

DONALD E. ADAMS

3912 Terrace Street, Kansas City, MO 64111-4134 USA • 415/690-9991 • icd@wwcd.org

Don Adams has dedicated his professional life to advancing cultural development practice, policy-making and infrastructure since 1971. In January 1978, he founded Adams & Goldbard with his long-term professional colleague Arlene Goldbard, and since then has consulted with a wide variety of public and private agencies involved in all aspects of cultural work. Working with many over long periods of time, and recurrently, he has successfully provided organizational and cultural development guidance and support to public-policy makers; artistic and independent-media producers, distributors and underwriters; community arts, media and cultural development groups, from planning through evaluation. He has worked independently since 2003.

Adams' work integrates research, writing and editorial services, planning, program development, organizational restructuring and cooperative problem solving. He has specialized in participatory approaches to planning and organizing, in small collaborative groups as well as large-scale public projects. A partial listing of consultations appears below.

Adams is known as the primary American advocate of cultural democracy, the cultural policy concept driving international discourse from the Sixties through the Eighties and a potent concept now among cultural workers and policymakers in the US. He has spoken, taught and written widely on related topics before professional, student, and lay audiences: seminars, speeches and workshops are listed on pages 3–5; publications on pages 5–6; and additional background information on page 6.

CONSULTATIONS & PROJECTS

Community Cultural Development and Planning Projects

Love Letters: A Universal Sound, Little Rock, AR. December 2009-Present.

Richmond Art Center, Richmond, CA. December 2003-July 2005.

Arizona State University, Tempe. February 2004-February 2005.

Appalshop, Whitesburg, KY. September 1980, October 1983, October 1997-January 1999.

East Tennessee Foundation, Knoxville and 23 East Tennessee counties. January–August 1997.

Mendocino People's Portrait, Ukiah, CA, Countywide. September 1992-December 1993

Jubilee Arts, West Bromwich, West Midlands, England. April 1987, January 1990–November 1993.

Kansas Arts Commission, Topeka and Statewide. July 1988-October 1989.

Council for the Arts in Westchester, White Plains, NY. July 1988-June 1989.

Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission, Sacramento, CA. January-March 1987.

McCormick Arts Council at the Keturah, McCormick, SC. September 1986.

Cultural Partnerships, Ltd., London, England. July 1986.

South Carolina Arts Commission, Columbia and 14 rural counties. September 1984-April 1986.

Mendocino County Arts Coalition, Willits, CA. January-March 1986.

South Dakota Arts Council, Sioux Falls and other towns. April-July 1982.

Rural Arts Services, Northern California. March-November 1979, October 1981.

San Francisco Neighborhood Arts Consortium, San Francisco. September 1981.

Illinois Arts Council, Chicago. June 1981.

Colquitt County Cultural Center, Moultrie, GA. April-June 1981.

Community Arts, San Diego, CA. May-August 1979.

Ukiah Cultural Arts Commission, Ukiah, CA. April-May 1978.

Cultural Policy and Issue-Oriented Organizations

Seongnam Cultural Foundation, Seongnam, South Korea. September 2009.

National Campaign for Freedom of Expression, Washington, DC, and Seattle, WA. November 1990-January 1991 and November 1994-April 1995.

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, Ukiah, CA, February-June 1992.

Institute for Media Analysis, New York City. March 1988-November 1988.

Blue Mountain Center, Blue Mountain Lake, NY. May 1987.

Public Advocates, San Francisco, CA. August 1985-August 1986.

Neighborhood Arts Programs National Organizing Committee (NAPNOC), renamed **The Alliance for Cultural Democracy**, Washington, DC and Baltimore, May 1979-May 1983, and San Francisco, June-August 1978.

California Arts Council, Sacramento, CA. November-December 1978.

Independent Media and Public Broadcasting Groups and Projects

New Day Films, Berkeley, CA, New York City and Ho-ho-kus, NJ. April 1984-June 2003.

Independent Television Service, St. Paul, MN and San Francisco, CA. January-October 1994, May 1996-March 1997, July 1998-November 2001.

Web Lab, New York City. August 1999-November 2001.

Lyn Blumenthal Memorial Fund, Chicago, IL. September 1999-March 2000.

Appalshop, Whitesburg, KY. September 1980, October 1983, October 1997-January 1999.

Open Society Institute, New York City. August 1998-November 1998.

The Rockefeller Foundation, with **National Video Resource**, New York City. April 1996-December 1997.

A More Perfect Union (Arcadia Pictures), New York City. May 1996-February 1997.

Program for Art on Film, Columbia University and Pratt Institute, New York City. February 1989-May 1991, January-October 1996.

