



### Steering Committee Meeting Notes

9 – 10:30 AM

July 21, 2022

**Present:** Katelynn Averyt, Michele Bailey, Sally Blanchard-O'Brien, Carrie Cleveland, Ann Lawless, Rachel Onuf, Ben Rose, Joseph Watson

**Guests:** Doug Babcock and Meredith Brinker Ferguson

#### **Crisis and Mitigation Training**

Carrie has been in the pilot cohort of the crisis analysis and mitigation coach training and the curriculum has been finalized (more here: <https://www.airinstitute.org/cam-coach-pilot-cohort/>). The training is a 2-hour interactive workshop that brings the arts and emergency management sectors together to forge relationships and (hopefully) collaborate together on projects after the training. The training is now ready to be launched and the Steering Committee decided in the last meeting to hold a session for Vermont. Carrie proposed that she facilitates the session with support from other participants in the pilot cohort, that the training be held virtually in late September, and that we aim for 25-30 people with 50% participation from underrepresented populations. If this training is successful, we can offer again or make it an annual event. It was decided that the training will be offered on September 27 on the heels of the Vermont Emergency Management Conference (September 20 and 21) and VACDaRN will be a co-sponsor. There will be a small subcommittee of VACDaRN to work on a targeted list of individuals in both the arts and emergency management sectors to invite and then will open up more broadly after that list. ***Ben and Michele volunteered to help Carrie with planning and anyone else interested in participating should reach out to her.***

It was discussed that we should brainstorm how to continue engagement after the September training. Ben suggested that running tabletop scenarios could be a good way to engage folks.

## Preparedness Month

VACDaRN will produce more communications and social media content during September for Preparedness Month. VACDaRN has traditionally had a presence at the annual Vermont Emergency Management Conference, and so we should decide on what to do. ***Rachel will be in attendance and if anyone has ideas for speaking, tabling, or other ways to be involved reach out to her.***

## Updates

*Katelynn:* Most of her work at the Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative has been focused on aiding Ukrainian cultural heritage collections, which has expanded into scientific collections in the past couple of months; these types of collections are handled separately from cultural heritage in Ukraine and did not have a lot of support. Most of the work involves providing supplies to pack and protect collections. The SCRI has also partnered with UNESCO in Kiev. The SCRI is also providing training to army officers about protecting cultural heritage in times of war.

*Ann:* The Old Stone House Museum is currently busy with seasonal visitors so the board has mostly been on hiatus.

*Joseph:* Middlebury has not been as busy over the summer months so they are working on behind-the-scenes catch-up work. Joseph participated in the disaster salvage workshop held in Middlebury hosted by Rachel and Carolyn. He recently attended the Vermont Curators' Group meeting and began promoting VACDaRN and learned that most people there already knew about us!

*Rachel & Sally:* Rachel has been leading and coordinating lots of workshops. Most of the equipment for the mobile digitization unit has come in along with the new Nilfisk vacuum for mold remediation and environmental monitoring dataloggers. Site visits are down a little bit this summer from last. Rachel is giving a presentation on Preservica Starter for the Canadian Archivists and Sally will be doing a poster presentation of last year's VHRP survey results for the Society of American Archivists this summer. Rachel and Carolyn will be hosting another hands-on workshop about humidification of brittle documents for town clerks later this year.

*Ben:* We are coming up on the one-year anniversary of flooding that hit Bennington and Windham Counties and the recovery is going really well; there has not been another declared natural disaster in Vermont since then. VEM is still in COVID response, and half a billion dollars have been spent on recovery in Vermont alone, mostly on vaccines and assistance programs; VEM is not sure what the virus will do next. The State is updating the State Recovery Plan and Rachel and the State Historic Preservation Officer helped update the cultural heritage section. The state contract with Polygon for disaster response is up to date but we will need to start soon to go out to bid on the contract for next year. VEM is planning for cyberhacking and extended power outages and reminds us that now is always a good time to back up your stuff.

*Michele:* The Vermont Arts Council succeeded in getting \$9 million allocated to the Vermont Creative Futures Program which supports both nonprofit and for-profit creative businesses affected by the pandemic. They will be working with the Small Business Administration, and guidelines for funding applications are being developed, hopefully to be launched in September. The VAC executive director is

retiring in October and they are beginning a search for her replacement. The Cultural Facilities Grant application deadline has passed and there were fewer applicants than normal, which VAC believes might be due to people's burnout on application processes. Vermont Arts Council has partnered with the UMass Amherst arts extension service to pilot a training program on climate change and cultural organizations and recently put out a survey; the survey had a high response rate and the results are in: <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1sQ0g5HcqQCnBJHzl1FwoMZHq9TnJT0uOGWuYeTDIAD0/edit#slide=id.p>

*Doug:* The Vermont Emergency Management Association participated in the VEM Day of Learning in May. The association has been trying to draw in more members and has been putting together materials to help members learn about networking and resources for the field. The VTEMA annual meeting will be held at the Vermont Emergency Management Conference in September. The VTEMA is looking for ideas for what they can collaborate on or host with others for training and other events.

*Brinker:* The work to start a New Hampshire Alliance for Response continues and they are building the steering committee to launch the network. Brinker has received a grant to do documentation on cultural heritage sites affected by climate change in New Hampshire, Puerto Rico, and New Zealand. She and Doug continue the work on a campus-wide disaster plan for Dartmouth.

*Carrie:* CERF+ is working internally on inclusion, diversity, and equity in their programs. They are launching a seven-member paid advisory committee to analyze CERF+ programs and outreach through this lens. CERF+ has taught several emergency preparedness workshops nationally. The Get Ready Grant program, which assists craft artists with safety measures in their studios has closed and there was a decrease in applications, but this could be due to having a previous grant cycle close recently. The CERF+ executive director is leaving and the search for a replacement is underway.