

Artist Focus Group Guide

I. Introduction

Short description of the research

Explanation of confidentiality

II. Questions

1. Do you often perform/exhibit at festivals? Why? Or why not? Do you get something special out of performing/exhibiting at festivals that you don't experience in other venues? What? Has this changed over time? (prompt: Does performing/exhibiting at festivals help you get gigs or exhibitions?) Are there aspects of performing/exhibiting at festivals that you dislike? What are they?
2. Who do you think attends festivals? Do the people you encounter at festivals seem similar to or different from those you encounter at other places where you perform or exhibit? Which other places? How are people who come to festivals similar? How are they different? If there are important differences, why do you think that is the case?
3. Now I want to ask some questions about the places where you perform or exhibit.
 - a. Do you think that there are important differences between performing or exhibiting in a festival setting as opposed to at home or with family and friends? What are those differences?
 - b. Do you think that there are important differences between performing or exhibiting in a festival setting as opposed to a school or a church, synagogue, mosque or other religious institution? What are those differences?
 - c. Do you think that there are important differences between performing or exhibiting in a festival setting as opposed to a setting like a concert hall or a museum? What are those differences? Do you believe that the aesthetic experiences provided in a festival setting are different from those provided in settings like a concert hall or a museum? In what way? How would you account for those differences?
4. Do you feel that your relationship to or interactions with other artists are different at a festival as compared to other settings? Why? In what ways?
5. Do you feel that your relationship to or interactions with audiences or audience members are different at a festival as compared to other settings? Why? In what ways?
6. Do you believe that festivals serve the community in significant ways? Why? In what ways? Is community service one of the most important reasons why you participate in this festival?
7. Does this festival make you feel closer to a community? What community? Why do think the festival has this effect?

V. Closing