

Analysis on the Integration of Henan Traditional Art Intangible Cultural Heritage into Public Art Education in Local Colleges and Universities

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ARTICLE INFO

Received: 15 Nov 2024

Revised: 26 Dec 2024

Accepted: 16 Jan 2025

ABSTRACT

Public art education in local colleges and universities provides fertile ground for integrating Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) into contemporary educational practices. By incorporating traditional art into the curriculum, educators enhance students' understanding of cultural heritage, inspire creativity, and cultivate a sense of belonging to their cultural roots. However, despite the potential benefits, the integration process faces significant challenges, such as limited awareness among students, insufficient resources, and a lack of collaboration between educational institutions and local artisans. By integrating cultural heritage into creative practice and theory, the study aims to foster students' appreciation for local traditions, enhance their creative skills, and strengthen cultural continuity. This study analyses the role, challenges, and preservation of ICH in colleges and universities. This investigation proposes a technique to maximize universities and colleges of fine arts in the area of Henan in terms of their professional benefits, focusing on preserving and advancing the ICH of arts. It also emphasizes the value of incorporating traditional ICH into university instruction and presents a pathway for achieving this integration through the lens of the cultural ecosystem. This study concludes that embedding Henan's ICH in public art education not only promotes cultural preservation but also enriches the learning environment by connecting students to their cultural roots and fostering innovation through tradition.

Keywords: Henan, Traditional Art, Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH), Public Art Education, Universities.

INTRODUCTION

Over 5,000 years of history, China has created a rich cultural heritage that manifests the spirit and body of wisdom that have been brought together by Chinese culture [1]. The regional cultures, such as the one in Henan, form the most important part of this cultural heritage. These comprise things such as art, music, crafts, and stories that have been told from generation to generation [2]. They guide people in understanding what is valued and their behaviours and foster a sense of national unity. Public art instruction in local universities and colleges has an important place in allowing students to be creative and understand the culture. It provides the opportunity for pupils to research and discover more about different forms of art [3]. Adding Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) to public art education connects students with traditional arts and the significant cultural history of their region. ICH encompasses traditional music, dance, crafts, and rituals among others, which are essential to the preservation of cultural identity [4].

Henan, which is steeped in deep cultural roots, has some unique forms of ICH that have various kinds of traditional handicrafts, folk music, and local painting styles. These kinds of art are not only artistic but also a bridge between past and present. The incorporation of the traditional art of Henan in college curricula lets the students cherish their inherited cultural heritage by taking pride in local traditions, and it motivates them to be creative in their art [5]. But most traditional arts of Henan face a serious problem, including a lack of interest on the younger generation's part, a lack of resources, and insufficient support. Through education, the above problems can be solved because education

can let students get closer to ICH and understand it [6]. Those help preserve the traditions but also bring them close to their culture to enrich their learning process. Thus, the integration of Henan's traditional art in public art education can help preserve cultural heritage, with colleges encouraging creative thinking among students. Figure 1 shows the outline of the review.

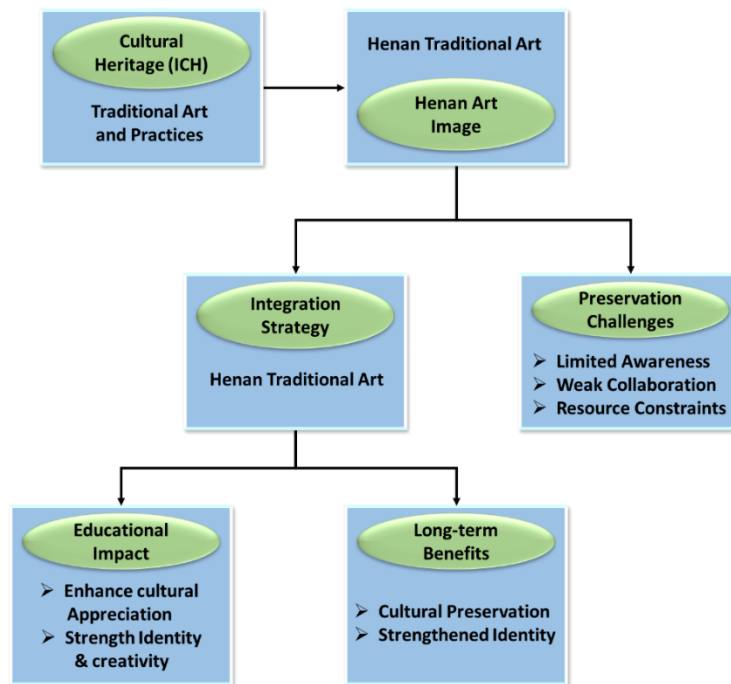


Figure 1: The overview of the Integration of Henan traditional art into public art education

Aim of the study: The study aims to improve culture preservation and enhance creative innovation by incorporating Henan's Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) into public art instruction at local institutions.

