

Biographical Information



Tom Borrup

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Tom Borrup has been a leader and innovator in non-profit community and cultural work for over twenty-five years. His work explores the intersections between culture, community building, and economic development. He consults with foundations, nonprofits and public agencies across the U.S. in strategic planning and program evaluation. Borrup has written many articles for publications in the arts, city planning, and philanthropy. His book, *The Creative Community Builders' Handbook*, was released in July 2006, by Fieldstone Alliance (formerly Wilder Publishing). It tracks communities that have transformed their economic, social, and physical infrastructures through the arts, and includes a step-by-step planning guide.

As Executive Director of Intermedia Arts in Minneapolis from 1980 until 2002, Borrup developed a multidisciplinary, cross-cultural organization recognized nationally for its work in nurturing artists and other cultural assets in its diverse urban community. In 2002 he expanded on his knowledge of architecture, design and planning as a Fellow in the Knight Program in Community Building at the University of Miami School of Architecture. He was also awarded a St.Paul/Travelers Leadership Initiatives in Neighborhoods grant to travel and study the role of art and culture in community development.

From 1994-2003, Mr. Borrup served on the board of the Jerome Foundation, a progressive funder of emerging artists in New York City and Minnesota. He served two terms as Chair of the Foundation board and for three years was a member of the Leadership Development Committee of the Minnesota Council on Foundations. He also served on the board of the National Alliance for Media Arts and Culture for eight years, serving two terms as Co-President.

He is currently serving on the boards of Appalshop in Whitesburg, KY, Phillips Community TV in Minneapolis and Elliot Park Neighborhood, Inc., also in Minneapolis. Throughout his career, Mr. Borrup has participated on numerous funding and policy review panels, and consulted with such institutions as the Rockefeller, Ford, Wallace, and Andy Warhol Foundations, as well as the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. He has been an invited speaker for the American Association of Museums, Planners Network, Grantmakers in the Arts, Americans for the Arts, and many others.

Mr. Borrup received his B.A. in Liberal Arts from Goddard College, and continued there to receive his M.A. in Communications and Public Policy. He currently teaches for the Graduate Program in Arts Administration at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, and for the Institute for Arts Management at the University of Massachusetts.

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