

A Very Brief Tour

Through our
YOTA Conversations



2022-23
THE YEAR OF
THE ARTIST



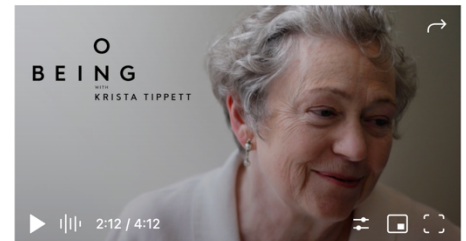
ROANOKEARTS.ORG

The [11 YOTA conversations](#) building to the *Year of the Artist* are online, and we're referring back to those in a few short statements to give you a taste of the conversation as you plan and undertake projects.

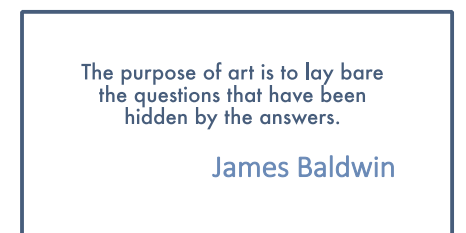
All of the video references are linked and given (YOTA #, Time). Additionally, you'll find this information on the [resources page](#) in *Artists at the Community Development Table* from Americans for the Arts and Springboard for the Arts *Handbook for Artists Working in Community*. GOOD LUCK!

1. Anthropologist Margaret Mead is quoted as saying “*Never doubt that a small group of **thoughtful, committed citizens** can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.*”

Her daughter, Mary Catherine Bateson, said that’s the definition of a **learning community** and an evolutionary cluster. How can we change our world by learning together right here in Roanoke? [Listen to this 4-minute excerpt from *On Being* with Krista Tippett](#). (YOTA 1 – 10:20)



2. One definition of **community development** is “*a many faceted design and planning process creating useful, transformative, vibrant spaces **with and by** the people who live there.*” It can include the arts in every form imaginable. [Listen to our conversation and consider what the role of the artist might be in community development](#). (YOTA 2 – 18:57)



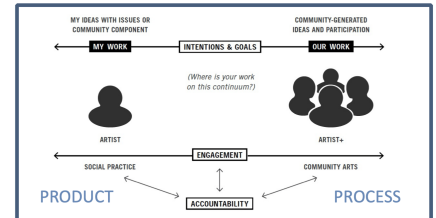
3. People may be resistant to take part in civic projects for a wide variety of reasons. Sometimes people don’t believe their participation makes a difference. “When someone has thoughts and takes actions in an effort to express power we might say that they have agency.” How do you think community arts projects can help build agency in ourselves and others? [Listen to the conversation of artists on agency](#). (YOTA 3 – 9:26)



4. Process in community art projects is as important if not more important than the products. [Why do we say this?](#) (YOTA 3 – 24:34)



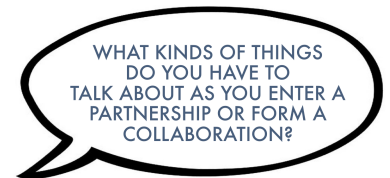
5. But wait a minute, in a community arts project, who's process is this anyway? [Think about your project and explore where it falls on the spectrum.](#) (YOTA 3 – 26:03)



6. One powerful approach is to focus on all that we have rather than what we need. Once we dig in, we might see that we just have everything at hand to accomplish what we want to get done. [Take a deeper look at Asset Based Community Development here.](#) (YOTA 5 – 11:05)



7. As you're building a project, you'll find the benefits of partnering or collaborating with an organization or another artist. But wait a minute. [What's the difference between a partnership and a collaboration and how do you talk about these things?](#) (YOTA 4 - 13:59)



8. Your theory of change is fundamental to your project, and as you bring on partners, a collective discussion of your Theory of Change can keep a project on track. But what's a theory of change? [Here's a reminder.](#) (YOTA 4 – 38:28)



9. And what about that power again? Who has it and how is it shared? Mapping people in the community might reveal some surprises and provide some insights into who you might engage in your project. [Hear more.](#) (YOTA 5 - 20:05)