HENAN'S TRADITIONAL ART AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

An Ancient Power Center and the Origins of Chinese Culture: Henan's Historical and Cultural Aspects

Henan is recognized as the home of Chinese culture, the Chinese people, and the Chinese alphabet, as well as the origin of Chinese family names. The Yellow Emperor, also known as Huangdi, is regarded as the alleged creator of Chinese civilization and the ancestor of the Henanese [7]. Located south of the Yellow River, Henan's favourable geography, with its natural boundaries formed by mountains and rivers as well as its fertile plains, was well suited for agricultural development, supporting multiple harvests per year. Strategically positioned, Henan became the home of 19 dynasties throughout Chinese history and set it in a position to become a political, economic, and cultural hub.

Henan was Zhongzhou (the center of ancient China), and later Zhongguo (Middle Kingdom), a name that came to symbolize all of China. The province was home to ancient cultures like Yangshao and Longshan and hosted the capitals of several significant dynasties, including the Shang and Zhou. Cities like Luoyang and Kaifeng were essential centers of culture, politics, and art. Many famous people were born in Henan, such as philosophers, military leaders, poets, and scientists. Following the invasion in 1126, Henan's political power was translocated northward, with the capital shifting to Beijing. Although this had occurred, Henan continued to be a crucial area strategically in all other conflicts that were passed forward into the 20th century. To this day, Henan is yet seen as a representation of China's profound culture and history.

Henan's Traditional Culture and Art

Henan is the origin of Chinese civilization, with many dynasties' historical legacies, and deep traditional culture and art deposits. Henan ranks first in underground cultural relics and second in aboveground cultural relics. "One half of Chinese history, half in Henan". Among the eight ancient capitals of the country, Luoyang, Kaifeng, Anyang, and Zhengzhou, cities in Henan, have been the hinterland of the Central Plains since ancient times, accounting for half of

the country [8]. Henan, the birthplace of Chinese civilization, enjoys very rich cultural resources, including World Heritage sites such as the Longmen Grottoes and the Yin Ruins. A wide range of ICH in Henan province include:

- ✚ Shaolin Kung Fu (Martial Arts): one of the most well-known martial arts in the world, originated in Henan, China. The Shaolin Temple located in Songshan Mountain, is renowned for its martial arts and holds deep significance in Chinese culture. This heritage has greatly influenced martial arts worldwide and is therefore considered one of the important aspects of Henan's cultural identity.
- ✚ Henan Opera: It is one of the oldest, and most influential types of Chinese opera. Coming with a style uniquely known for vocal techniques and performance style. Famous for its elegant melodies and dramatic storytelling, which stay connected to the folk traditions in that province.
- ✚ Henan Folk Music: Traditional folk music dominates aspects of Henan's province with its profound use of typical instruments. People use instruments like pipa and erhu in most performances. Henan folk music is also known to be emotionally rich and structurally different because it is shaped by the local dialects and traditions.
- ✚ Folk Arts and Crafts: Folk art in Henan province is mainly rooted in rural traditions. This includes Henan art like crafts such as paper-cutting, wood carving, clay sculpture, and textile arts including embroidery. These art forms have been transmitted from generation to generation and are yet thriving in the villages and cities of Henan.
 - ☆ Jun Kiln Pottery in Yuzhou,
 - ☆ New year woodblock prints in Zhuxian Town and Puyang,
 - ☆ Nigugu (a form of art) in Junxian County
 - ☆ Kaifeng Bian embroidery is known for its intricate needlework, and
 - ☆ Mud dog sculptures in Huaiyang, a form of folk sculpture.
- ✚ Jun Porcelain: Henan is well known for Jun porcelain, which has been produced for over a thousand years. The glazes of this porcelain are renowned for their rich colours and rich designs. Jun porcelain is ranked as one of the "Five Famous Kilns" in China, and the others include Ding kilns and Yue kilns. It is one of the most important elements in the traditional arts and crafts of Henan.
- ✚ Calligraphy and Painting: Henan province enjoys a rich culture in Chinese calligraphy and painting. Over the years, this province has produced many notable calligraphers and painters. Museums within this region display works that embody both traditional and modern forms of Chinese artistic expression.
- ✚ Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH): Henan, with its pocket of traditional practices like puppet shows, shadow plays, and traditional music, is a major hub for the ICH. Such art provides an insight into the daily life, rituals, and beliefs of the people of Henan and forms an integral part of the region's cultural landscape.

