

WHO WE ARE

What's Tokyo Artpoint Project?

Tokyo Artpoint Project is Arts Council Tokyo's wide-ranging program of art projects organized with Tokyo Metropolitan Government as well as nonprofits and other partners. Through what we call "art points," Tokyo Artpoint Project finds new ways of looking at the issues that the city faces, uncovers until-now unseen problems, and creates fresh approaches to these challenges.

Since launching in 2009, Tokyo Artpoint Project has worked with 56 organizations and carried out 45 projects in the city to date.

What's an art point?

By "art point," we mean a hub, a community, or a place where people come together and do creative things.

An art point aims to utilize the unique nature of art to challenge norms, uncover issues, and form connections across fields, and to sustainably facilitate art projects that encourage community engagement.

Tokyo Artpoint Project undertakes a wide range of mid- and long-term operational and community support to foster art points in the city sustainably.

Why art projects?

In Japan in the 1990s, new forms of contemporary art activities began to emerge that centered on collaboration and social engagement. These activities, which generate novel artistic and social contexts by seeding new contact points and connections outside of preexisting ones, are described as art projects. Often closely related to a specific location and community, art projects are led not only by artists, but frequently involve collaboration with a various people and stakeholders, including local governments, universities, corporations, and groups from the civil society.

Through art projects that encourage participation and interaction with other people, Tokyo Artpoint Project seeks to bring invisible problems and mindsets out into the open, and to conceive approaches that can work toward resolutions.

OUR MISSION

In our rapidly changing world, to build a society in which people play a flexible and central role in culture and arts.

OUR VISION

To foster people who can think and harness their artistic and cultural powers in response to society. To provide mid- and long-term support in growing those activities sustainably.

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Tokyo Artpoint Project
Organized by
Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Arts Council Tokyo
(Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)



Information is correct as of March 2024.
Please check the website and our social media channels for the latest information.



TOKYO METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT



TOKYO ARTPOINT PROJECT

TOKYO ARTPOINT PROJECT

With its highly fluid population, Tokyo is a city where building and maintaining a sense of community and kinship can be difficult. From loneliness to discrimination, intolerance, and disparity, the various issues that people in Tokyo face tend to become individuals' problems, rather than society's or a community's.

By organizing site-specific art projects in the city on a sustained basis, Tokyo Artpoint Project hopes to build new places for citizens to take up active roles. Through art projects, we uncover problems that have become difficult to see or were hidden until now, and create ways to approach these issues.



WHAT WE DO

OUR WORK

Supporting Art Projects

- Providing a platform for nonprofits and other partners to organize their art projects on an equal footing with Tokyo Metropolitan Government and Arts Council Tokyo.
- Assigning a specialist team (program officers) on a per-project basis. Following projects right the way through to completion.
- In addition to covering direct operational costs for partners over the course of a project (typically three to five years), Tokyo Artpoint Project supports baseline administrative costs including personnel remuneration that is usually not covered by subsidies and grants.

Supporting Organizations in the Long Term

- Looking ahead to the period after a project finishes, Tokyo Artpoint Project offers training in management approaches as well as shares information, know-how, and networks to shape sustainable operational infrastructures.
- Cultivating future art project leaders and organizers.
- Building a network through exchange and study groups with our partners.

