KEY: BECOMING A CULTURAL INVESTOR

Below are general guidelines for answering the first half of the questions. There are, of course, many other possibilities.

1. How would you define the term “social justice”?

*Social justice speaks to pursuit of the right of individuals and groups to be afforded the same opportunities and privileges in a society regardless of their background.*

2. How would you define the term “street culture”?

*Forms of art and expression that spring from home communities rather than professional or academic areas, and are presented in the public sphere.*

3. How would “street culture” be different from other forms of culture?

*There is not a strong boundary between the organizers and the participants. In many cases, the goal is to invite the audience to join in the celebration, and strong support is a sign of success.*

4. Why would music be a way for Jerome Smith to try to further “social justice” in New Orleans?

*Music in the streets of New Orleans was a way to organize and bring joy to the people who participate and those that have a chance to listen as the parade moves through the city. Many organizations use parades a way to honor community members and important neighborhood institutions. Because New Orleanians are endeared to this form of “community organizing,” it was a good vehicle to use*

*to incorporate other messages.*

5. How can an event like a parade help to build connections within a community?

*Parades like second lines require club members to work together to put on the parade, but then they must also advertise the event and invite the broader community to come out to participate in it. Young people in Tambourine and Fan worked to make the flags, signs, and regalia that were carried during the parade to share social justice messages.*

6. What are some ways a person can be an investor, and how would you become a “cultural investor?”

*An investor is someone who contributes to their community and hopes that their efforts, whether they are financial contributions or the giving of time and other resources, will help the community grow in positive ways. Cultural investment is when you recognize cultural practices that are important to your community, and work to cultivate them.*

7. What other social/cultural characteristics of your community could be used to further social justice and

build community connections in your community?

*To name just a few: community radio and museums, altars for All Saints Day and St. Joseph’s Night, Mardi Gras costumes, graffiti, dances, poetry nights, barbershops and beauty salons, sculpture, sports, architecture, landscaping/gardening, cooking, games such as chess, dominoes, and pitty-pat, and double-dutch, spoken word such as rap and poetry nights, art galleries, bookstores, festivals.*