

Creative Communities
April 18, 2018
Mineland Reclamation
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

In Attendance: Mary McReynolds, Drew Digby, Tammy Mattonen, Sonja Merild, Kathy Dodge and Vicki Tuskan

A panel was chosen to review the grant applications that were received from the Cool & Creative event. The panel that was chosen: Mika Wudinich, Tammy Mattonen, Lorrie Janatopoulos, Jan Carey and Kayla Schubert. The grant application deadline is May 4th. Review of the grants will be May 15 or 16 in Hibbing. Drew also reported on the deadline for ARAC's Rural Arts Project grant, which is April 26.

The group also reviewed the Cool & Creative survey results. Some of the key results were:

- Solid support for another Cool & Creative event
- The 90 second elevator speeches were a big hit
- Both Laura Zabel and Sheila Smith were well received
- The participants liked and wanted more opportunity for networking.

The group made additional comments about the planning process:

- Lock in speakers and panelists earlier in the process
- Ask participants if its ok to share their contact information
- There was confusion about artists bringing their work
- Notice about the slide show should go out earlier
- Get more civic leaders at the event

The group felt the need was demonstrated to continue to schedule the Cool & Creative event on a regular schedule and what the next one should look like. There was further discussion about the Rural Arts and Culture Summit goals and how that compares to the Cool & Creative event. Should the next Cool & Creative event be on alternate years from RACS?

Other ideas were creating opportunities for networking, similar to the Chamber of Commerce's Breakfast Connections, "Eggs and Ideas." Creating opportunities for arts people to have conversations around topics.

Drew brought up whether we should be working toward arts and culture plans on a local level or regional?

The group discussed ways for artists to network. Mary brought up that the Cool & Creative Facebook page was cumbersome for artists and arts organizations to share posts. It is moderated so posts are delayed. Drew thought that having an open Facebook page could lead to spam posts. ARAC will look at changing it to a closed group or sharing administration rights with several others. Additional discussion about networking included the use of ListServe, Google Group and the possibility of having a chatroom similar to the League of Historic American Theaters has with weekly or daily thread emails. Mary asked if the staff at Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation, Arrowhead Regional Arts Council and the Blandin Foundation have any advice on this. The group's consensus is that it's not easy to figure out, but it's necessary, but maybe not on the top of the list for right now. The group also wanted to merge the arts

organization that Tammy created with the organizations that were listed on the Iron Range Creative MN economic impact study. We could use the list to communicate with area artists if the organizations are willing to be a link and share with the artists on their contact lists. That might be a start of creating a ListServe, facebook group or simply communicating by email.

The discussion moved on to what we may be best suited to do next. Drew read the list of services from ARAC. Some of the ideas discussed included hiring an arts organizer from Springboard, working on creative placemaking initiatives, audience development, arts market development and arts organization development. The group talked about the Springboard Train the Trainer opportunities and should we move to bring those locally.

Next Steps:

Mary will send the most recent Creative Communities Work Plan to Drew and Sara to review and compare with survey responses and our mission statement as well as our Recharge the Range charge of the Creative Community Group.

“The Creative Communities group recognizes that the new economy challenges the Iron Range to lift up the creative parts of its communities as young people seek spaces and places of openness and possibility. The Creative Communities group works to strengthen the capacity of arts and culture organizations and individual artists across the Iron Range. It connects and supports promising initiatives, and inspires new action by sharing regional and national ideas and opportunities.”