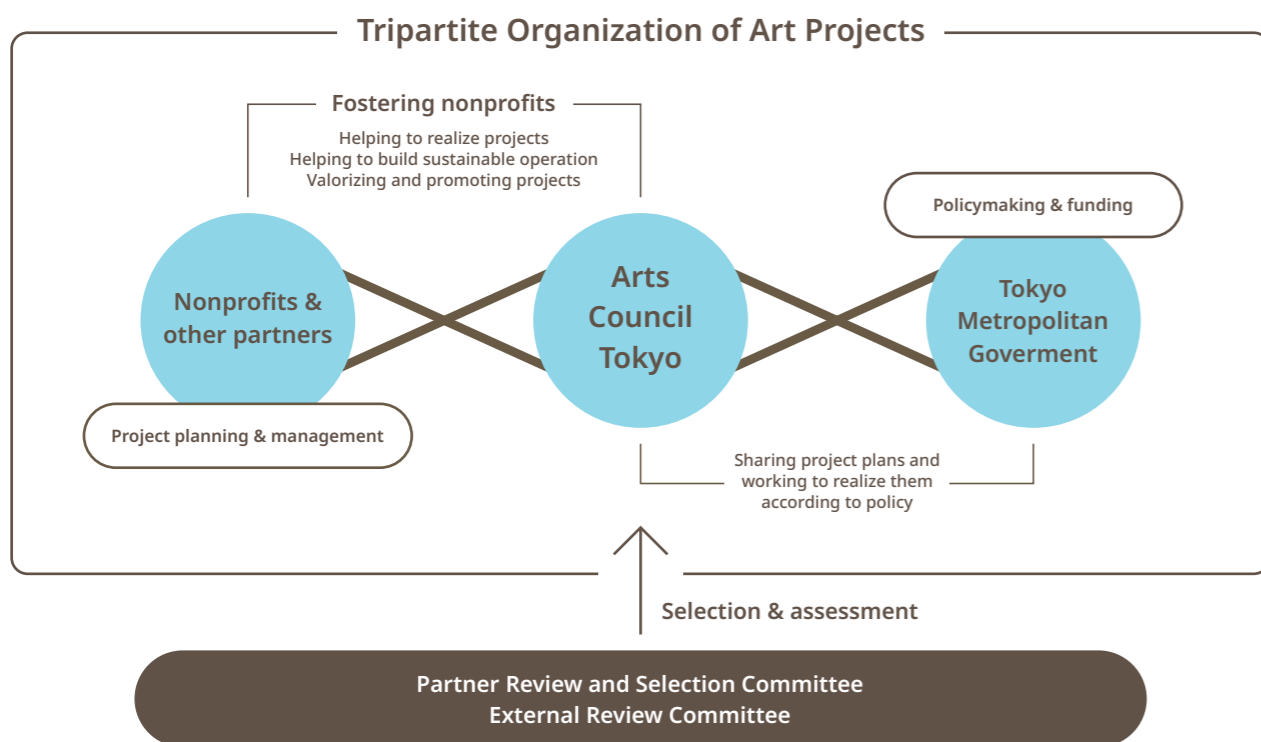
Sharing Project Values

- In addition to quantifiable data, Tokyo Artpoint Project emphasizes qualitative data and the development of people and organizers over the course of a project. We work with experts to find value in each project in a wide range of ways.
- Tokyo Artpoint Project organizes lectures in response to a project's challenges and needs, and fosters opportunities for project teams to learn the skills they require. By producing documentation and records of art projects, and then making these available online, we work to build an infrastructure that can nurture future art project leaders.

ORGANIZATION

Tokyo Artpoint Project is Arts Council Tokyo's wide-ranging program of art projects organized with Tokyo Metropolitan Government as well as nonprofits and other partners. Forming a link between Tokyo Metropolitan Government and the partners with whom

we initiate projects, we engage with the aims and challenges of Tokyo's cultural policies, and explore new directions for art projects. Tokyo Artpoint Project also works with specialists and experts to review partner organizations and assess projects.



WHAT PEOPLE SAY

Here is what some of our partners say about Tokyo Artpoint Project.



OOO

Partnership period: 2022-

Led by deaf and hard of hearing people, children of deaf adults (CODA), and other users of visual modality (specifically, Japanese Sign Language), ooo's Metote Lab creates opportunities to communicate in partnership with those who experience or perceive the world differently. Examining the Deaf culture that has emerged from signing, and tracing its perspectives and language, the project researches and develops ways for people with diverse backgrounds to communicate based on a mutual acceptance of cultural differences.

— *Having Tokyo Artpoint Project accompany and valorize our activities encouraged and allowed us to expand our efforts. We found the versatile framework of working with TAP as a partner very reassuring in that it enabled us to search for the solutions to those problems together, and also look for means of creating a structure for continuing our exploratory efforts.*

Wada Natsumi (Director, ooo / Producer, Metote Lab)



Yanaka-no-Okatte

Partnership period: 2010-2014

In Yanaka, an area in Tokyo's Taito ward with a distinct cultural character and where vestiges of the old Shitamachi part of Edo (Tokyo) remain visible even today, Yanaka-no-Okatte held the Guru Guru Ya→Mi→ project with the aim of building a base for different kinds of people to come together daily and create culture together. Launched originally in 2009 by Tokyo University of the Arts, members of the project then formed Yanaka-no-Okatte as a standalone legal body and evolved the project further, producing many more programs involving residents, students, and others from across generations and with different nationalities, customs, and values.

Yanaka-no-Okatte continues to build on this experience and expand its activities, including developing play-centered learning programs for children and working to increase accessibility for cultural programs.

— *We were able to accomplish dynamic activities through the project we co-organized, achieving many connections with locals, artists, and supporters. The connections and experiences we gained through the project form the basis for our current activities.*

Watanabe Rieko (Director, Yanaka-no-Okatte)



OTOMACHI PROJECT

Partnership period: 2014-2021

In the Senju area of Adachi ward, Tokyo, which flourished as a post town in the Edo period and where traces of that old culture remain even in the highly developed city of today, OTOMACHI PROJECT co-organized Art Access Adachi: Downtown Senju - Connecting through Sound Art with the aim of creating new bonds through art in contemporary society, where such interpersonal connections have diminished. In partnership with Tokyo University of the Arts, which has a campus in Senju, Art Access Adachi encompassed a range of programs involving artists and residents, and a cultural salon inside an old Japanese house, in this way building various links with the community.

OTOMACHI PROJECT continues to develop its cooperative relationship with Tokyo University of the Arts and Adachi ward, and organize many kinds of activities.

— *The program officers advised us appropriately in a wide range of ways, and our organizational abilities greatly improved over the course of our partnership. The improvements to our administrative know-how enabled us to gain more social credibility and increased our recent grant selections.*

Yoshida Takeshi (Director, Art Access Adachi: Downtown Senju - Connecting through Sound Art)



Ongoing

Partnership period: 2009-2020

The art project TERATOTERA was held in the area of Suginami, a part of Tokyo popular with young people and where many musicians and artists live and work. Along with organizing an exhibition in the city about social conditions like the invisible divisions and concepts of the public, it contributed to training and developing human resources by working with a team of volunteers. The key people behind TERATOTERA have since formed a new organization called Teracollective to continue the work of the project.

— *Tokyo Artpoint Project set up a place for experimental artistic practices in public spaces. The experiences gained at that experimental place were of immense value for the artists involved and us, and continue to influence our activities.*

Ogawa Nozomu (Director, Art Center Ongoing)