Paul Robeson Fund for Film and Video, New York City. March-June 1991 and September 1994

The American Documentary (P.O.V.), New York City. November-December 1987, June 1991-November 1993 and May-October 1994.

National Alliance of Media Arts Centers, Oakland, CA. September 1990-July 1991.

Muriel Rukeyser Center for Media and the Arts, Berkeley, CA. May 1990-Spring 1991.

Independent Media Distributors Alliance, Glen Cove, NY. January-March 1990.

Public Broadcasting Service and Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Washington, DC, and Hilton Head, SC. December 1989-March 1990.

Independent Feature Project, New York City. December 1989-March 1990.

National Asian American Telecommunications Association (NAATA), San Francisco. July-December 1989.

Tony Silver Films, New York City. April 1988-November 1989.

The Media Alliance, New York City. April-August 1988.

Lourdes Portillo/Xochil Films, San Francisco. March-September 1988.

National Black Programming Consortium, Columbus, OH. July-August 1987.

Tony Buba Films, Braddock, PA. November 1986-August 1987.

International Film Seminars (The Flaherty Seminar), New York City. May-June 1987.

Documentary Resource Center, State College, PA. January 1987.

Media Network, New York City. December 1986-January 1987 and June 1987.

Ferrero Films, San Francisco. April 1986.

San Francisco Cinematheque, September-November 1984.

KQED-TV, San Francisco. March-April 1979.

Other Arts and Cultural Organizations

Wylliams-Henry Contemporary Dance Company, Kansas City, MO. February 2010-Present.
Mid-America Arts Alliance, Kansas City, MO. May 2008–September 2009.
University of California Extension, Santa Cruz, Cupertino. February 2006–September 2003.
Global Kids, New York City. June 2004-September 2005.
San Francisco Jewish Film Festival, San Francisco Bay Area. December 2002–September 2003.
The Rockefeller Foundation, New York City. June 1998-January 2003.
Arts International, New York City. April-June 1999.
The New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York City. December 1987-June 1988, May-July 1990, and September 1990-March 1996.
The American Festival Project, Whitesburg, KY. August 1994-February 1995.
ExhibitsUSA, Mid-America Arts Alliance, Kansas City, MO. January-March 1993.
Harvestworks, New York City. October 1988-March 1989.
CenterArts, Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA. March-April 1988.
Artsreach, Artists-in-Prisons Program, Los Angeles. December 1987-January 1988.
Jerri Allyn (performance artist), New York City. June 1986.
Ukiah Players Theatre, Ukiah, CA. February-October 1985, November 1986, November 1987, Fall/Winter 1989-90.
People’s Theater Coalition, San Francisco. October 1984-January 1985.
Community Art Resource, San Francisco. August-December 1984.
Community Murals Magazine, Berkeley, CA. August-December 1984.
Lilith, San Francisco. August-December 1984.
UP Productions, San Francisco. August-December 1984.
Theater Artaud, San Francisco. May-June 1984.
Pickle Family Circus, San Francisco. June 1983-March 1984.
United Mime Workers, Champaign, IL. October-November 1983.
At the Foot of the Mountain, Minneapolis. April 1982-June 1983.
Chicago Mural Group. October-November 1981.

Other Organizational Assessment and Planning

C.G. Jung Educational Center of Houston. December 1994–November 1995.
CommunityWorks Coalition, Mendocino County Division of Alcohol and Other Drug Programs, Ukiah, CA. December 1991–May 1992.
Family Practice Residency Program, University of California/San Francisco School of Medicine, Santa Rosa. January-March 1992.
National Lawyers Guild, New York City. January 1989.

SEMINARS, SPEECHES AND WORKSHOPS

I have planned, presented, and/or facilitated a wide variety of public presentations, generally focusing on one or more of the following topics: cultural policy, public and private philanthropy, cultural diversity and racism, organizational development, and issues in such specific fields as community cultural development, the performing arts and independent media.

World Culture Clubs Forum, Seongnam, Korea. September 2009.
Midwest Arts Conference, Kansas City, September 2008, September 2009.
Arkansas Arts Council, Little Rock, October 2008.
Oklahoma Arts Council, Enid, November 2008.
Nebraska Arts Council, Kearney, June 2008.
Vision Unlimited: Community Theatre Conference, Hong Kong, China. February 2003.

XI Curso de Gestión Cultural, Caracas, Venezuela, June 2002.

Western States Arts Foundation, The Aspen Institute, CO, September 1999. Cultural Policy in the West.

Unesco World Conference on Cultural Policies for Development, Stockholm, Sweden. March/April 1998.

Missouri Arts Council and Missouri Alliance for Arts Education, Saint Louis. February 1994 and April–August 1996.

Institute for Social Ecology, Goddard College, Plainfield, VT, June 1996. Converging Streams Colloquium,

Plains Presenters, Kansas City, MO, April 1996; then regionally, 2008–2009.

