

Arts Alliance Leadership Team Notes

Date, time: 4 p.m. Nov. 7, Center for Community Support and Research, Kansas Room

Facilitators and Resource People: Maaskelah Thomas, Seth Bate (SHN); Suzie Ahlstrand and Diane Longfellow (Chamber)

Attendees: James Abertha, Gay Quisenberry, Jaki McElroy, Walter Girton, Adam Hartke, Eric Bell, Collin Allen, Garrett Jeter, Yolanda Orozco, Jodi Drinkwater

Materials: agenda, notes from previous meeting

Today's Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Review notes
- Announcement(s) from Suzie Ahlstrand

There are plans for a great meeting 11/6 at Exploration Place about the RACE exhibit including youth from region.

Alliance members are invited to upload items to Upload Wichita project. Organizers would particularly like to see younger people and diversity represented.

2. Review work of small groups

General Arts/Working Across Disciplines: Colin & Jaki could lead this group, with main goals being finding space for artists and identifying needed financial resources.

More modest goal may be arts directory (artists, arts organizations, non-profits, contacts), which would lead to event participants.

Directory could be step 1.

If we agree that this is the first step, the next meeting could be about tasks to support that project.

Visit 211kansas.org to see what they have compiled.

Festival could be step 2. Building could be step 3.

3. Clarify facilitators' roles

CCSR role: For all Alliances, facilitators are here to assist Leadership Teams. The Leadership team is the hands and feet – and represents the larger Alliance. Activities are not up to the facilitators. We try to do all work in the room – transparently.

4. Discuss how the Leadership Team and Alliance should move forward

Item from Charles: There's a concern about losing "steam and people." The Leadership Team should look for strategies to get those people back & maintain strong 'people capital'. (Press release? Event?) Use newspaper to invite everyone back.

Feedback: The reason people don't return may be that they're not being heard. Could poll all Alliance members – why are they here and what do they want the Alliance to accomplish? Why do they want to be part of this?

Having the Real Development speaker was out of place, and the Leadership Team did not know what was happening.

Small group work was smart. The Alliance is looking for structure at this stage. Some participants are unclear of their individual roles within a small group. People need to know concretely what they should do and in what direction we're going. Unless everyone has a voice in everything we won't get very far. Maybe the Alliance meetings should focus on one of those groups each time instead of splitting up, which causes confusion. This might also create more forward momentum; for example, those not on the fund development group might have contacts in that area.

All four areas can work together for one project (arts event): requires funds, working across disciplines, media & communication. Events group at Alliance meeting had some disagreement, somewhat centered around timeline.

The last Alliance meeting did not end with an established key contact for each of the areas. Need someone in charge of whatever groups we have.

Long-term goal - looking out 5-10 years - needs to be kept in mind. Short-term goals can "satisfy the masses." Slow down - follow larger plans and avoid spinning our wheels. Need more time to focus on what we want to do - for example, what neighborhoods do we want to go in?

Space for art and artists is still a key issue.

Build momentum by doing some small projects to get people involved and interested. Maybe the way to build momentum is through a large event and let as many artists as possible participate/showcase/perform. Use Black Arts and Asian festivals as models.

There is some confusion about leadership group - changing participants. There's similar confusion about asking the same questions over and over.

Most of the meetings so far have included discussion of what came before for new people who came in. This slows us down.

Some thought the process was going to be that the small groups would designate a leader, tasks and actions, then the leaders would get together so they can work together. (They *have* to work together.) That would allow the Leadership Team to develop longterm goals. Events team did meet - don't know who attended? Can we choose one project at a time?

Can we appoint (interim?) leaders for each work area? Need to empower small groups soon. What is their role? Is the Leadership Team making assignments, or are the small groups making plans and bringing them back to the Team for coordination?

Maybe we need a meeting soon with no agenda (Christmas party?).

Need a mission statement. Or is the Alliance going to be defined by its projects? What is the purpose? Who develops it? Leadership Team could start creating it and taking it to the larger Alliance. What should be reported to the Arts Council?

Draft mission:

- ***The Visioneering Wichita Arts Alliance will cultivate a better way of life through the arts for the community.***

We will do what for whom so that ____?

- *Think about what has already been written down in meetings*
- *We will cultivate the arts in Wichita*
- *More inclusive environment*
- *Quality*
- *Embrace*
- *We will achieve/cultivate this by ...*
- *Support local artists across all disciplines.*
- *Serve as a grassroots movement that brings artists and the arts community*
- *V ehicle/conduit that brings artists and the arts community together*
- *Identify projects for a broad spectrum of arts*
- *Establish an arts district*
- *Enhance existing arts districts*
- *Identify and implement projects*
- *Grassroots; no limits*
- *Group that is trying to make the Wichita area more artist-friendly.*
- *There are many things that make things work. Commitment & teamwork. Our commitment is for our team to work for you.*

Leadership Team is developing some consistency in participation. Is the Arts Alliance threatening to the Arts Council? No, but John is staying out of this so that it doesn't appear the council is controlling.

Ideas: Train corridor?

Is our work to be in downtown Wichita? If we could get out of center city, maybe we could attract city/county \$\$ to develop other areas. Think about arts district.

Recognize that this early stage is chaotic, and that's OK. The inclusive nature of the group is what makes this laborious but also exciting.

Need T-shirts.

Space for arts & artists

Working artists need studio and show space (with lower rent than \$500/month). After two years of looking, still in the same spot. The project will define the building.

How do we identify potential properties, put together proposals and start pitching the ideas to developers? Starting place could be talking with the City about what properties the City owns (children's museum?). (This project is already identified as fitting in the General Arts group.) Any building project would need to be hand in hand with fund development, as would an event. Will need to know space needs and intended functionality.

5. Plan next Alliance meeting (if appropriate)

No full Alliance meeting until 2008 (and a little more clarity of purpose).

6. Consider new meeting time for Leadership Team (if appropriate)

For December, continue pattern and meet from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Dec. 5 at CCSR.

Meet more often?

Meet in the evening?

Recognize that small groups can meet on their own - when they know what to do.

Announcement: WSU Link, planning event 1/14 at Metroplex with all teachers and administrators from public schools invited. Anyone is invited to have a booth and show an in-school offering.

Representatives (1 or 2) at joint leadership team, 7:30 a.m. 11/28. Charles and Lon.

A G R E E M E N T S			
WHO	WHO ELSE	WHAT	BY WHEN
Gay		E-mail her draft vision statement to include in meeting notes	

Chamber		E-mail draft mission statement out for wordsmithing and later discussion	11/26
Collin		Prepare research on space available and present to group	January 2008
Team members		If you have perspective on how much and what kind of space is needed, contact Collin	12/5

Next Meeting Agenda

1. Further mission statement review
2. Major priorities / work group updates
3. Plan Alliance meeting(s)