These art forms reflect the Henan's deep connections to the Yellow River's culture: it is the heartland of Chinese civilization [9]. China's government has emphasized the protection and development of these cultural assets as a way to strengthen national identity and be able to contribute towards the rejuvenation of the nation. However, its cultural and creative industries are not well developed. They are often presented in tourist souvenirs with a lack of originality. Recent innovations such as "Dance for the 'Tang Palace Banquet'" can merge the profound cultural traditions of Henan with modern technology to further spur the development of Henan's cultural wealth. Unique local art brands and creative products will invigorate both the cultural industry and the economy in Henan.

Integrating Henan's Traditional Art Heritage into Public Art Education for Local Development

Combine traditional culture and art with modern science and technology. The earliest productive forces were science and technology, which also contributed significantly to economic growth and the advancement of other productive forces. The incorporation of traditional art into public art instruction is demonstrated in Figure 2. A few points about Henan's traditional art are as follows:

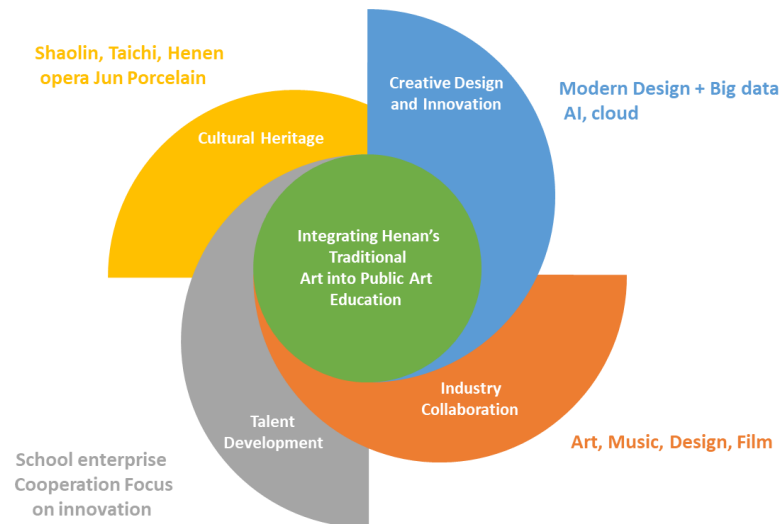


Figure 2: The integration of traditional art into public art education

- ✓ Cultural Heritage: Henan's rich cultural resources from Shaolin culture, Tai Chi, Henan opera, and Jun porcelain may be used to enrich educational content and develop regional pride.
- ✓ Creative Design and Innovation: Train the students to transform traditional cultural elements into modern designs. The cross-disciplinary approaches can include big data, AI, and cloud computing.
- ✓ Cultural and Creative Industries: Engage the educational institutions in working with industries, developing curricula related to art, music, design, and film, to hone the creative talents of students for cultural and creative industries.
- ✓ Talent Development: Secure school-enterprise cooperation, with experiences created for students across cultural and creative industries based on innovation and entrepreneurship.

These key aspects would help integrate the art and culture of Henan into education, encouraging the creativity and awareness of the school's students.

THE ROLE OF PUBLIC ART EDUCATION INSTITUTION

Overview of public art education programs in local institutions

Colleges and universities are gathering places for talented people, and students studying ICH-related fields like literature, art, history, social science, and so on are allowed to do research on ICH preservation from their specialized academic viewpoint. There are approximately 150 higher education institutions in Henan province, with about 10 to 15 of those universities having undergraduate programs in fine arts and design. In this regard, the universities offer degrees majoring in visual arts, graphic design, or industrial design, among others. Moreover, universities in Henan are in a very strategic position to contribute towards the ICH [10]. These personages live in cities that are the birthplace of this heritage, so they are easily exposed to historical data and can do field research. On this geographic advantage, they better know and publicize local cultural practices to ensure their survival for the next generation.