University of Nebraska/Omaha. March 1996. Pedagogy of the Oppressed conference.

Caribbean Cultural Center, New York City. October 1995. Cultural Diversity Based on Cultural Grounding IV.

Alternate ROOTS, Atlanta and Durham, NC. January 1994. Community Arts Revival.

The Rockefeller Foundation, New York City. February and September 1993. Policy advisory meetings.

Association of Art Museum Directors, New York City. Honolulu, January-February 1991; Fort Worth, February 1992.

Mendocino County Public Broadcasting, Philo, CA. December 1989-February 1990.

New College of California, San Francisco. September 1989 and November 1988.

Alliance of New York State Arts Councils, White Plains. April-July 1988.

California Confederation of the Arts, San Francisco. October 1987.

Dartington College, Totnes, Devon, United Kingdom. April-May 1987.

Jubilee Arts, West Bromwich, West Midlands, United Kingdom. April 1987.

The Red Rose, Islington, London, United Kingdom. April 1987.

Southern Arts Association, Newbury, United Kingdom. April 1987.

Alliance for Cultural Democracy, Boston, November 1986, Atlanta, October 1983.

University of California/San Diego. Conference on Social Theory, Politics & the Arts, October 1986.

National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, Washington, DC, Minneapolis. October 1986.

The Shelton Trust, London and Sheffield, United Kingdom. July 1986. Another Standard '86.

Illinois State University, Springfield. November 1985.

National Conference of State Legislatures, Denver and Williamsburg, VA, November 1985.

Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA. November 1985.

San Francisco State University, Center for Experimental & Interdisciplinary Arts, School of Creative Arts. Spring semesters 1984 and 1985.

Pro Arts, Oakland, CA. January 1984

Ohio Arts Council, Columbus and Dayton, September 1983.

National Assembly of Local Arts Agencies, Washington, DC, and Philadelphia, June 1983.

Franklin Furnace, New York City. June 1983.

Western States Arts Foundation, Santa Fe, NM. May 1983.

NAPNOC, Baltimore and University of Nebraska at Omaha, Practicing Cultural Democracy, October 1983

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. September 1982

Social & Public Art Resource Center (SPARC), Venice, CA. June 1982

Yale University, Institute for Social & Policy Studies, Department of Sociology, New Haven, CT. February 1982.

Political Art Documentation/Distribution, New York City, February 1982.

Citizen Heritage Center, Minneapolis, MN. Macalaster College, Saint Paul, January 1982.

University of Illinois, Chicago Circle. October 1981.

Media Alliance and People's Theater Coalition, San Francisco. September 1981.

Community Art Resource, San Francisco. September 1981.
The Gathering, **Theaterwork**, St. Peter, MN. August 1981.
Alternate ROOTS, Camp Ozone, TN. August 1981.
Center for Responsive Governance, Washington, DC. February 1981.

PUBLICATIONS

My publications fall into two categories: book-length reports and white papers published by clients to disseminate the findings of research or planning projects; and shorter articles and papers in periodicals and chapters of anthologies.

- Community, Culture and Globalization**, New York, NY: The Rockefeller Foundation, 2002.
Transforming Dialogue: Web Lab's Explorations at the Frontiers of Online Community, New York, NY: Web Lab, July 2000
Creative Community: The Art of Cultural Development, New York, NY: The Rockefeller Foundation, May 2000. (Second edition published August 2005.)
"A Bright New Day: Why a 25-year-old Distribution Co-op Could Be the Wave of the Future," **The Independent** (New York), May 1996.
"Calling the Question of Critical Stance," **Sniper's Nest**. Annandale-on-Hudson, NY: Bard Center for Curatorial Studies, 1996.
"Race and Redemption: Notes for a National Conversation," **High Performance** (Santa Monica, CA), Number 66 (Summer 1994), Volume 17, Number 2.
"Learning to Read the World," **Exposure** (Boulder, CO) Volume 28, Number 1/2, 1991.
The Bottom Line: Funding for Media Arts Organizations. San Francisco: National Alliance of Media Arts Centers, 1991.
Crossroads: Reflections on the Politics of Culture. Talmage, CA: DNA Press, 1990.
"Democracy and Competence," **Reimagining America: The Arts of Social Change**, Philadelphia: New Society Publishers, 1990.
"Faith, Reason and the Art of the Future," **High Performance** (Santa Monica, CA), Number 48 (Winter 1989), Vol. 12, No. 4.
"Social Studies: Cultural Policy and Media Literacy," **The Independent** (New York), August/September 1989.
"Artists' Organizations in the 1980s" **Artpaper** (Minneapolis), Volume 9, Number 2, 1989.
Kansas Rural Arts Organizer. Topeka: Kansas Arts Commission, 1989.
"Cultural Democracy: A New Cultural Policy for the United States," **Winning America: Ideas and Leadership for the 1990s**, Boston: South End Press, 1988.
"Breaking down the cultural barricades," **In These Times** (Chicago), February 10-16, 1988.
"Tough Times," **Heresies** (New York), Volume 6, Number 2, 1987.
"The Challenge of Cultural Action" and "Cultural Democracy," **Cultural Correspondence** (New York), Number 5, 1986.
"Community, Art and The State," **Community Murals Magazine** (Berkeley, CA), Fall 1986.
"Falling into the enemy's arms," **In These Times** (Chicago), August 20-September 2, 1986.
The Small Town Arts Organizer. Columbia: South Carolina Arts Commission, 1986.
"The State of Rural Arts in South Dakota Reviewed," **South Dakota Arts Report** (Sioux Falls), Spring 1985.
"From the Ground Up: Cultural Democracy as a National Movement," **Upfront** (NYC), Winter 1984.
"The Right to Culture," **Journal of Arts Management & Law** (Washington, DC), Spring, 1983.
"The Challenge of Cultural Action," **Cultural Correspondence** (New York), Winter, 1983. Also published in **Theaterwork** (St. Peter, MN), March/April, 1982.
"Art Where You Are," **The Progressive** (Madison, WI), June 1982.
"South of the Border: Cultural Politics in the U.S.," **FUSE** (Toronto), May/June, 1982.

