVISORY SERVICES: ANN ARBOR AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
We grew our nascent partnership with Ann Arbor’s community foundation, being an ally in designing and executing a new arts grant program.

2019 MEANT LEADERS RISING, MEETING THE FUTURE

We made new investments in the development of leaders to secure a future of creativity and innovation for Southeast Michigan.

ARTS LEADERS AS CULTURAL INNOVATORS
Strengthening the adaptive capacities of first-time executive directors in our cultural sector. Led by EmcArts. Sponsored by the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, with support from the Knight Foundation

CULTUREMAKERS
Young leaders, predominantly of color, exploring contemporary practices in the arts and shifting dominant narratives about culture in Washtenaw County. Sponsored by the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation
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