“Changing the Sight Lines”
New Approaches to Funding

India Foundation for the Arts

20 Years of Celebrating the Arts

Malta, October 2016
India Foundation for the Arts

- A national, independent, not-for-profit, professionally managed grant-making organisation that supports practice, research and education in the arts, Based in Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- Registered as a public charitable trust in 1993 and started making grants in 1996
- Programmes and Initiatives:
  - Arts Research
  - Arts Practice
  - Arts Education
  - Archival and Museum Fellowship

Registered under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act * Vetted and approved to receive grants by Charities Aid Foundation America (CAF) and Foster India Foundation, USA * Contributions to IFA qualify for 50% exemption under Section 80G of the Indian Income-tax Act and 100% exemption under IRC 501(c)(3) in the USA.

Outcomes:
Films, publications, archives, exhibitions, websites, performances, concerts, installations, workshops, residencies, conferences
450+ Grants in 22 States
- Over 20 years
- INR 210 Mil
- Euro 2.83 Mil/ U$ 3.43 Mil
- Grant Programmes:
  Research, Practice and Education
Significant Shifts in the Environment

**Overall Climate:**
- Neoliberal Economics & Rise of the Fundamental Right:
  - Obsession with the Market & Constraints on Freedom of Expression
- Nature of State and Market: Increasing Proximities
- Polarization across ideologies and economics: Shrinkage of spaces for debate
- Rise of Dissent and Resistance & Digital Ecology
  - Emerging Voices from the Margins

**Specific to the field of Arts and Culture:**
- Organisation Formations: Undergrounds and Collectives
- Language and Region: Dominant v/s Plural
- Blind Borrowings: Impact Assessment/ Management
- Strings attached to Funding: Public, Private, Foreign – Independent?

*How do Funding Organisations create new approaches to remain constantly relevant and dynamic in this environment?*
New Approaches; New Directions

Baba Farid Mir Project
Mir Musicians of Rajasthan

Need:
- People with no IDs or bank accounts
- Only local dialect
- No writing practice
- Sense of ‘time’ and ‘project’ very different

What we did:
- Human Face of the Foundation
- Proposal Development through multilingual processes
- Impact measurement
- New procedures for making the grant
- Constant hand-holding
- Responding to their sense of ‘time’
New Approaches; New Directions

Need:
- Lack of infrastructural support for theatre
- No platforms for stories of survivals/successes
- Most of arts management borrowed from corporate or the development sector

What we did:
- Consolidating learnings from theatre and the arts
- First of its kind Strategic Management Programme for Theatre groups in Asia – Training, Mentorship, Roadmap
- A collaboration between organisations and Individuals
- Multilingual – big and small cities, and small towns from across India
- Part supported, part volunteerism
7 Signs of Funding Organisations of the Future

• Independent with Flexible & Nimble Processes
• Deep Contextual Understanding
• Continuously evolving Dynamic Programmes
• Multilingual & Multicultural Staff
• Building Discourses from Within
• Collaborations and Partnerships
• Inter-sectoral Dialogues for mutual learnings
Contact Us

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