Artists in Community

Western culture leads us to believe that artists work best as isolated, creative individuals. Scripture tells us, however, that God made all humans to fit naturally into a community. Creative people have unique skills and abilities which the whole community can benefit from. A healthy community is also a safe place to learn and grow in our areas of weakness. For artists to work collaboratively in community requires love, humility and a willingness to remain a learner. The combined creative assets of an artistic community can open many new doors and provides opportunities of societal engagement on a much greater scale than would be possible for individuals.

**Steve Thrall** is a missionary pastor who has been involved in ministry in France for 33 years. During these years Steve’s urban ministry experience and pastoral responsibilities for three different Parisian churches led to a focus on the arts and care for artists. Steve helped launch a Christian theater company in 1997 and has worked closely with a Christian artist association in Paris since its inception in 2001.  For eleven years, Steve served as the president and director of a multi-purpose arts space in the heart of Paris called *Le Pavé d’Orsay*. In September 2018, Steve and his wife moved to Normandy in order to create an artist’s retreat called “*La Pommeraie*” in order to support artists in their creative process, while opening doors to a deeper spiritual encounter with God. Steve works with A.C.T. International. www.steve-miki-normandy.com.

1. **Biblical Framework: God’s vision for Community**
   1. Created for Community Ge. 1, 2
   2. Damaged and Broken Community Gen 3
   3. Community Restored – Jn 17, Phil 2
   4. Concrete nature of a healthy Community – Acts 2, 4
2. **Creating Community - community doesn’t just happen**
   1. Story of Hope C.
      1. Intentional and caring
      2. learning together and growing together
   2. Effective Communities require good leadership
      1. Vision
      2. Teaching/training
      3. Strengthening relational links
      4. Networking
3. **Assets Based Community Development (ABCD)**
   1. Deficit Based vs. Assets based
   2. Basic principles of ABCD
4. **What Artists in community can accomplish**
   1. Experiencing a transformative community (individually).
      1. Personal transformation; spiritually, creatively
   2. Working as a Transformative community (collectively)
   3. Examples of artists working in communities
      1. 36 hours of Music at St. Eustache - Paris
      2. Night of Faith Project – Basal
      3. Music for Madagascar Project
      4. La Fonderie and Le Pavé d’Orsay - Paris

***Suggested Readings:***

**Culture Care:** Reconciling with Beauty for our Common Life.

By Makoto Fujimura

**Adorning the Dark:** Thoughts on Community, Calling, and the Mystery of Making.

By Andrew Peterson

Information on **Assets Based Community Development** (A.B.C.D.)

[**https://www.nurturedevelopment.org/asset-based-community-development/**](https://www.nurturedevelopment.org/asset-based-community-development/)

***Suggested Web sites to consult for ideas:***

***Church based Music Festival, Paris France*** [***https://36h-saint-eustache.com***](https://36h-saint-eustache.com) ***and***

[***https://www.paris.catholique.fr/festival-36h-de-saint-eustache-50292.html***](https://www.paris.catholique.fr/festival-36h-de-saint-eustache-50292.html)

**Night of Faith – Basal, Switzerland** [**https://www.nachtdesglaubens.ch**](https://www.nachtdesglaubens.ch)

**Music for Madagascar Project, Madagascar** [***https://musiquepourmadagascar.wordpress.com/accueil/***](https://musiquepourmadagascar.wordpress.com/accueil/)

**Gallery Expo in Paris during Covid:** [***https://agapeart.org/resilience/***](https://agapeart.org/resilience/)

**Creating community, relational aesthetics** [***https://www.hopefolio.com***](https://www.hopefolio.com)

**La Fonderie:** [**https://www.lafonderie.org**](https://www.lafonderie.org)

a French association for artists based in Paris, for Christians and for those who are exploring faith.

**Le Pavé d'Orsay** [**http://www.lepavedorsay.com**](http://www.lepavedorsay.com)

The Pavé d'Orsay's vocation is to encourage the integration of artists in the cultural landscape, by allowing them to show their work to the public.

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rpaOkeOTHnU**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rpaOkeOTHnU)