

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910778278903321
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Titolo	Arts and culture in the metropolis : strategies for sustainability // Kevin F. McCarthy, Elizabeth Heneghan Ondaatje, Jennifer L. Novak
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Santa Monica, CA : , : RAND Corp., , 2007
ISBN	1-281-18088-2 9786611180881 0-8330-4245-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xix, 102 pages) : illustrations
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Disciplina	700.973
Soggetti	Arts - United States - Finance Art patronage - United States Nonprofit organizations - United States Metropolitan areas - United States
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [97]-102).
Nota di contenuto	Cover; Preface; Contents; Figures; Tables; Summary; Acknowledgments; Chapter One - Introduction; Chapter Two - The Roots of the Challenges Facing the Nonprofit Arts; Chapter Three - The Ecology of the Arts Sector; Chapter Four - Community Responses; Chapter Five - Philadelphia; Appendix; Bibliography
Sommario/riassunto	The nonprofit arts currently face an environment that challenges the way the arts have grown and raises the prospect of future consolidation. Cognizant of these problems, William Penn Foundation and the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance asked RAND to examine the condition of Philadelphia's arts and culture sector and recommend actions to ensure its sustainability. The authors identify the sources and characteristics of this new environment and describe the ways local arts communities are responding to the challenges confronting them. In the course of their analysis of eleven metropolitan regions, including Baltimore, Boston, Charlotte, Chicago, Cleveland, Denver, Detroit, Minneapolis, Philadelphia, Phoenix, and Pittsburgh, they introduce two novel ways of examining the local arts sector. First, they focus on the

relationship among the three components of communities' "arts ecology": their arts infrastructures; the support systems upon which the arts depend; and the sociodemographic, economic, and the political environment in which they operate. Second, they create a new framework for describing and evaluating the range of support services that communities provide to their arts sectors. They then use this framework to analyze the components of Philadelphia's arts ecology and assess its specific strengths and weaknesses.