Leveraging Public Art Education at Local Colleges and Universities to Preserve Henan's Intangible Culture Heritage

In Henan, colleges and universities have established numerous cultural institutions to preserve and develop local historical and cultural resources. These institutions bring together local students and talents from other provinces, fostering a strong connection to the ICH in their hometowns. The provincial ICH can be spread across the nation with the aid of these students' influence and promotion [11]. Interaction among students in the ICH area from other cities and provinces encourages and investigates this legacy in more general domains.

STRATEGIES FOR INTEGRATING HENAN'S TRADITIONAL ART INTO PUBLIC ART EDUCATION

The best place to inherit the outstanding national traditional Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) culture is at a college or university. Developing college students' humanistic and comprehensive quality as exceptional learning resources might be a benefit of incorporating conventional ICH culture into university courses [12]. ICH is of much importance in historical and cultural aspects and is the most real witness to the period. It is also closely associated with the

students' daily lives, so they can acquire a sense of "cultural consciousness" without realizing it and then actively contribute to the preservation and legacy of ICH.

The social and biological ecology of the ICH community is already quite complete; the educational institution's integration into it to carry out ICH inheritance has the greatest advantage. The inheritors involved might not completely comprehend the significance of ICH, which could be a drawback.

Utilizing the professional strengths of local Henan colleges and universities.

In Henan Province, universities and colleges are scattered throughout all cities, and people can find them in all ICH birthplaces and transmission zones. In terms of gathering information about local projects, field research, or the comprehension and cognition of such ICH, local colleges and universities have a clear geographical as well as regional advantage because they can easily comprehend and gather data and information about the history along with the status quo of ICH projects [13]. They also tend to have a fairly accurate understanding of the living conditions of local people and recognize their value.

Local colleges and universities can work with businesses to establish relevant majors in universities based on the talent requirements of businesses and the resource features of the local ICH. Collaboration between universities and other stakeholders not only guarantees the applicability of university instruction, the development of technical proficiency, and the thoroughness of training for ICH inheritance personnel, but it also aids in the realization of ICH's scientific legacy, thereby fostering social and economic advancement in ethnic communities.

A Geographical Advantage for Integrating Traditional Arts in Public Education at Henan's Colleges

Henan's colleges and universities are spread across the province, especially in areas that are the birthplace and hub of its rich ICH. These institutions, with their close connection to local communities, have a deep understanding of the region's traditions, including the history and current status of ICH. This geographical advantage allows them to easily gather information and conduct field research on these art forms. As a result, local colleges and universities play a key role in integrating Henan's traditional arts, such as Shaolin Kung Fu, Jun porcelain, and folk crafts, into public art education. This connection between the schools and their local heritage enables the preservation and teaching of these traditions to students, helping keep them alive for future generations.

Integrating the ICH and Traditional Art of Henan into Public Art Education

Colleges and universities in Henan are fostering talents in various disciplines related to ICH, such as art, history, social science, and literature. These scholars are increasingly participating in the preservation work of ICH, making them an important force for the implementation of this preservation. Their well-educated, thoughtful, and enthusiastic nature makes them an essential force for the preservation of this valuable cultural heritage.

Henan's Intangible Cultural Heritage: The Role of Local Colleges and Universities

Local colleges and universities in Henan are supposed to provide a strong foundation for research and academic support important to the preservation of intangible cultural heritage in the region. To preserve and promote those traditions, there is a need to have in-depth theoretical and practical research on various aspects, including their forms, features, and cultural significance. Colleges and universities, with their abilities, sophisticated investigation skills, and knowledge of the cultural background, deeply assist in transforming the collection and documentation of these heritage forms into a theoretical study that can provide further development. Combining the region's rich historical and cultural resources with modern academic approaches, these institutions ensure that Henan's traditional arts are integrated into educational programs. This integration helps ensure the transmission and continued relevance of Henan's cultural heritage for future generations.

Techniques for preserving and advancing the ICH of Henan's traditional arts

Specialty establishment in intangible cultural heritage is crucial for its development. While some universities have established specialties for safeguarding this heritage during master's and doctoral training, there is a growing demand for undergraduate majors in this field [14]. Colleges and universities can establish specialties in related fields, such as art design theory and cultural industry, to promote the professional construction of intangible cultural heritage. This approach leverages discipline and talent advantages in related colleges and departments.

