



Zaklada
Kultura nova

For democratic cultural policies?

IETM Rijeka Plenary Meeting

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Dea Vidović, dea.vidovic@kulturanova.hr

Democratic Dimensions of Cultural Policy (Vestheim, 2015)

DIMENSIONS	DESCRIPTIONS
Aims, norms and ideologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expression of democratic aims, ideas, principles, norms, etc. (documents, political decisions...)
Institutional structure, agents and interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Political institutions, national assembly and the government• Public bodies• Interest organizations of professions• Voluntary organizations• International organizations• NGOs• Multinational business corporations
Access and participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For whom do governments support arts & culture?• Everybody has the right to enjoy culture as a social good
Distribution of economic resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ideas and strategies are implemented through money• Money is indicator of public and private investment• Which mechanism for distribution is most democratic?

Participation

- Long tradition
 - Various geopolitical contexts
 - State - citizens relation has changed
 - Communications and technology development
 - Not a statistic numeric concept
- Shift to participation
 - All areas
 - Imperative of participation, new opium for people

Instrumentalization and Tyranny of Participation

- Not emancipatory
- Not fulfilled
- No open decision-making process
- Less attentive to actual reform

Cultural Participation as a Right

„Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community”

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UN, 1948), Article 27, Section 1

„(...) all persons have the right to participate in the cultural life of their choice and conduct their own cultural practices”

UNESCO’s Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity (2001), Article 5

Understanding Cultural Participation

TRADITIONAL UNDERSTANDING	CONTEMPORARY UNDERSTANDING
Passive participation: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• listening to concerts• reading books• watching movies• visiting museums	Active participation: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• playing music• writing books• creating movies• curating exhibitions
Attendance at cultural events	Creative participation: creation, production and facilitation of art
Consumption of cultural contents	Participatory approach: participation in decision making bodies and processes



Passive observers



Active creators

Cultural Policy Paradigm with the Aim of Participation

CULTURAL DEMOCRATIZATION - to provide access to the general public - - regulate access to canon -	CULTURAL DEMOCRACY - free individual choices made by citizen/s - - regulate diversity of cultural production -
Top-down approach	Bottom-up approach
Monocultural concept	Pluralistic concept
Elitist approach from 19th century	Cultural diversity and cultural rights
Static and homogenic understanding of culture	Multiculturalism and community cultural values
High culture	Popular culture
Role of experts who decide and determine what are esthetically superior forms of arts	Equal opportunities for citizens to be culturally active on their own terms
All cultural needs of all members of society are alike	Link between citizens and cultural resources
Reduced admission prices, popularization in media, educative programs	Support the individual cultural expressions and subcultures
Sold ticket numbers and social composition of the audiences	Individual expression and degree of participation
Equality of outcomes	Equality of opportunities

Key Concerns of Cultural Democracy

CULTURAL POLICY

Rhetoric limitation

Restricted, elitist, hierarchical and centralized manner of cultural policy structures

Difficulties to change practices of cultural policies and institutions

ARTS & CULTURE

Cultural relativism

Consumption and accessibility depend on financial capacity

Decreasing levels of accountability

Public quality and ownership of culture

Privatization of the cultural field

Needs to generate benefit (profit and participation) over the aesthetic

Marginalization of aesthetic and artistic values

PARTICIPATION

Who participates?

Who decides?

Who defines the rules of the game?

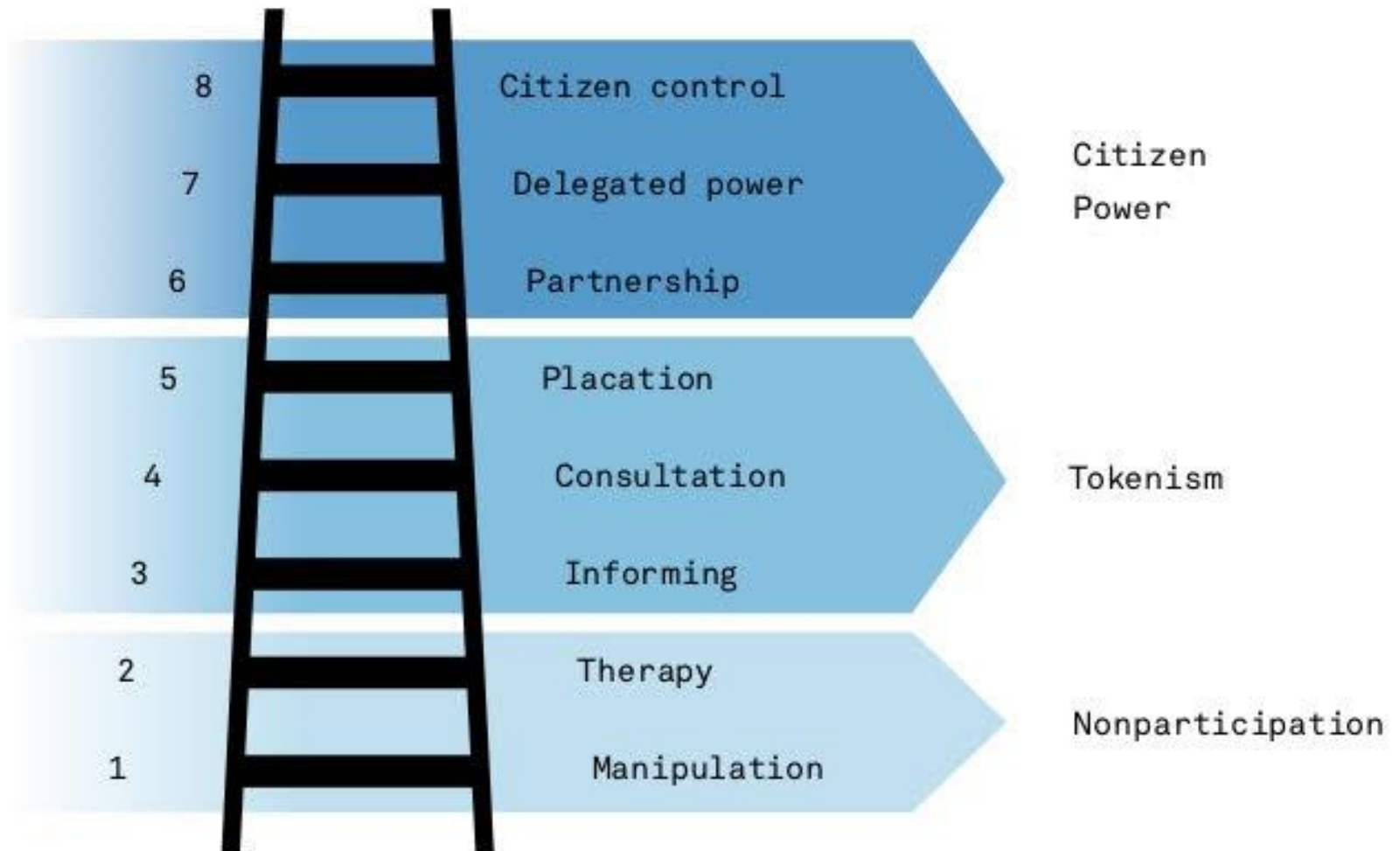
Imperative of forms, relativism of content

