BC #ASCmap PROJECT
**An SFU ASC!/BIG DATA Visualization Project on
BC Community-Engaged Art for Social Change (ASC)**

DATA DICTIONARY: Understanding the Categories and Terminology
BC #ASCmap Data Visualization Project Tableau Site: https://public.tableau.com/views/BC-ASCmap-Data-Project/About

Our **BC #ASCmap Project** looks at community-engaged participatory arts organizations in BC, collecting and visualizing data to foster knowledge, awareness and support for the work being done in the Art for Social Change (ASC) sector. It is a collaboration between SFU's ASC! research project (under the auspices of the **International Centre of Art for Social Change**, ICASC) and **BIG DATA**.

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DATA DICTIONARY: Understanding the Categories and Terminology

The following Data Dictionary explains the data categorization and terminology. The categories and terms are determined by the organizational landscape we mapped in the BC context and our knowledge and research of the sector.

We organized our data under the broad themes of *Main Communities Served, Arts Disciplines,* **and** *Social Change Focus***.**

MAIN COMMUNITIES

There are **eight general categories** of main communities served, and **three** of these contain multiple sub-categories. You will find the main categories listed below, with relevant subcategories (wherever applicable) indicated with bullet points.

1. Indigenous: Programming aimed towards people of indigenous background and ancestry, sometimes through the cultivation and learning of traditional Indigenous knowledge and arts practices.

2. People with Mixed Abilities/Disabilities: Any programming or services directed towards representing and exploring the experiences of people with *mixed abilities*. Mixed ability refers to any person who has a different or *mixed* physical *ability* but can also sometimes refer to people with different cognitive or learning abilities.

*Note: There is no uniform language used in this work. Some organizations may also use terms such as "disabled", "differently abled", or "handicapped".

3. Incarcerated: Programming aimed specifically at people who are incarcerated or were previously incarcerated.

4. Street Involved: The term "street involved" here means any people (though often youth) who, though not necessarily 'homeless', are exposed to and/or experiencing any of the mental, physical, emotional and social risks of *street culture* (slum environments, gang culture, drug culture, prostitution, etc.).

5. General: Here we include those organizations who offer programs that do not have a specific (or target) community demographic. Usually this refers to programming aimed at skills development (teaching a particular art form or craft).

6. Intercultural: This category refers to organizations that offer arts-based services and programming related to culture. Based on what we observed in the data gathered, this work generally takes on two main forms: 1) Services to immigrants directed specifically around their needs and issues, u*sually focussing on specific immigrant cultures and their experiences;* 2) Services that promote and educate the values of pluralism, multiculturalism, and cultural exchange through the arts and art-making.

7. Gender: This category refers to programming and services that focus on people with gender orientations identified in two main sub categories:

- *LGBTQ2+:* Services focused on fostering and exploring the LGBTQ2+ experience through participatory art-making.
- *Women*: Services and programming specifically for with women.

8. Age: Many organizations provide age-specific programming and services. We have listed four sub-categories:

- Children -- mostly refers to 0-12 years of age
- Youth -- mostly refers to ages 12-19 (this may vary depending on the organization, sometimes ranging to older)
- Adults -- usually refers to people 19 to 60
- Seniors -- specifically people who are 60+ and older

ARTS DISCIPLINE

We have listed **seven separate arts disciplines** commonly used by BC's ASC sector. This list was assembled based on common definitions of these disciplines, as well as what we observed in the data gathered.

1. **Multidisciplinary**: It is common to find several different arts disciplines listed for one organization. <u>When we use the designation *multidisciplinary* under the category of arts disciplines, we specifically do not list any other arts discipline.</u>
2. **Visual Arts:** Encompasses many art forms, such as ceramics, drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, design, crafts, photography, video, filmmaking, and architecture.
3. **Digital Media:** Art-making that incorporates *new media* technologies, including digital art, computer graphics, computer animation, virtual art, Internet art, interactive art, video games, 3D printing, etc.
4. **Literary Arts:** We adopt a broad definition of literary arts, to refer to any art form that encompasses words and language as its principle medium. This includes creative writing, poetry, storytelling, etc.
5. **Music:** self-explanatory
6. **Dance:** self-explanatory
7. **Theatre:** self-explanatory

SOCIAL CHANGE FOCUS

Naturally, as these are ASC related works, they have specific social-change orientations. After going through 100's of ASC sector websites, we pinpointed nine general categories to represent this wide array of social change-focussed work. We determined these **Social Change Focuses** through the mandates and programming of the organizations in our database.

1. **Social Justice:** This is change work dedicated to cultivating fair and just relations between people and their society. This is often done by addressing and raising critical consciousness and advocating for new forms of wealth distribution, more equitable opportunity, and social access for specific groups of people, to briefly name a few.
2. **Indigenous:** Change work that focuses on improving the lives of Indigenous Peoples, often through fostering Indigenous culture and promoting greater awareness of indigenous issues (with Indigenous and Settler communities).
3. **Environment:** Change work that works to foster and build communities who are aware of environmental issues and dedicated to developing more sustainable/ecological relationships.
4. **Health:** Change work dedicated to the cultivation of good health and wellbeing.

5. **Intercultural:** See definition in <u>Main Communities Served</u> above.
6. **Immigration**: See definition in <u>Main Communities Served</u> above.
7. **Conflict Resolution:** Change work that is dedicated to facilitating peaceful solutions to disputes, disagreements, and conflicts between individual people and communities.

Many of the ASC organizations or practitioners, may not have a specific social change focus outside of offering general educational programs dedicated to the fostering of particular skills (through art-making), and community-building. We initially debated about how to label this work; for example, we first had a category of "education" and then later changed it to "skills development".

However, we found that these categories were too broad and not delineated enough to say something useful about the important work done in this area. Through further review and consideration of how ASC workers and organizations described their own work, we arrived at the solution to create two new categories to replace the overly general "skills development". These are:

8. **Life Skills:** This is change work that fosters adaptive and positive behaviours that enable people to deal effectively with the demands and challenges of life for the health and wellbeing of themselves as well as their communities. Often, this work is facilitated by using specific art forms.
9. **Knowledge Sharing:** Change work focused on activities through which knowledge is exchanged among people, friends, families, communities, or other organizations. This exchange often stems from the cultivation of particular arts and cultural practices.