

Perspective and Approach



Our personal search for "the good life" might include a variety of aspirations, and our notions about a "well-rounded" person can be defined in a number of ways. Generally, most of us admire the person whose goals include the acquisition of knowledge in a variety of fields, the development of intellectual skills and abilities, the development of personal interests in a broad range of enterprises, the formation of informed attitudes concerning diverse cultures and values, and sensitivity to issues and problems that have social consequence. A "civilized society" tends to foster institutions that cultivate these aspirations, and to enhance, in the aggregate, a constellation of organizations, both governmental and nonprofit, that promote these values.

Acquisition of knowledge, however, is just the first step. Our institutions must also foster actions and behavior that embed these values in our people, especially young people. The extent to which our young people engage in certain kinds of activities is a reflection of their interests, values, satisfactions, and, importantly, their larger social commitments. A civilized society must provide viable options that go beyond endless hours at the mall playing video games. The arts and humanities provide such a culture. These institutions have goals such as:

- developing a sense of personal responsibility, in the neighborhood, the nation, and the

world, a world of differing customs, political ground-rules, historical roots, and cultural values.

- developing understanding of other people and their values, and of different cultures and diverse ways of life in other nations, including sensitivity to peoples' faith, joys, pleasures, discontent, hopes and dreams.

- developing aesthetic sensitivities through acquaintance with and enjoyment of the non-verbal arts, such as painting, sculpture, music, dance, and communications media such as drama and the cinema.

- developing an appreciation of and acquaintance with literature, through skills in reading and the love of books, to discover the power of Beowulf and Thomas Hardy, The Odyssey and Moby Dick, and to revel in the sheer pleasure of vicarious experience.

- developing competence and understanding in various disciplines of science and technology, supplementing what is learned in laboratories and classrooms through a variety of exhibits, projects and participatory demonstrations.

CommunityNexus Consulting welcomes the opportunity to work with organizations and institutions whose mission embraces this wide field of the Arts, Culture and the Humanities, and those who focus on a special area of interest. In recent years our partners have assisted a variety of such organizations, including:

- UNITED STATES CAPITOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Wash DC
- WOODROW WILSON CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, DC
- THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, Washington DC
- THE WASHINGTON BALLET, Washington DC
- THE NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, Washington DC
- THE ARIZONA ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY, Phoenix, AZ
- THE CAMPAIGN FOR FORGIVENESS RESEARCH, Richmond, VA
- NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING, Washington DC
- PUBLIC TECHNOLOGY INC, Washington DC
- IUC-USA FOUNDATION/ FOCUS EUROPE, Wash'gton DC & Denmark