



Connecting Artists and Spaces

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## Types of Cultural Districts and Their Facilities

### Types of Cultural Districts

#### *Cultural Compounds*

This is a 1960's idea that culture should be linked together in one spatial area as an economic development strategy, creating typically architecturally isolated cultural enclaves in American cities. Lincoln Center is the best known of these cultural compounds.

#### *Major Arts Institution Focus*

These districts are anchored by large concert halls and museums (for example), but also contain a number of smaller arts organizations and entertainment venues. They are typically located in a central business district, for example, the Pittsburgh Cultural District. All new buildings developed in the district donate a portion of the development profits and pay a yearly fee to the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, which uses the money to refurbish and develop new performance spaces, and support local arts organizations in the district.

#### *Arts and Entertainment Focus*

In these districts, small theatres, private art galleries, nightclubs, and innovative smaller cultural institutions are the basis for the cultural draw, for example, Dublin's "Temple Bar" district, a 5 hectare commercial and industrial district. The government of Ireland pursued the project as a joint venture between public art institutions, private investors, and the arts community. They worked with Temple Bar Properties, Ltd to package, service and sell sites, and to use cross-subsidization between profit-oriented commercial projects and not-for profit cultural projects.

#### *Cultural Production Focus*

These districts focus on providing space for artists to create their work. These typically are not seen as drivers of tourist activity and have been formed typically as a strategy to fill older manufacturing spaces with artists. However, artists can bring life to an area of a city without necessarily attracting tourists. Examples of these include Sheffield England and Pawtucket, RI.

### Types of facilities in cultural districts:

- Performance spaces
- Museums
- Historical parks
- Galleries
- Artist studios/ live/work space
- Arts related retail shops
- Music or media production studios
- Dance studios
- High schools or colleges for the arts
- Libraries
- Jazz clubs, entertainment venues
- Restaurants, cafes, shopping

- Crafts workshops

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