



Open World Cultural Leaders

professional exchanges for contemporary
Russian artists and arts managers

"I am deeply grateful for having been selected for participation in the program. Without exaggeration, I returned a changed person. The trip became an optical lens that allowed me to see the world differently. So many new Impressions, endless positive emotions and new thrilling contacts — all of it in such a short period of time! America turned out to be completely unlike the realm of my daily life — and this was absolutely great. As any artist, I needed this stimulating experience!"

Sergei Kachkin,
Film Director and Producer

In 2003, **CEC ArtsLink** collaborated with the Open World Leadership Center to bring to the United States the first group of young arts managers from Russia for an in-depth professional residency. Since then, managed by CEC ArtsLink, the program enabled over 270 Russian artists and cultural managers to travel to the U.S. to participate in premier professional gatherings around the country, engage with American counterparts and present work to American audiences. Each residency is designed to rely on the shared language of the arts to facilitate a mutually beneficial dialogue between Russian participants and their American hosts. The above quote from a Russian filmmaker is one of many testimonials for the program's relevance and impact.

Open World Cultural Leaders Program is supported by the **Open World Leadership Center** at the Library of Congress and the **National Endowment for the Arts**. CEC ArtsLink plays a dual role providing overall administrative support for the program as well as hosting a number of groups in partnership with leading arts organizations around the country.

Participants

- To date, CEC ArtsLink hosted over **100** leading artists and cultural managers
- Disciplines include: literature, film, modern dance, folk art, music, and arts management
- Participants travel from many of Russia's diverse geographic regions from Moscow to Vladivostok
- Participants are nominated by panels of Russian experts and selected in a competitive review process
- Program alumni continue to engage with colleagues in the U.S., receive awards in their fields, and develop international collaborative projects.

Partner Hosts

The following arts organizations have partnered with CEC ArtsLink to host Open World residencies:

- American Dance Festival
- Athens International Film Festival, Ohio
- Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans
- Center for the Arts, Wesleyan University
- Hopkins Center, Dartmouth College
- International Writing Program, University of Iowa
- Margaret Mead Film and Video Festival
- The PEN American Center
- Princeton University
- Robert Flaherty Film Seminar
- Telluride Film Festival
- The University of Mississippi
- The University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill