

Zeitschrift für Kulturmanagement:
Kunst, Politik, Wirtschaft und Gesellschaft

Journal of Cultural Management:
Arts, Economics, Policy

Call for Papers

Special Issue: Evaluation of Culture and the Arts

Evaluation of Culture and the Arts -
Addressing multiple challenges in the evaluation of arts and other
cultural projects, programs, organizations, and cultural policy.

Debates concerning the development of frameworks for the assessment and evaluation of culture and the arts play a prominent role in arts management research. While research has focused largely on instrumental and methodological issues, there is a range of theoretical, epistemological, aesthetic, political, and ethical challenges embedded in the evaluation process.

In respect of goals, timing, and subject matter, a distinction is often made between three forms of evaluation: program evaluation (ex-ante), process evaluation (ongoing), and impact evaluation (ex-post), for which different methodological approaches are indicated. The term 'evaluation' is however currently used to refer to a wide variety of assessment procedures. Thus, conceptual differentiation is also needed to explore the issue of evaluation.

For arts and cultural organizations, the issue of evaluation is complex, firstly because with evaluations various dimensions are in competition with one another. These include the achievement of artistic goals, the effect of exhibited or performed art, the performance of the organization, and the need to satisfy different funders. Secondly, these dimensions are subject to a range of motivations and rationales. Finally, there are the different stakeholders with their concerns and expectations as to whether or not evaluation results might serve their interests.

Against this background, the special issue of the "Journal of Cultural Management: Arts, Policy, Economics, and Society" will address the following topics areas and issues of relevance for arts management research and practice:

What are the specific characteristics of the evaluation of arts and cultural activities? How can the quality of artistry and artistic achievement be captured? How can the value creation and socio-economic impact of artistic and cultural activities be conceptualized and measured? How can different rationalities (e.g., financial, artistic, or political rationales) be integrated within multi-dimensional frameworks? What difficulties are encountered by practitioners in the implementation process, and why?

Which are the major frameworks and models for evaluating of culture and the arts? To what extent is current research able to serve the needs of individual arts and cultural organizations and their communities?

What role do tangible results and evidence-based practice really play in contemporary cultural policy-making? Are there different handling procedures according to artistic disciplines, institutional structures, or countries?

To what extent do evaluations of publicly-funded cultural projects and institutions contain immanent, frequently not communicated, political goals and intentions? To what extent are unintentional effects systematically hidden?

Interested persons are invited to submit contributions by 31 May 2016.

Further information and submission guidelines:

www.fachverband-kulturmanagement.org/informationen-fur-autoren/