

Creating Creative Cities? Cultural Administration and Local Authorities in Japan since the 1970s

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Typical ‘Cultural Facilities(Cultural Hall)’ in Japan



- Upper: Concert Hall (*Bach Hall*) in Nakaniida Village (currently Kami Village) in Miyagi Prefecture, established 1981
- Below: This is the pamphlet of the typical Japanese Cultural Hall. Koidego Bunka Kaikan(Cultural House of Koidego) situated in Uonuma City in Niigata Prefecture which population is about 41,000. Established in 1996.
- These halls were constructed not in the city but in the countryside. It symbolizes local authorities commitment for cultural access in less populated areas
- Furnished pipe organ or imported grand pianos with excellent acoustics
- There are 3283 Cultural Halls, and over 664 Arts Museums in Japan (researched by Japan Foundation for

What is the Designated Manager System?

- the management system of publicly installed facilities
- a local government chooses the best supplier of a public service
- a designated manager executes a public service on behalf of the local government itself.
- This supplier could be anyone who could supply a

Why the system has changed?

- introduced by new provisions in the Local Government Act: Article 244, in 2003
- before the revision, they were limited to the public companies
- The reasons for the revision are,
 - resident's needs have diversified
 - the number of the private sector able to offer satisfactory service in the public service domain
 - it is effective to use the know-how of a private entrepreneur or company in the supply of public

The Background of “Cultural Administration”

- Uniformity of Japanese society had increased under the economic growth and widespread industrialization
- Local authority needs to create autonomous and decentralized political systems
- To encourage the formulation of policies based on each region’s distinctive history and

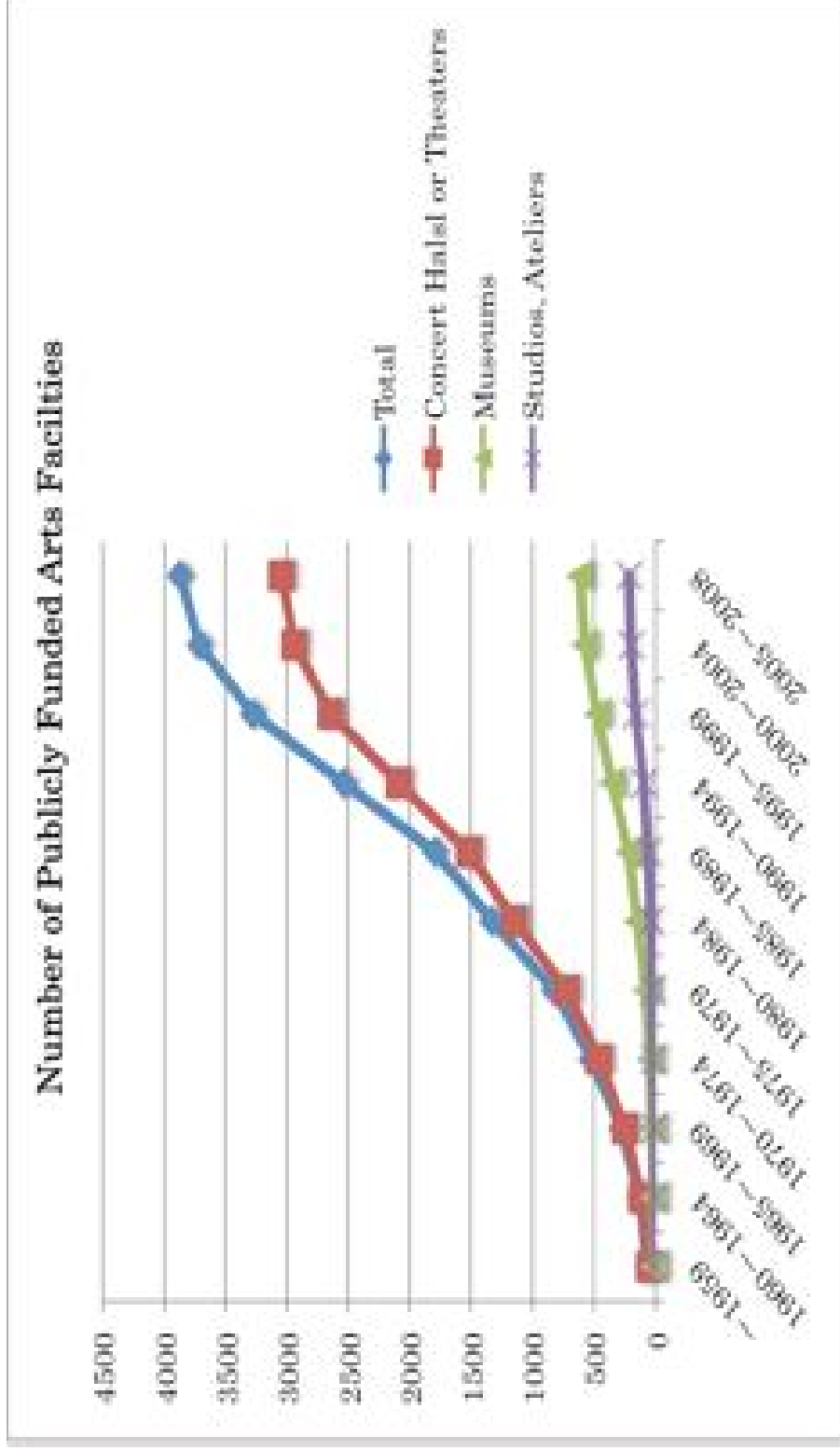
The principle of “Cultural Administration”

- Local residents’ autonomy
- Municipality initiative
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Epoch-making points of Cultural Administration

- The target is regional culture and identity
- New attention was brought to various regional culture
- The notion of a citizenship newly defined
- The reform of Local Governments' attitude to

The Problem of Publicly Funded Arts



Characteristics of these Facilities

- Local authorities construct elaborate multi-functional stages for the performing arts and music, especially for classical music
- There are no creative groups, such as drama or dance companies, or orchestras
- Construction budgets are significant, but management budgets are minimal
- Some of the facilities managed by a foundation, but

Conclusion

- Cultural facilities were constructed, but new policies of Cultural Administration were not implemented
- Cultural facilities without “software” were recognized as problematic
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Positive Potentials

- Some local governments are taking cultural promotion more seriously
- Movement toward making plans, goals, and legislation with citizen participation
- Some foundations are revitalizing their core mission
- A few independent private groups are taking part in the management of publicly-

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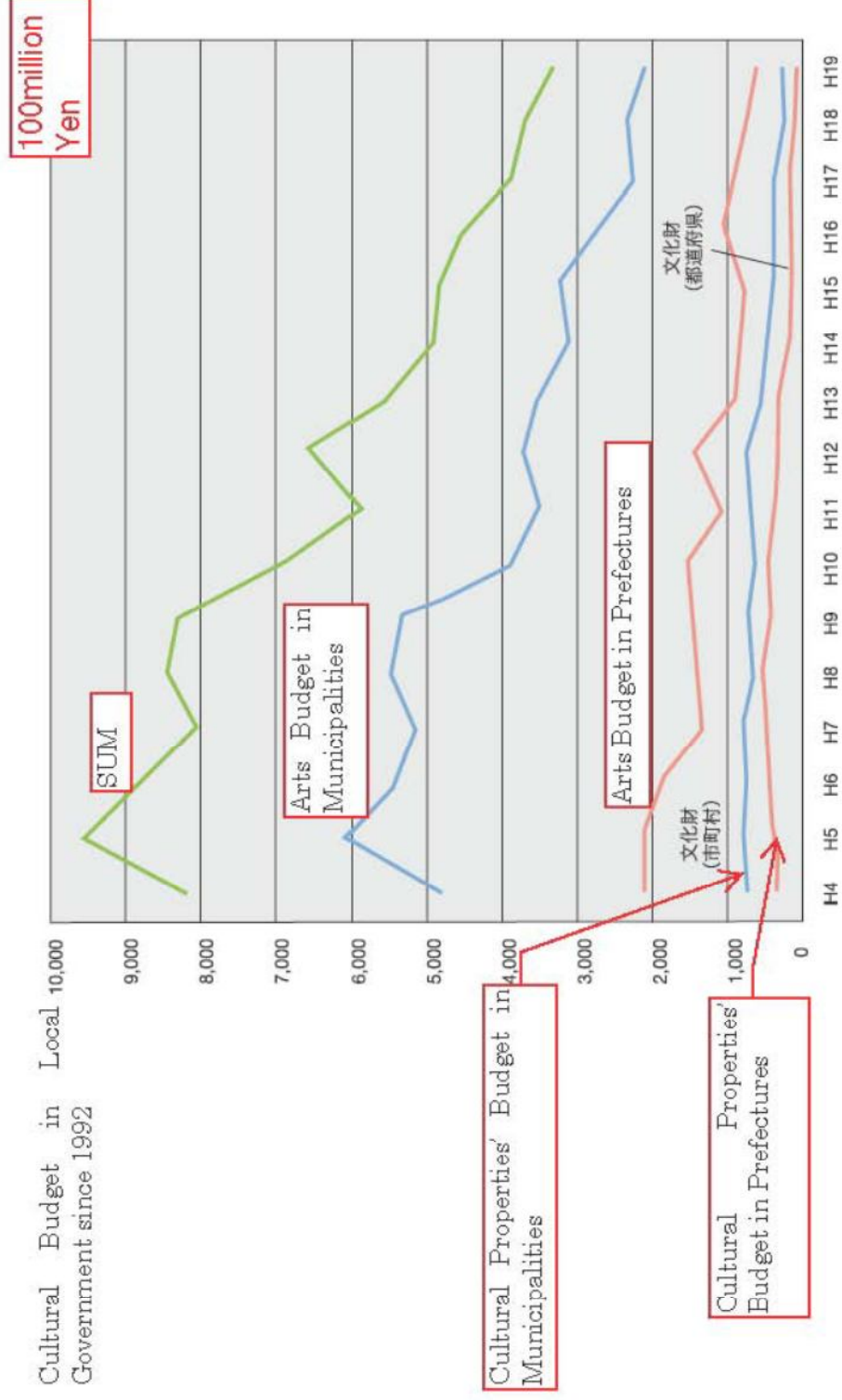




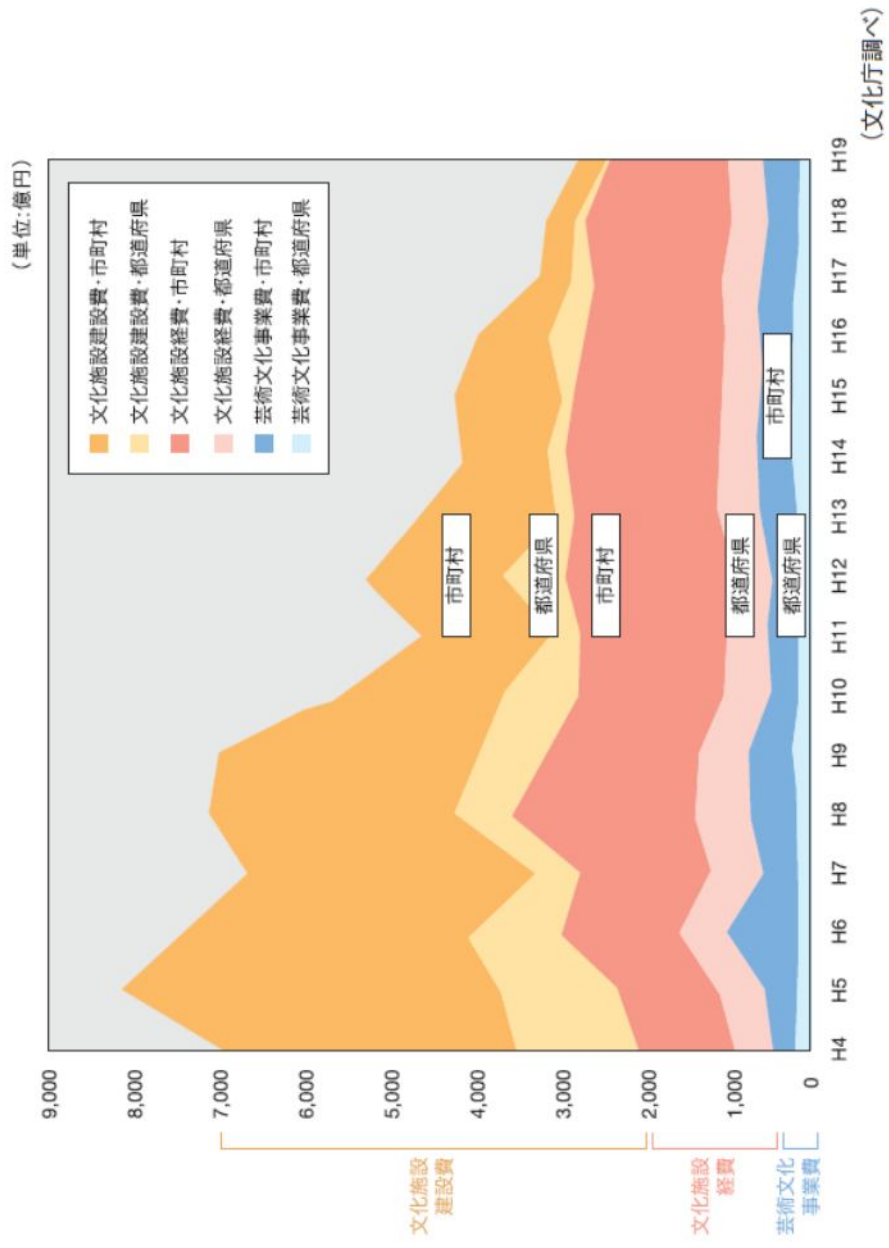
The Workshop of making ordinance for arts promotion In 2006 in Koganei



Cultural Budget in Local Government since 1992



◆ B. 芸術文化経費の推移



Expense for cultural facilities construction

Managing expense for cultural facilities

Project expense for arts and

Public Administration: Uses and Promotion

- Culturally-based Japanese Lifestyle Activities
 - Ikebana (Flower arranging), tea ceremony, calligraphy
- Cultural Properties → Museums
- Traditional Culture: Highly developed performing arts in previous Edo period → Cultural Halls
 - Kabuki, Noh, and Kyogen, etc...
- Art Culture: Imported from the West
 - Opera, Classical Music, Ballet, Dance, Drama, etc...
→ Cultural Hall
- Movie, Animation,

