

Arts Alliance Leadership Team

At 4:30 p.m. May 23, the Leadership Team of the Visioneering Arts Alliance met at Watermark Books. This was the group's second meeting as it explored if and how to create an Arts Alliance for the four-county Wichita MSA.

Materials: Visioneering Wichita document (Chamber); agenda and notes from previous meeting (SHN)

Attendees: Maas Thomas, Yolanda Orozco, Charles Steiner, Seth Bate, Sara Bagby, Mike Michaelis, Emily Bonavia, Walter Girton

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions

In reviewing commitments from the prior meeting, Self-Help Network staff reported on meetings with the SHN research team. If the Leadership Team wants to move forward with a survey and/or research with other cities that have Arts Alliances, there are resources to help, but it will require working closely with the SHN Research Team to design an effective process. It was suggested that in addition to looking at other Visioneering cities that someone might want to speak with Rick Reid at Splurge! Magazine.

Charles recapped the discussion of the previous meeting, centered around "how to corral and identify artists' capital." This might include being/becoming a viable political group; inspiring young people; and recruiting artists and arts lovers from out of town. This steering committee is being assembled across cultural boundaries. We know that artists are unlikely to be attracted to a monthly service-club style organization, so what would be attractive to them?

It was suggested that there may be overlap with such groups as the Non-Profit Chamber of Service and the Arts and Prosperity project.

2. Take Another Look

Participants held discussion about some of the reasons previously identified for having an Arts Alliance:

Increased Awareness/Involvement

- People don't know Wichita ballet
- Non-profit groups – small marketing budgets
- You have to already be "in the know"

- Include one person from each organization – connect them
- Invite these groups
- Recognize interdependence
- Individual artists may not know opportunities
- Answer the question, “How do you find out about arts opportunities?” “How did you find out about this effort?”

Training opportunities

- Film
- Young poets/MCs
- Interaction and questions-and-answers format

Leverage local government support

- Any money is good
- Establish arts capital as a political commodity
- Influence development to be arts friendly

Investigate / create communities of Art

- Minneapolis
- Delano
- Living costs and ownership can't be prohibitive
- Go to final Fridays and ask

Centralized information source

- One website
- Need a larger meeting with as many groups represented as possible

3. Survey Results and Next Steps

Sarah did conduct an informal survey about how the arts affect Wichitans' lives. She received responses from people who invest in and appreciate art; people who make art; and “people who want to run the world.”

4. First Alliance Meeting

It might include:

- Contextual overview
- Identifying all the possible arts niches – and how to include them
 - Participants said that getting people together (or just compiling information about) arts and arts opportunities could have value.
 - Look for ways to make this information more interactive and “sticky” (e.g. Comprehensive Recreation website project)
- Identifying all the possible existing arts organizations/gathering places/networks
 - and how to reach them
 - Include groups Sarah identified, plus people who house art.

- Identifying all the possible purposes an Arts Alliance could serve
- Follow up with a second meeting to create a vision for the arts in the Wichita region
 - o If only arts people participate, this could be a jaded vision.
- Logistics
 - o Plan two "y'all come meetings," using the Steering Committee members' contacts for the first one and the people who attend the first one to reach participants for the second one.
 - o Aim for 25-100 people.
 - o Investigate the Metroplex as a meeting site.
 - o Evening meeting (maybe 4:30 p.m. start). No Wednesdays.
 - o Chamber/SHN will provide a message you can cut and paste into your e-mails or mailings.

A G R E E M E N T S

WHO	WHO ELSE	WHAT	BY WHEN
Self-Help Network	Chamber	Coordinate a date for first Alliance meeting	ASAP
Self-Help Network	Chamber	Create sample message that can be used in invitations for meeting	June 11
All		Distribute invitations throughout networks	After sample message is distributed

Next Meeting Agenda

1. Agenda item 1
2. Agenda item 2