



Steering Committee Meeting Notes

10:00 – 11:00 AM

January 30, 2024

Present: Amy Cunningham, Ben Rose, Carolyn Frisa, Carrie Cleveland, Eileen Corcoran, Jamie Duggan, Joseph Watson, Katelynn Averyt, Megan Johnson-Saylor, Michele Bailey, Paddy Reagan, Rachel Onuf, Taiga Christie, Laura Trieschmann

Agenda:

1. Update on Culture for Climate Workshop series - Michele

- a. 26 people have registered for the workshop series. Registrants are a wide range of folks from individual artists to performing arts venues to libraries, but the audience should all be people that either own or lease their facilities. The workshop series is being funded with FAIC grant funding and flood resilience funding from VHC.

2. Potential for public safety for cultural orgs conversation - Amy

- a. Some recent events hosted by Vermont arts and cultural organizations have experienced public safety threats. VACDaRN would like to raise awareness of how to prepare for these sorts of threats and share information about networks and resources for support, information, and training. The Performing Arts Readiness project (PAR) offers emergency preparedness training and there are several webinars related to public safety in the next couple of months. We would like to promote the webinars and encourage attendance, then follow up with an online session to debrief. Amy is looking for suggestions for a subject expert from Emergency Management Services to join her in moderating the debrief session. Ben suggested finding someone from Public Safety and will seek out potential representatives. Taiga is familiar with an informal network of volunteer folks that are resources for support at events and will share contact information with Amy. Paddy mentioned the group Calling all Crows (<https://www.callingallcrows.org/>), a group that works with musicians, festivals, and venues to support feminist movements and educate about social issues.

3. Update on recovery work and funds - Rachel

- a. Flood recovery work is still ongoing. Impacted materials that were being stored in Dartmouth's freezer have been delayed in being transferred to Polygon, but that

miscommunication will be rectified. Materials from Montpelier City Hall should be returned in February.

- b. Rachel is working with Carolyn on workshops to be held in March to train folks on the thawing and drying process in the natural environment for materials that have been frozen. Carolyn has been working with Eames Office on flood recovery and may be able to use some of their materials as examples in a workshop. They encountered issues with insurance reimbursement as their flood coverage is only for man-made floods and not “acts of God.” The Strafford Historical Society has given permission for us to use the small diaries in the Dartmouth freezer as well. Related to this area, a chest freezer will be purchased for VSARA that will be available for supporting smaller mitigation needs that don’t require outsourcing.
- c. There is still money available for remediation projects including for Strafford’s 16mm films that has yet to be started.
- d. Laura reported updates that Association for Preservation Technology (APT) engineers will be conducting building assessments for the four worst impacted buildings in the state: Vermont Studio Center (Johnson), Old Labor Hall (Barre), Justin Morrill Homestead (Strafford), and Theron Boyd Homestead (Hartford). Ben advised that some of them will be receiving FEMA aid and that FEMA should be notified of the assessments.
- e. Laura provided updates on upcoming training sessions. The National Park Service will be visiting Vermont (no dates set yet) to provide three regional trainings on flood preparation and mitigation—these will be recorded. In February, FEMA Region 1 Natural and Cultural Resources personnel will be coming to Vermont’s Joint Field Office to provide a presentation/training on considerations for historic buildings/sites. The state’s Recovery Strategy Implementation Plan includes training for arts and cultural organizations.

4. May webinar about VACDaRN flood recovery work – Rachel seeking a co-presenter

- a. If you would like to join Rachel for the Connecting to Collections Care (FAIC) Mayday webinar (May 1 (or 2), 2024, 1-2pm) to discuss VACDaRN response and recovery work, please let her know. A potential honorarium can be provided for a co-presenter.

5. Working group planning fall event - Amy

- a. Paddy, Amy, Joseph, Megan, Taiga, and Michele will be the subcommittee for planning a 2024 statewide Day of Learning event
- b. Goals of the event: reflection on 2023 flooding, professional development, and hands-on training
- c. Audience: artists, cultural organizations, emergency management folks
- d. Time: one day event (10am-3pm) in October
- e. Budget: Approximately \$15,000 for event
- f. Ideas for planning:
 - i. VACDaRN website has recordings of most of the 2019 launch event: <https://vacdarn.org/trainings-events/>
 - ii. Repeat integration of performance in and around sessions. Suggestions included music and a [Faultline Ensemble](#) performance. [Taiga recused herself from decision making regarding hiring Faultline Ensemble]
 - iii. Include hands-on workshop format for sessions
 - iv. Provide sessions for storytelling and sharing experiences related to disaster preparedness and VACDaRN
- g. Subcommittee will meet in February and report back to steering committee