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MEMO TO MERIDIAN ARTS COMMISSION

Date: 12-8-22

RE: Inclusivity Highlight Topic: The Arts & Human Rights, ~ Presented by Meridian Arts Commissioner Patrick O'Leary

In order to continue the Meridian Arts Commission's goals of Arts Access (Goal: Support experiences in the arts for everyone, regardless of age, race, ability or other protected class) the Commission may occasionally include inclusivity highlights at various meetings in order to learn about and promote inclusive arts practices.

December is Universal Human Rights Month

Human rights are rights we have simply because we exist as human beings - they are not granted by any state. These universal rights are **inherent** to us all, regardless of nationality, sex, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, language, or any other status. They range from the most fundamental - the right to life - to those that make life worth living, such as the rights to food, education, work, health, and liberty.

Topic: The Arts & Human Rights

Arts and human rights are **closely related and need each other**. Art can only flourish in an atmosphere of freedom from fear, violence, and repression. Democratic societies based on human rights provide the best institutional framework in which arts can thrive and artists are protected against repression and persecution.

The "Stolpersteine," or "Stumbling Stones,"

Were first created as a personal project by artist Gunter Demnig — whose father was a German soldier in World War II — in the 1990s, with no financial support. Although the Cologne artist's stolpersteine (stumbling blocks) are neatly paved into the sidewalk, they force passers-by to stop and read them. "Here lived" begins the inscriptions engraved in brass on the concrete squares measuring about four inches—on each one, just the name, date, and place of death of an individual killed by the Nazis. But this basic information about the fate of one person among 6 million has the power to create questions in the minds of pedestrians.

There are now roughly 90,000 across 30 European countries. They are placed in front of the former homes of Holocaust victims and bear their names, birthdays, deportation date and the date and location of their death

What the U.S. can learn from Germany about grappling with dark parts of its history

<https://www.npr.org/2022/11/15/1136738601/clint-smith-atlantic-germany-holocaust-us-slavery-memorials>

Monuments to the Unthinkable November 14, 2022

America still can't figure out how to memorialize the sins of our history. What can we learn from Germany? <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2022/12/holocaust-remembrance-lessons-america/671893/>

Stumbling Upon Mini Memorials To Holocaust Victims May 31, 2012 2:51 AM ET

<https://www.npr.org/2012/05/31/153943491/stumbling-upon-miniature-memorials-to-nazi-victims>

Exploring the relation between the Arts and human rights.

<https://youtu.be/o7YepSjRi-0>

This event took place on April 7, 2022 This panel seeks to promote a dialogue to articulate and debate essential questions about the relationship between arts and human rights, discuss models of collaboration between arts and human rights actors, and explore the role arts may play to restrain or violate rights, and how to tackle such concerns.

Human Rights and the Arts Conversation

<https://youtu.be/60Yyk-FPjxg>

the ARTSHOUSE, Arts and Culture Canvas Series Conversation; Human Rights and the Arts on Jan. 13, 2021 Invited Guest: Tom Block, International Human Rights Art Festival; Marissa Gutierrez-Vicario, ARTE Art Resistance Through Education]; Melissa Raman Molitor, Kids Create Change; Carolina Rubio Macwright, Touching Land, artist, immigration lawyer; Annie Buckley, Director and Prof, School of Art and Design SDSU, Prison Arts Collective; Michael Cotey, [#enoughplays](#) to end gun violence; Sam Powers, Lens on Life Project

Human Rights Artists – SUNY's Middletown and Newburgh campuses

<https://youtu.be/tYWMectcJDQ>

More than 150 Orange County high school students have visually interpreted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; their efforts are on display now during "An Artist's Response to Human Rights,".

Human Rights Organizations in Idaho

- **Wassmuth Center for Human Rights** | Home of the Idaho Anne Frank Human Rights Memorial. <https://wassmuthcenter.org>
 - "The one-of-a-kind human rights education center will be a 'beacon of light' in the heart of Idaho's capital city, In the center's work to foster a climate and culture of upstanders who embrace respect, compassion, equality and justice for all, Gov. Batt's life and legacy is a commitment to human rights."