“Grassroots Vanguard,” **Art in America** (New York), April 1982.
“Freedom and Diversity: U.S. History and the Challenge of Cultural Democracy,” **Theaterwork**,
March/April, 1982.
“Neighborhood Arts Under Reagan,” **Journal of Community Action** (Washington, DC),
January/February, 1982.
“Task Force’s Work Now Is Done” and “I Don’t Know Much About Culture, But...” **In These Times**
(Chicago, IL), September 30-October 6, 1981.
“Cultural Democracy vs. Democratization of High Culture,” **Social Policy** (New York), May/June, 1981.
“The Heritage Foundation and Reagan’s Policies,” **Theaterwork**, March/April, 1981.
Webster’s World of Cultural Democracy, <http://www.wgcd.org> — online since 1995.
Cultural Democracy (ISBN 0730-9503): Adams and Goldbard established this periodical in June 1981,
and served as Co-Editors through issue 27 (January/February 1983).
Scholar-in-residence, **Rockefeller Study & Conference Center**, Bellagio, Italy, April-May 1994
Writer-in-residence, **Blue Mountain Center**, Blue Mountain Lake, NY, July-September 1982

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

In 1976-77, Don Adams served as Gov. Jerry Brown’s youngest appointee, as Deputy Director of the **California Arts Council**, with general policy, planning, and creating administrative systems for this newly established state arts agency. This appointment followed a 1976 Fellowship with the **National Endowment for the Arts’** Federal-State Partnership program in Washington, DC, researching community-arts support policy from the agency’s inception.

Adams’ prior work focused on community arts agencies, including his service as Community Development Director of the **Arts & Humanities Council of Greater Baton Rouge** (LA) from 1975-76, spearheading a large-scale, public cultural-development planning process for this seven-parish (county) agency. From 1974-75, Adams carried out a similar public planning process for **Springboard** in Springfield, IL, as fieldwork for graduate studies in community arts development at **Sangamon State University** (now the **University of Illinois at Springfield**), where he received his M.A. in Arts Administration in 1976.

In 1974 Adams served as Business Manager of the **Black Hills Playhouse**, then in its 27th season in Custer State Park, South Dakota. Over the prior two years, Adams undertook his first public cultural planning process, which led to the founding of the **Vermillion (SD) Area Arts Council**, for which he served as charter Vice President from 1973-74. From 1972-74, Adams directed the **USD-Vermillion Concert Series**, reorganizing it as a series of community residencies by touring artists. From 1973-74, he directed South Dakota’s statewide **Young Audiences** program. In 1973, he served as temporary staff for the **South Dakota Arts Council**, including a comprehensive survey of community cultural groups and creating a sortable database in FORTRAN in 1973-74. Adams’ earliest cultural-programming experience came as member, then chair of the **Union Arts Committee** at the University of South Dakota from 1970-73, producing art exhibitions, film screenings, theatrical performances and an NEA-funded, five-state *wacipi* in conjunction with Lakotah students at USD and reservation-community leaders in 1973.

Adams played string bass in a variety of ensembles in South Dakota, Iowa, Illinois, and Louisiana from 1969-1976, and doumbek and djembe in Seattle and Berkeley synagogues from 1998–2008.

REFERENCES & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST