Arts Hub community meeting notes - January 21, 2023

Attendance: Hannah Mosterd, Sandra Mollman, Mike Phelan, Geoffrey Gray-Lobe, Ally King, Rosemary Buchman, Michele Mechling, Shannon Cole, Susan Heggestad, Joe Vito

I - Introductions and refreshers
Notes: Interest in compiling a full ‘Arts Ecosystem’ list that includes a short description or mission statement of each group in the ecosystem; Interest in refreshing who our stakeholders are

II - Where we left off
Participants assisted in categorizing/grouping the various questions we left first meeting with:
- What would the structure be?
- How/when and where would it meet?
- What would its roles be?
- What resources would it offer?
- Who is a part of it?
- How do we represent all sectors of community?
- How do we communicate its role to non-members?
- How do we ensure variety among members?
- Who are the gatekeepers/ are there gatekeepers?
- How/where is important info being communicated?
- Who benefits?
- Where will resources come from?
- Who is invited to create and participate?
- How do we define culture?

Participants grouped these questions into 3 loose categories, imagined together as a tree:
- Roots - dreams and goals of and for Vermillion
- Trunk - how an arts hub would enact those dreams, resources needed,
- Supporting branches – purpose
- Top branches - hub structure, communication to community, who participates

Participants then agreed to tackle the “branches” and created 3 subcategories
1 - Definition of arts & culture / communicating purpose, relevance to community
2 - Who are the beneficiaries / how do represent everyone
3 - Who are the hub participants

III – Discussion on the day
1
Discussion about defining culture in inclusive/broad ways to pull in the non–arts community for support; culture allows a community to thrive, brings our community together
Coordination of orgs into a hub = “bigger, better magic!” instead of individual magics

Conundrum identified: we need a container/shape to help communicate function and importance. “Hub” is the best agreed-upon word. Led to a brainstorm session of names and purpose:

**ARts & Culture Hub | Humanities Unification Board | Hub of Arts & Culture Knowledge**

Identified purposes of an arts hub:
Comprehensive – represents all orgs/individuals in Verm, helps orgs connect efforts and combine resources

*Coordinated events calendar* – compiles info into one resource

Accessible – sustained, approachable management; easily locatable information

Well-promoted – everybody knows it’s THE resource

2

By streamlining the arts/culture–related asks in the community benefits “same 10 people” volunteers and over-tapped donors

Beneficiaries: artists who need platforms, audiences, financial support; kids who need outlets and arts exposure; community as a whole from tourism/revenue

To ensure variety of representation, the hub could create/own a “family tree” of orgs (like the ecosystem mentioned earlier); it could survey local orgs regularly for their mission, annual calendar events, and status as for- vs. nonprofit.

*Current hub discussion members to undertake early survey for this info from orgs they are connected with; Hannah Mosterd to compile data*

3

How do we prevent becoming gatekeepers? – creation of that family tree/ecosystem

Building and relying on relationships

Eliminating existing stereotypes and misconceptions (VCA vs. VAAC “rivalry,” etc.)

**IV - Next-step priorities**

Financial support

Sustainability of the effort (not built with volunteer work)

**HOMEWORK**

1 - Review survey questions found in the Visioning Session notes; focusing on what is needed organizationally

2 - Who still needs to be invited? Share personal invites to underrepresented groups, orgs for next meeting on Feb 25

3 - Ask ourselves: what do we each need, personally? what are our personal strengths, organization strengths, etc? what are we each bringing to the table?