

Creative Communities
September 20, 2017
Mineland Reclamation
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

In Attendance: Mary McReynolds, Drew Digby, Kathy Dodge, Whitney Ridlon, Sara Ferkul, George Andria, Donna Johnson, Ashley Kolka, Tom Galatch, Jan Carey, Sonja Merrild, Lois Benau, Kathy Dodge, Mary Finnegan and Shawna Kishel

Discussion on the work plan:

Add – training on business plans for arts organizations, fiscal responsibilities, and how to look for grant money.

Cool & Creative Event:

Narrowed the dates down to either February 28th or March 8th.

We had a discussion in regards to the proposed budget. (Attached)

We then had a discussion about keynote speakers. Drew provided the group with 6 different options for speakers.

Matthew Fluarty – Art of the Rural – works with communities in the Winona area. Art in small communities to make connections.

Leah Cooper – How to tell your story. Founder of Wanderlust (theater group). Goes to communities and her group writes a play within that community about that area.

Laura Zabel – From Springboard for the Arts – Artist organizer – listens and the represents the artist. They offer lots of classes on how to revitalize a rural community using arts. She does have a great stage presence.

June Holley – Works on making connections and network mapping.

Ann Markusen – Wrote a book on creative placemaking. Worked as a partner in Grand Rapids. She could speak more on the economic development side.

Ann Gadwa – From Pennsylvania, worked under Ann.

Can we pull the participant lists from the Art Crawls?

Overview of the day:

Option #1: Artist focused morning and also have a speaker at lunch. Possibly focusing on the economic impact of the arts.

Option #2: Network weaving (Laura), 2 breakout session, lunch speaker (economic impact) and two break out groups in the afternoon.

Leading up to the event promotion of the event will be key. After the study with MN Citizens for the Arts is completed can we ask Brenda to make a 2 minute video with the results that we can use for promotion?

Drew also put the paperwork in to apply for a Bush Grant. If granted, the grant will pay for an artist organizer that would host events and trainings. We will find out in November if we have received the grant. We will also be looking into Laura from Springboard organizing the Cool and Creative event.

Springboard for the Arts has also showed interest in putting together a group to train as an artist organizer.

For the meal can we see about offering local foods and beverages?

Next Meeting:

October 18th

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Mineland Reclamation



AGENDA AND MEETING NOTES

LIVABLE COMMUNITIES FOCUS GROUP

CREATIVE COMMUNITIES Sub-Group

MEETING

September 20, 2017, 3:30PM-5:00PM

Minnesota Discovery Center

Mineland Reclamation

1003 Discovery Drive, Chisholm, MN

Recharge the Range Livable Communities Action Team Mission: *To encourage positive change on the Iron Range by working collaboratively towards more livable and vibrant communities*

CREATIVE COMMUNITIES SUB-GROUP MEETING OBJECTIVES

- 1) Work towards a final 2017-2018 work plan and schedule range-wide gathering
- 2) Set the next meeting date, time, location and host. Identify ways to invite new members

PROPOSED AGENDA:

3:30	Introductions and individual updates from attendees	
3:40	Follow-up on Creative Communities Work Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Written plan and timeline to add to the Recharge web site</i>• <i>Develop task groups to work on specific projects in the Plan</i>	• Drew, and whole group
4:10	Creative Communities gathering <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grant progress• Event planning• <i>Next steps and assignments</i>	• Drew
4:50	Schedule next meeting and critique	• Where/when • Items for next agenda • How to invite more folks to the table
5:00	Adjourn	

Notes from past meetings (updates posted on <http://rechargegetherange.org/community-committees/livable-communities/>)

Arrowhead Regional Arts Council Iron Range Cool and Creative Get Together 2018

Item	ARAC	IRRRB	Blandin	Bush	Total
8-Mar-17					
Artist Organizer				\$11,232	\$11,232
Artist Organizer					
Training	\$2,000			\$2,000	\$4,000
Artist Organizer					
Travel and Expenses				\$5,200	\$5,200
ARAC admin	\$5,600			\$5,600	\$11,200
miniGrants				\$16,000	\$16,000
Art Expenses		\$2,000		\$3,000	\$5,000
Keynote Speaker			\$5,000		\$5,000
Space Rental and Food		\$4,000			\$4,000
Publicity	\$2,500	\$2,500			\$5,000
Total	\$10,100	\$8,500	\$5,000	\$43,032	\$66,632

Notes: The artist organizer would work for approximately 6 month from Dec.1-June 1
The mini-grants would be grants of up to \$4,000 for groups developing ideas from the Get Toge
Art Expenses would be used to defray the cost of transporting and displaying art by metal artist

Iron Range Cool and Creative Get Together 2018

Draft 9/21/17

We want to put on an Iron Range Cool and Creative Get Together to link artists with each other and equip them with the tools to transform their communities.

The goals of the Get Together are simple:

- We want more creative people to feel connected and inspired to work with each other
- We want to give those people more tools by helping them to develop networks, providing leadership tools
- We want others to have a better understanding of the power of the arts to improve the quality of life in the region: culturally, socially, and economically

The Get Together is a one-day event, but it's really part of a year-long effort to highlight the power of the arts and connectivity to improve community vitality. A Recharge the Range Creative Community task force has been meeting for over a year to find ways of improving the quality of life in communities across the Range. The plan as adopted this spring is do several months of intense outreach and publicity to bring new voices into the discussion and highlight the positive accomplishments of the Iron Range creative community.