Inequalities



BLURRING THE LINES BETWEEN PARTICIPATION, INSTRUMENTALIZATION AND POPULISM

**WHAT KIND OF PARTICIPATION LEGITIMISES
DEMOCRATIC CULTURAL POLICY?**



The ladder of citizen participation (Arnstein, 1969)

Participatory Governance

SHARING GOVERNANCE RESPONSIBILITIES AMONG DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS
EMPOWERS CITIZENS FOR DECISION MAKING ON PUBLIC ISSUES

WHAT DOES IT IMPLY

Solutions for the erosion of democratic vitality

Solutions for political passivity

Citizens shift from passive observers to active decision-makers

More comprehensive and updated concept of citizens' participation

Decentralization of power structures and decision processes

Higher democratized model based on responsibility and common decision-making

Individual liberty with collective decisions

Proposing solutions for public problems

Togetherness

Sustaining values for human rights

**WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO SUPPORT
ARTISTIC AUTONOMY
WITHIN THE DEMOCRATIC CULTURAL POLICY?**

Pressures on Arts

- Democratic deficits and lack of democracy in institutions
- Domination of economic growth and efficiency
- Fails in contemporary public policies - withdrawal of state from intervention in public services (social, health, education, etc.)
- Neoliberalization of public policy
- Inequality
- Commodification of cultural resources
- Issues of accessibility
- Raising nationalism, xenophobia, intolerance
- Discourse on participation perpetuates existing power relations

Intrinsic Values in the Arts (McCarthy et al, 2004)

IMMEDIATE / PRIVATE BENEFITS	SECOND BENEFITS / PRIVATE BENEFITS WITH PUBLIC SPILLOVER	THIRD / PUBLIC BENEFITS
Pleasure	Growth of individual capacities	Creation of social bonds among individuals when sharing arts experiences through reflection and discourse
Captivation	Expanded capacity for empathy for other people and cultures	Expression of common values and community identity through artworks
Stimulation	Cognitive growth	
Meaning	Powers of observations Understanding of the world	

**WHAT SHOULD THE 21ST CENTURY DEMOCRATIC CULTURAL POLICY
LOOK LIKE?**

DEMOCRATIZATION OF CULTURE	CULTURAL DEMOCRACY	DEMOCRATIC CULTURAL POLICY FOR 21st CENTURY
Monocultural / Homogenous	Cultural pluralism / Heterogenous	Culture for Everyone
Institutions	Individuals and groups	All stakeholders
Facilitating Access	Power to the people	Decision-making power
Create framework	Create activities	Participatory practices (co-co-co)
Professional	Amateur	Professional and amateur
Aesthetic and artistic quality	Social quality	Aesthetic, artistic and social quality
Tradition and preservation	Development and dynamics	Transformation and sharing
Distribution	Personal activity	Collaborative activity
Results	Processes	Processes and results

New Public Culture (Katunarić, 2004)

- **Brings together** into a common space of dialogue, cultural productions and expressiveness :
 - different cultural stakeholders
 - various interests
 - heterogeneous public
- **Questioning** the position and collective purpose of culture

Benefits of New Public Culture

FOR STAKEHOLDERS	FOR SOCIETY	FOR CULTURAL POLICY
Improvement of dialogue and level of cooperation	Invent and experiment with a range of new participatory mechanisms	Testing new models of governance - rethinking the role and mandate of public institutions in culture
Raise mutual trust	New values, new interactions, new relations, new ways of engagement	Distributing public resources in a much more appropriate way
Increases governance capacities	Promoting coexistence, civic progress, engagement, exchange	Providing wider access to different groups and individuals
Improve the ways of citizens participation in decision making	Potential to induce positive changes and reshaping the society	Transparent realization of goals and the achievement of results
Affiliate citizens and experts in new institutional formats	Tools for preserving public resources for future generations	Increase the scope of care for public needs and interests
	Improve social, economical and ecological aspects of local environment	Improvement of democratic processes
		Long-term and sustainable places of encounter of different expressions and interests



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END

Thank you!

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