



Steering Committee Meeting Notes

10 – 11:00 AM

April 25, 2023

Present: Michele Bailey, Sally Blanchard-O'Brien, Carrie Cleveland, Eileen Corcoran, Taiga Christie, Amy Cunningham, Tom McMurdo, Rachel Onuf, Ben Rose Guest: Douglas Babcock

Strategic Planning Recap

Those who attended the strategic planning session on March 21 discussed the usefulness of the session. Attendees were glad we decided to do it and felt that it was a helpful reset that showed us all we have accomplished and where we want to put our energy in the future. There was a lot of agreement during the session, with a consensus on what VACDaRN's priorities should be. The session also revealed that **we need more representation from performing arts on our steering committee, so we should fill that soon. Rachel will also talk at the upcoming Creative Network zone agent meeting** about VACDaRN's work. The big goal that came out of the strategic planning session was the idea of holding a big convening or day of learning, similar to the VACDaRN launch of 2019.

Day of Learning Discussion

It was decided that we should start with a survey of our constituents to find out what people want out of this convening. We should also focus on content that needs to be in person, such as discussions, performances, and hands-on experiences. We want to hold it in September 2024 to give enough time to plan, as a tie-in with Preparedness Month, and to serve as a 5th anniversary of sorts for VACDaRN. We will have to coordinate timing with the Vermont Emergency Preparedness Conference, and VACDaRN could have another panel at that conference; it could even be evening entertainment for something different and memorable, such as a survival game or disaster-themed karaoke.

Rachel is currently working on an NHPRC grant proposal for VHRP funds that can be used for this convening. The VACDaRN launch in 2019 cost about \$5,000; we anticipate spending more for this event. We want to budget for accessibility accommodations and offer stipends for artists and others who might not be able to afford to attend. Vermont Arts Council will cover half the estimated costs, including the

costs for catering, and the NHPRC grant would cover the other half. We also want to encourage sustainability and will look to coordinate carpooling among attendees, which is also another great way for people to network outside of the event.

There was also a discussion about possibly commissioning a performance piece to premiere at the event or featuring an artist-led disaster simulation exercise. Cost depends on scope – length of piece, rehearsal times, number of performers, etc. We will ask about this in our survey and do some more scoping after those results are in and we know what people want from the event.

We will start planning with a small subcommittee to draft the survey, as the survey responses will guide further planning of the event. In the meantime, committee members should think about what parts of the planning they may want to be involved in.

Cultural Asset Mapping

Rachel went to the most recent Alliance for Response networks meeting that discussed cultural asset mapping projects. Georgia's GANCH is a successful model (<https://ganch.auctr.edu/>). Massachusetts recently launched a "participatory mapping" project that relies on organizations to enter their own data via a form. The data is hosted by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) (<https://memamaps.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=0087ad029abc4ce296a6838e875d40ac>). Creative Ground (<https://www.creativeground.org/>) is a database for New England's creative economy and contains information about many cultural heritage and creative organizations, though this information is all self-reported. The Vermont Arts Council has the ability to export Vermont data; is there a way for us to leverage this already existing information to help with any future cultural asset mapping efforts?

Updates

Taiga: The Faultline Ensemble has a work-in-progress performance coming up that centers on experiences of trauma with EMS providers (<https://www.faultlineensemble.org/counting-pebbles.html>). The performance will be at an ambulance bay in Brattleboro and the group hopes to present it elsewhere in future.

Tom: The Department of Libraries is working on getting ARPA funds distributed. They have also been aware of the Vermont Community Index (<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2024/WorkGroups/House%20Appropriations/FY%202023%20Budget%20Adjustment/Governor%27s%20Recommended%20FY%202023%20Budget%20Adjustment/W~Douglas%20Farnham~VT%20Underserved%20Community%20Index-Technical%20Documentation~1-17-2023.pdf>), a work-in-progress metric that will rate Vermont towns in order of economic and other factors and help direct funds to towns with greater needs.

Amy/Michele: The Vermont Arts Council manages the Creative Network, and the focus of the zone agents' current work is to connect with regional planning commissions and make sure that communities are aware of funding opportunities. The Arts Council is also opening up the final round of Creative Futures Grants on May 1 (<https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/grants/creative-futures-grant-program>), funding for creative businesses and organizations affected by the pandemic.