Developing Localized Courses to Preserve Folk Fine Arts and Intangible Cultural Heritage

Henan's folk arts have a long history with unique skills and traditions passed down through generations. However, many of these art forms have been kept within closed communities, making them unknown to outsiders. As society becomes more open, these cultural treasures are gradually being shared with the wider public. In response, universities are inviting local heritage practitioners to offer specialized lessons [15], giving students a chance to experience and learn about these unique traditions first-hand. By integrating Henan's intangible cultural heritage into public art education, students gain a deeper understanding of their local culture while helping to preserve it for future generations.

Strengthening ICH Preservation through Industry and Academic Development

To preserve intangible cultural heritage in Henan and increase cultural industries, universities should collaborate with local government and cultural enterprises. Through this, they can incorporate arts from the region into learning to support heritage preservation along with economic growth. Intangible cultural heritage research and practice bases will provide avenues for students to learn with and innovate on the given traditions. This collaboration will derive cultural awareness, social benefits, and economic development as universities play a key role in bridging heritage preservation with modern cultural industries.

Expanding the Development and Conservation of ICH through the Social Practice of College Students

Due to its regional features, the traditional art of Henan provides many cultural materials for development and preservation. College students of different backgrounds and locations can research and promote intangible cultural heritage. Through courses that study Henan's traditional art forms, students can engage in hands-on activities such as investigating and learning about local folk art. An interest in traditional art is often fostered in students when they can connect the traditional art, and learn about it with that of their hometowns or families. Further development in university curricula and activities based around the cultural heritage of Henan can lead to encouraging students to become more proactively involved in the preservation and further development of these traditions that could make up a more meaningful education and social practice.

BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES IN INTEGRATING ICH IN PUBLIC ART EDUCATION

Benefits of Integrating

The integration of traditional art from Henan in public art education provides various direct benefits, such as ensuring the preservation and continuation of the region's specific cultural heritage and preventing the eradication of traditional forms of art. It increases cultural awareness and pride among the students because they learn about their local traditions.

- ✦ Cultural Preservation: Enabling the unique tradition and art form of Henan to be preserved and passed on to the future generation.
- ✦ Cultural Awareness: Develop the appreciation and awareness of cultural heritage among the students and evoke pride.
- ✦ Creative Innovation: Encourage creative thinking through the merging of traditional art with modern technology and design, inspiring innovation.
- ✦ Skill Development: Develop practical skills for the students to pursue art, design, and cultural studies and get employed in the cultural industries.
- ✦ Community Engagement: It strengthens the relationship between universities, communities, and cultural practitioners to enhance cooperation.

Challenges of Integrating

There are numerous challenges associated with implementing traditional art from Henan in the curriculum. The main challenges are that the students may not be interested or lack awareness about traditional art. Students who lack knowledge or concern about traditional art may find it difficult to engage.

- ✦ Limited Awareness: Students are much less aware or interested in conventional art, making it challenging to get them engaged.
- ✦ Limited Resources: Universities lack the necessary materials, experts, and funds to accomplish traditional art through a curriculum.
- ✦ Curriculum Gaps: The program may not adequately include ICH, requiring several adjustments.

- ✦ Collaboration Barriers: Colleges and Universities may not easily be able to collaborate well with local artisans or cultural institutions to bring real-life experience to students.
- ✦ Balancing Tradition and Modernity: It might be a challenge where authenticity is lost between traditional techniques and innovation that is encouraged by modernity and technology.

CONCLUSION

Intangible cultural heritage (ICH) becomes incorporated into public art instruction at nearby institutions and colleges, making the learning of students more meaningful and creating a sense of connection with cultural roots, fostering creativity, and ensuring cultural continuity. Though there have been difficulties such as low consciousness, underdeveloped infrastructure, and lack of coordination among the institutions and local crafts persons that the study has encountered, the colleges in Henan can exploit the knowledge that they possess in fine arts towards the conservation and development of ICH. It blends traditional ICH with creative practice and theoretical instruction to foster an appreciation for cultural heritage through innovation informed by tradition. It has highlighted that the cultural ecosystem connecting education and heritage preservation is an important study theme, concluding that the incorporation of Henan's ICH in art education would not only preserve traditional arts but also transform the educational environment into a dynamic space inspired by heritage to create modern-day creativity and cultural sustainability.

Study reveals challenges like low student awareness, lack of resources, and a failure to collaborate between institutions and local artisans, which may affect the integration of ICH into public art education. Future exploration could focus on developing sustainable strategies for resource allocation, strengthening institutional-artisan partnerships, and leveraging technology to enhance awareness and accessibility of ICH in educational settings.

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