



Tom Borrup, Ph.D.

**Creative Community Builders
Minneapolis, Minnesota USA**

Tom is a leader and innovator in creative community building – leveraging cultural and other assets to advance economic, social, civic, and physical regeneration of place-based communities. As founder and Principal of Creative Community Builders, he has consulted with cities, foundations, and nonprofits in over 20 states across the U.S. to develop synergy between arts, economic development, urban planning and design, civic engagement, and animation of public space. Special areas of focus are community cultural planning and cultural district planning.

His 2006 book *The Creative Community Builders' Handbook*, remains the leading text in the field. The book profiles communities that have transformed their economic, social, and physical infrastructures through the arts. From 2003 to 2009 he consulted with the Ford Foundation's *Shifting Sands Initiative* that assisted community-based cultural organizations to take leading roles in local revitalization – a precursor to the creative placemaking focus Ford and other foundations adopted in 2010.

As Executive Director of Intermedia Arts in Minneapolis from 1980 until 2002, Tom helped transform a diverse urban neighborhood while building a nationally recognized multidisciplinary, cross-cultural organization. He has served as a member of many nonprofit boards and funding panels for public and private agencies, and was a trustee of the Jerome Foundation in Saint Paul from 1994 to 2003 where he served as Chair from 2001 to 2003. With the National Endowment for the Arts, Tom served on a variety of funding and policy panels over 25 years in the media arts, visual arts, presenting, design, and advancement program categories.

Tom earned his Ph.D. in Leadership and Change from Antioch University researching the role of social and organizational networks in the planning and management of cultural districts. Tom has an M.A. in Communications and Public Policy from Goddard College and was a 2001-2002 Fellow in the Knight Program in Community Building at the University of Miami School of Architecture.

He currently serves in a part-time role as Director of Graduate Studies for the University of Minnesota's Masters of Professional Studies in Arts and Cultural Leadership. He also teaches Cultural Planning online for Drexel University's Arts Administration Graduate Program and foundational courses for the Creative Placemaking Certificate Program at the New Hampshire Institute of Art. Tom is frequent speaker and lecturer internationally addressing creative community engagement in planning and design, cultural district development, and cultural planning.