



The Association of American Cultures
Open Dialogue XI: Global Connections to Cultural Democracy
The Magnolia Hotel, Denver, Colorado
July 12–15, 2007

Conference Fact Sheet

Summary

Open Dialogue XI will explore the intersection of global migration and cultural arts practices. In this age of increased immigration, newcomers to all parts of the world constantly enrich and diversify the artistic work of their new environments and communities. The effect of global migration, however, is not free from intercultural friction and discrimination—obstacles that can be addressed and eventually solved through the practice of cultural democracy.

Open Dialogue XI invites young and seasoned leaders at the forefront of cultural arts expression and creative formats to discuss and plan future collaborations around pluralism, participation, and equity. Join the dialogue as we explore the impact of diverse peoples on established communities of all cultural, ethnic, and racial backgrounds; traditional and contemporary culture; arts policies; funding; and transnational expressions of cultural democracy.

When

July 12-15, 2007

Where

The Magnolia Hotel, Denver, Colorado

Conference Program Advisor

James Early, Director, Cultural Heritage Policy, Center for Folklife & Cultural Heritage, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

Who should attend?

- Emerging and established leaders of all cultural, ethnic, and racial backgrounds in arts, culture and other creative industries
- Professionals interested in ethnicity and cultural diversity and their impact on the arts and cultural policy

Stimulate both sides of your brain!

- Network with younger and seasoned community-based arts and culture leaders, as well as international and national cultural policy makers
- Determine how to inform, influence and reposition policy issues
- Explore the increasing nexus between contemporary national and global topics related to arts and culture

Engage in meaningful dialogue on:

- Progress and challenges for arts organizations in communities of color
- Changing demographics, global migration, and the influence of these factors on a new generation of leaders

About the Conference Sponsor, TAAC

The mission of The Association of American Cultures (TAAC) is to represent the distinctive and collective concerns of people of diverse populations in the United States and its Trust Territories in regard to the preservation and creative vitality of their respective cultural identities through the arts. TAAC is committed to the concept of cultural diversity as a distinct element in American public arts policy.

TAAC's original intent was to provide services to people of color in America; specifically African Americans, Latinos, Asians, and Native Americans. The organization has evolved to recognize the importance of including representatives of all cultures in the *Open Dialogue*. TAAC supports the idea that America is a country of immigrants, and it is important to remember our ancestors and the traditions and beliefs that guided their lives.

TAAC was founded in 1985 after the participants of *Open Dialogue II* passed a resolution requesting such. *Open Dialogue II* was the second national meeting ever held in the United States for artists and arts managers of color. Participants represented all arts disciplines and all ethnically specific/minority communities. The resolution asked for the formation of a national arts service organization that would continue to convene the *Open Dialogues* and act as an advocate for artists and arts organizations concerned with the preservation of cultural identities through the arts.

For more information about TAAC, visit www.taac.com.

About the Conference Host, WESTAF

The Western States Arts Federation (WESTAF) is a nonprofit arts service organization dedicated to the creative advancement and preservation of the arts. Founded in 1974, the organization fulfills its mission to strengthen the financial, organizational, and policy infrastructure of the arts in the West by providing innovative programs and services. WESTAF is located in Denver, Colorado, and is governed by a 22-member board of trustees drawn largely from arts leaders in the West. The organization serves the largest geographical area and number of states of the six mainland regional arts organizations. WESTAF's constituents include the state arts agencies, artists, and arts organizations of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

WESTAF is engaged in information systems development, arts policy research, state arts agency development, and the convening of arts experts and leaders to address critical issues in the arts. WESTAF has developed a number of Web-based services designed to benefit artists and arts communities throughout the United States. The organization is also committed to programmatic work in the areas of performing arts presenting, visual arts, literature, and folk arts. Programs in these areas include activities such as the convening of leaders from an arts discipline, the development of model programs, and the sponsorship of long-term, region-wide programs that fill a gap in the arts infrastructure of the West.

WESTAF is funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information, visit: www.westaf.org.