Identifying the Artistic Assets in a Neighborhood

After the Chicago School system cut back on music and art teachers, a neighborhood organization decided to identify neighborhood people with artistic talents. They interviewed neighbors in eight blocks around a neighborhood school that had lost their art and music teacher.

They found residents with over 50 different artistic abilities in this lower income neighborhood with a significant Hispanic population. As a result, the group was able to provide the school with many “teachers” with a wide range of talents.

The following is the neighborhood organizations list of artistic neighbors.
Artists You Can Find in Your Community

**Musicians**
- Singers
- Instrumentalists
- Composers

**Theater Artists**
- Dancers
- Actors
- Mime artists
- Puppeteers
- Doll makers
- Mask makers
- Cosmetologists, face painters
- Jugglers
- Acrobats
- Magicians

**Visual Artists**
- Painters
- Silkscreeners
- Muralists, spray paint artists
- Sculptors
  - Ice sculptors
  - Garbage sculptors
- Woodworkers
- Ceramics doers, potters
- Mosaics makers
- Calligraphers
- Illustrators
- Cartoonists, caricature artists
- Glassblowers
- Metallsmiths

**Film/Photo**
- Photographers
- Film makers
- Video makers

**Writers**
- Story-tellers (a strong Puerto Rican oral tradition)
- Poets
- Comic strip writers

**Needle Workers** (a strong Mexican tradition)
- Knitters
- Needlepointers
- Crochet doers
- Embroidery makers
- Macrame doers
- Doily-makers
- Lace makers

**Fabric Workers**
- Sewers
- Rug makers
- Quilters
- Weavers

**Miscellaneous Craftspeople**
- Dressmakers, tailors
- Cooks, cake decorators
- Gardeners
- Jewelry makers
- Model builders
- Party favor makers
- Doll house/miniature makers
- Flower arrangers

**Historians**
- On murals
- On their countries of origin
- On local neighborhood history