



Steering Committee Meeting Notes

12-1:30 PM

June 23, 2021

Present: Michele Bailey, Eileen Corcoran, Amy Cunningham, Carrie Cleveland, Tom McMurdo, Rachel Onuf, Ben Rose, Joseph Watson

- **VAC, CERF+, and national advocacy for changes to FEMA and other agencies**
 - Amy reported that CERF+ has been keeping an eye on federal relief available to artists for years and have identified several key issues related to policy and disaster relief; Craig McNutt of CERF+ recently reached out to Amy.
 - Amy will reach out to Craig (and copy Carrie) to see if he is willing to speak with the Steering Committee (and any other interested VACDaRN members) about his findings and suggestions for how we might work together – Carrie recently sent Craig an email so she might also get an update from him.
 - One possible course of action would be for VACDaRN to help advocate with our congressional delegation to make substantive changes.

- **Crisis Analysis Mitigation Coach Training Opportunity for Arts Managers/Creative Workers**
 - Carrie will be participating (1 of 12!) in this national program, taking place this summer, both online and in person (Houston and Baton Rouge). The training is focused on supporting communities in recovery, especially communities of artists. It will be led by Beth Flowers, who has a rich background in training trainers. Carrie will let us know if there is an opportunity for VACDaRN to participate and after it is over, explore how best to share what she learned.

- **Updates from working groups**
 - **Training:** Michele, Carrie, Joseph, Eileen
 - Workshop had 29 register, and no one came. Michele sent a quick survey asking why didn't attend. 50% responded; most forgot or had a conflict. Other feedback: people would rather have a week apart and in the afternoon (not 4-6, as scheduled).
 - What does SC think we should we do? Try again! How and when? Preparedness month (September). Somehow incentivize? Offer stipends –

especially if they attend AND take a next step? VAC might have some funds for this. Or showcase in VAC publications?

- **COVID documentation:** Rachel, Ben, Amy **no update**
- **Communications:** Sally, Tom, Adriene Katz **no update** (see discussion about online community)

- **New working groups: Rachel will reach out soon!**
 - **Cultural asset mapping:** Rachel, Amy, Katelynn, Sally
 - Creative Ground being upgraded, directory about creative sector as a whole PLUS promotion and VAC is the state administrator. Creative Network wants tools; Amy has hesitated to build
 - Working with Laura and Jess on test case
 - Tom said Libs is working on directory update, too – school libraries, especially, have constant turnover.
 - **Disaster supply bins:** Jamie, Katelynn, Tom, Rachel
 - **Insurance:** Eileen, Jamie, Ben, Michele

- **Intro to our VACDaRN online community at culturalheritage.org**
 - Primarily for SC? We decided to use the summer to give it a test run as a working platform for the SC before inviting the larger email list to join. It could possibly be a space for shared files and working groups. Ben asked if we might use Microsoft Teams and Amy noted that people outside of state government cannot access the same channels and functionality as state employees.
 - Rachel agreed to post a message so SC members could verify that they are receiving an email when there is a post; most of us agreed we would not check the site unprompted.

- **New business**
 - Rachel had an email exchange with Doug Babcock (now Associate Director of Safety and Security at Dartmouth) and Steve Perkins, Security and Buildings Manager at the Hood Museum of Art, about a **possible Upper Valley, arts & culture-oriented safety and security training** in collaboration with Dartmouth College. Rachel will follow up.
 - Various **VHRP disaster preparedness and recovery workshops in the works**
 - In-person at the Old Stone House Museum (August)
 - Online series for the Association for Rural and Small Libraries (Oct-Nov)
 - Hands-on collections salvage (Fall and Spring)
 - **VEM's emergency preparedness conference** (proposal due 7/1) **Update since meeting:** Rachel proposed a session that would try to demonstrate to local EM people specific ways VACDaRN can help communities with disaster preparedness, recovery, and resilience, highlighting some of our new initiatives: disaster supply caches, preparedness training for repositories (including town officials and public libraries), hands-on document salvage training, case studies and other resources on website (including case study of flood at Bolton town office).