One key conclusion of the work so far is that we need to be far more inclusive. Many on the Iron Range, especially those in poverty or people of color, think most big community projects are only for those already on the inside. We plan to turn that upside down with intensive organizing and relationship building in advance. To do that, we propose collaborating to hire an artist organizer along the model used by Springboard for the Arts (in fact, our plan is to have Springboard help train the organizer), to reach out to those who haven't been part of the effort so far, and help us become more diverse. Beyond that, all of the event sponsors including ARAC, the IRRRB, and the Blandin Foundation hope to use existing resources to find new voices. We also plan to work with ReGen, a young adult advocacy nonprofit on the Iron Range. We are also working with two Bush Fellows, Nevada Littlewolf and Lorrie Janatopoulos, to help us reach new people

The event itself is not intended to be the typical one-day conference. The goal is to get people to build new connections, learn some tools, and identify possible resources. We will have a few traditional sessions to teach skills for both individuals and organizations, but there will be also time for introductions and networking. We hope several of the groups develop plans to ask us for quick start grants to get moving on their ideas.

We'd also like to highlight the resources already available to artists and their communities to transform them. Being in Chisholm will also allow us to highlight the work of the Chisholm Downtown Revitalization Program which has used money from the IRRRB, the Blandin Foundation, the Northland Foundation and local donations to do a variety of fix-up projects making the downtown area better for walking, playing and business.

One of the other key messages of the event is the power of creative work to improve the economic condition of the region. The IRRRB has already funded a Creative Minnesota study of

the economic impact of the arts that will be complete by the time of Get Together. We plan to use a broad media and social media outreach campaign leading up to the Get Together to highlight that study.

If we were to get funding from the Bush Foundation, it would allow us to keep the artist-organizer working for up to 12 weeks after the event, helping the groups that began to meet at the event transform into sustainable operations, possibly helping them apply for money from one of the funders at the event. We hope the event also highlights programs where Bush's Community Creativity program can assist with funding or technical assistance. One of our outcomes is to create an Iron Range Arts and Culture roadmap that could be based on the work of leadership programs like Intermedia's CCLI.

Goals of the Event

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The goal is to create groups of artist-activists who feel inspired to create work and work more with each other on individual and group creative projects. Many of the artists we've already talked to have ideas to transform their communities, but feel isolated and shut out of the political process. We want them to walk away from the event with at least a few tools, and a few more allies, than they came in with. Our first Cool and Creative Get Together in 2016 was much more wide ranging than this event, with subjects as wide as local food and tourism. That event helped inspire a new grant program at the IRRRB and several lasting initiatives. A Northern St. Louis County Trail Advisory group has been meeting monthly since then, bringing together walkers, bikers, ATV-riders, snowmobilers and others. They recently won grants to create a region-wide formal Trails Master Plan that will help with finding funding for trail development and maintenance. A local food group has been meeting to work on finding which elements of "middle ag" will be most beneficial to bringing more local food to residents and the IRRRB has been meeting with developers interested in bringing a meat processing facility to the region. The tourism group had their own follow up meeting in April 2017 and has a variety of cross-sector collaborations underway.

What we want to do with the Cool and Creative Get Together is to give artists those same tools. Primary to that the work even before the event to find artists who feel left out of communities and working in isolation. While ARAC does a decent job of providing grants to individual artist of colors (17% of our grants go to artists of color while our base population is 9% people of color), there are large communities where relationships need to be built and connections made.

We feel if we are able to hire an artist organizer who can work part-time over six months to make these connections, and to then have groups find small grants to implement ideas, the artist networks will be far stronger than they exist today. We would know we are successful when we survey the attendees after the event, somewhere between the six-month and year mark, to see whether they felt the event taught them new skills that they were able to use and what initiatives they started and have worked on.

Description of the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council:

The mission of the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council is to facilitate and encourage local arts development. This mission statement grows from a conviction that the arts improve the quality of life in the region. ARAC awards grants to artists and organizations residing in the seven counties of the Arrowhead Region (Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, and St. Louis). The population of this region is 325,413 with approximately 9% people of color. ARAC receives most of its budget from the State of Minnesota through a combination of Legacy Grant funds and state general appropriations, with an additional \$90,000 this year from the McKnight Foundation. In our last fiscal year, we funded 160 grants out of a total of 267 applicants (\$556,740 total grants).

We strive to reach an appropriate mix of rural and urban residents as well as to reach out into the region's growing communities of people of color. In our Fiscal Year 17, which ended on June 30, 2017, in our individual artists' grants, 67% went to Duluth artists and 33% went to artists in the rest of the region; 17% of our individual artist grants went to artists of color. In our organizational grants, 39% went to Duluth-based groups and 61% went to groups based in the rest of the region.

ARAC's mission is to create the environment whereby:

- The arts are integrated into the social, political, and economic fabric and identity of every community in the region. (Cultural integration)
- Artists, arts organizations and arts activities thrive and contribute to the regional economy. (Sustainability)
- Community members and audiences are arts literate. (Education)

ARAC is one of eleven regional arts councils in Minnesota. The Council's primary function is to facilitate and encourage local arts development by providing funding, as well as various forms of assistance, in pursuit of the creation and presentation of the arts.

Possible Keynote Speakers

Name and Organization	What they could provide the Cool and Creative Gathering	Cost	Our best contact
Matthew Fluary, Art of the Rural			Mary McReynolds
Leah Cooper, Wonderlust Productions, formerly ED of Minnesota Theater Alliance			Drew or Mary
Laura Zabel Springboard for the Arts		\$1,500 plus travel costs. An additional \$1,000 if we wanted Springboard's expertise in planning the event.	Drew <i>She is available</i>
June Holley Network Weaving NO LONGER TRAVELING for event			
Ann Markusen			Drew
Ann Gadwa Nicodemus			Sonja