

Civil Society & the Arts

Kris Groberg

Colleagues:

I have been asked to sit on a public forum here at the university, the topic of which is Civil Society & the Arts. I am to address what happens to a society when support for the Arts is removed in favour of, say, athletics or the military.

I would greatly appreciate any feedback you might have on this topic. I am looking for source material, historical precedent, and a variety of approaches that might work here. I want to broaden my own scope beyond the notion of patronage for this event, which is sponsored by the Northern Great Plains Ethics Institute.

The panelists will be addressing what the arts have to offer society, how they "civilize" us, and whether or not there is any historical precedent. There will be one panelist playing Devil's Advocate and one who firmly believes that public monies and education should lean in the direction of hard science, athletics, and the military.

Thanks, and both the editor and I would appreciate it if you would reply on-list.

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Reference:

Q: Civil Society & the Arts. In: ArtHist.net, Sep 3, 2005 (accessed Sep 20, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/27486>>.