Practising Active Citizenship Through Cultural Volunteering

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The two faces of cultural volunteering

*Types of volunteering*
- Formal
- Informal

*Outcomes of volunteering*
- Strengthening cultural organizations
- Strengthening communities
## Trends in cultural volunteering 1987-2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trend</th>
<th>1987</th>
<th>1997</th>
<th>2000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of cultural volunteers (thousands)</td>
<td>288</td>
<td>452</td>
<td>351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of hours volunteered (millions)</td>
<td>36.3</td>
<td>52.9</td>
<td>51.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average number of hours volunteered</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equivalent to full-time jobs</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>27,550</td>
<td>27,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts and culture volunteers as % of all volunteers</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>5.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Distribution of volunteer hours by type of organization – Canada 1997 and 2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of recipient organization</th>
<th>1997</th>
<th>2000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Culture, arts and recreation</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social services</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and research</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Volunteers Age 15 and up by type of cultural organization
Canada 1997 and 2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of cultural organization</th>
<th>Volunteer rate - 1997</th>
<th>Volunteer rate - 2000</th>
<th># of volunteers - 1997</th>
<th># of volunteers - 2000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Media and communications</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>70,828</td>
<td>70,200 <em>E</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performing and visual arts</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>182,659 <em>E</em></td>
<td>194,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historical societies, museums, zoos, aquariums, multidisciplinary</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>214,858 <em>E</em></td>
<td>121,000 <em>E</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total - Cultural Organizations</strong></td>
<td><strong>1.8%</strong></td>
<td><strong>1.4%</strong></td>
<td><strong>451,512</strong></td>
<td><strong>351,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOURCE: Statistics Canada
*E use with caution*
Types of cultural volunteer activity – Canada 1997

- Organizing and supervising events 64%
- Sitting on board – committee 53%
- Doing administrative work 43%
- Fundraising 42%
- Providing information 35%
- Teaching or coaching 23%
- Maintaining facilities 21%
- Driving 21%
- Providing food services 20%
Marking the Millennium – “ Bonding ”

Cultural Projects

- Celebrating ethnic cultures
- Cultural gifts by and for youth
- Cultural gifts by and for seniors
- Celebrating and promoting women’s culture
- Preserving and celebrating religious heritage
- Recording local history
Marking the Millennium – « Bridging » Cultural Projects

- Combating racism and promoting interculturalism
- Building sustainable communities
- Promoting social justice and combating marginalization
- Promoting safety and combating violence
- Promoting peace
- Promoting health and well-being
- Bridging the generation gap
Research gaps

**Technical problems**
- Small sample sizes in volunteering surveys
- Breadth of international standard definition of volunteering in «Culture and Recreation»

**Analytical problems**
- Accounting for artists’ unpaid contributions (e.g. benefit performances, auctions)
- Understanding the role of cultural volunteering in sustaining communities
Conclusions

- Cultural volunteering is significant in Canada but problems exist with:
  - volunteer « burnout »
  - lack of resources for training
  - replacement of paid staff with volunteers

- Cultural volunteers play a crucial role in:
  - the health and vitality of the cultural sector
  - the diversity of the cultural landscape
  - « everyday » cultural expression
  - an inclusive and participatory civil society