

What keeps you up at night? What challenges are you facing?

Kate Cornell:
Connect with
Kendra Fry for this
advocacy coalition
at Trinity Centres
Foundation.
Connect with Erika
Hennebury at the
City of Toronto too

Space cost for art exhibition

Space rental costs
increasing, but
needing to keep
ticket prices low to
maintain audience
attendance

Affordable Rehearsal Space

Kate Cornell: Check
out Canadian
Community Economic
Development
Network's advocacy
on social finance and
social enterprise
-<https://ccednet-rcdec.ca/about/>

Cultural Land Trusts!

Balance between
earned and
contributed
revenue, especially
with limited
opportunities to
increase earned
revenue.

How the arts, and
funding for the arts,
continues to rely so
heavily on
government grants -
which we've seen
been put in
jeopardy lately

Issues that already have Coalitions:

Kate Cornell: Check
out Imagine Canada's
Core Funding
advocacy campaign
<https://www.imaginecanada.ca/en/policy-priority/core-funding>

Limited resources
(direct and
supporting) for
youth to enter,
ascend, and remain
in the arts with an
eye to meaningful
and sustainable
career path

Paying staff actors etc a living wage

uphold well paying
jobs and paying
liveable wages to
cultural workers and
artists (and
benefits/ pensions!)

Working with an
incredibly small
team so we are
working well
beyond our capacity
and are struggling
to find ways to pay
for more staff
members

Relying on
precarious low wage
positions, ie Canada
Summer Jobs and
placement students
to fill essential roles

Kate Cornell:
Ontario Nonprofit
Network's advocacy
connects the arts to
other sectors. These
larger societal
issues have their
own coalitions that
we could join.

Multi-year support to encourage stability.

Not enough funding for operations/ unrestricted funds.

Operational funding
covers only 5% of
our ops costs - how
can we increase
quality of
life/benefits/pay for
our employees?

Lack of operational funding

Kate Cornell: Living
Wage advocacy is
happening across
the city and country.
Check out Ontario
Living Wage
Network. Senator
Kim Pate discusses
this issue regularly.

Affordable Housing

Urgent issues like housing etc supercede the arts

How arts and it's
values aren't a
priority for many of
the general
population because
of cost of living
challenges.

Being told 'the
money isn't there'
when it is going to
policing and is a
matter of priorities

That we're entering
a political climate
where things like
healthcare and
education are
considered
"extraneous," and
what does that
mean for the arts?

How can we engage
other/neighbour
sectors in
championing arts
support - ie
Association of Ontario
Municipalities to
champion civic arts
plans/funding

Politicians are focused
on their constituents,
but the social value of
the arts as a necessity
isn't clear to most
folks, especially when
the choice is food vs.
art.

**Kate Cornell:
Coalition
needed on
this issue**

Lack of support to pay or wave debt related to overhead or pandemic recovery

Declining numbers of donors (even if average gifts are going up) and what that means to be further dependent on catering to the UHNW

If municipalities/regions can't fill the gap left in lack of funding from ON and Feds - can mayors champion increases?

The balance between staff care/needs/mental health/wellness, and the financial/human resource limits.

We want to support our staff with professional development but are priced out of participating

Kate Cornell: Great data from the Charity Village on the decline of donors. This issue needs a coalition broadly across the charitable sector

KC: YES! Governments need to collaborate. The Minister of Canadian Heritage brings together the provincial Ministers annually. This could be addressed but hasn't been.

Kate Cornell: THIS! Watch the OCAD Cultural Policy Hub - they are going to have a session on this issue. Spend less on programming and more on your people.

Valid sector issues that cannot be addressed by government relations...

Misalignment of values from funders (ie banks) who may be able to support but have earned their money through practices that are not aligned with the value of some nonprofits

Getting through the next few years will require some risk-taking. How can we embrace this without being flagged as "unstable"?

Risk and risk taking -- across many areas -- is not a natural state for arts and culture in Toronto, but we are at an inflection point that is fundamentally risky.

It's a very young field in Toronto -- and so there's a need to grow quickly (to catch up) and also, to slow down (to reduce burnout)

Still a lot of disciplinary divisions/siloing between practices and disciplines.

That arts and culture are still considered distinct from one another, which is counter to how many racialized communities understand artistic practice.

**Kate Cornell:
Fundors and
ASOs need to
pay attention
to these
issues**

That arts advocacy isn't as effective as it used to be

A "missing middle" for arts and culture orgs -- it's either fairly small, or fairly "large" (for Toronto)

Larger Arts institutions taking precedent over independent arts/artists, smaller arts orgs

Systemic changes are needed, but very limited funds are available to facilitate transitions within our organizations

The challenge of advancing support for the sector - keeping it positive! Dispell old ideas about the arts. Unite forces. If we cry that we are a sinking ship, we will.

How many unique and separate ASO's do we really need? How can we reduce duplication to deepen the work?