

Vermont Creative Network

Eastern Central Vermont Leadership Team Meeting

Tuesday, November 1, 2016

10:00am - 12:00pm

Norman Williams Public Library

1. Welcome / meeting is convened

2. Mission Brainstorming (Alek will synthesize into mission statement draft)
 - a. Advocates
 - b. Resource - funding, networking
 - i. Or at least as an intermediary between orgs/individuals
 - c. One of the potentials of this group is to be somewhat autonomous - not weighed down by the concerns of the state - we aim to strengthen our zone
 - d. Creating a conduit for other people to be involved
 - e. A channel for people from our region to express their thoughts and engage in dialogue with us as zone leaders - access to committee
 - i. If we're including others, we will need to vet them in some way
 - f. Implementation
 - g. Guidance
 - h. Collaboration
 - i. Networking
 - j. Outreach
 - k. Connection

3. Goals for Next Three Years (to be continued)
 - a. At least one successful networking opportunity that everyone is invited to, and are given ample time to make sure they can be there
 - i. This would take a tremendous amount of strategic planning and funding
 - ii. We could use Michael's list as a starting place for figuring out who these people are
 - iii. When can we meet them? At what point in our structuring do we go to our funders?
 - b. We will begin to craft a structured timeline based on these long-term goals as we define them

4. Two Rivers Report Developments (Loralee)
 - a. Dartmouth District development - funding
 - i. TRORC and GMEDC are each doing a match against the EDA's funding
 1. Loralee has provided the actual numbers for this funding via email
 - ii. Dartmouth has put all their entrepreneurial groups together into one big thing, and there is discussion about how it can work for things on the Vermont side of the river

- iii. The idea is that all these Dartmouth entrepreneurial groups can serve community organizations in some way (advice, etc.)
- iv. We need to make sure that a representative from our group is present or apprised of things like this (groups, development initiatives, etc.)
- v. Lorelee will send the scope of work out to everyone to check out

5. Entrepreneurial Ecosystems (Anni)

- a. Please refer to this helpful Wikipedia article for more background about Entrepreneurial Ecosystems, if necessary:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Entrepreneurship_ecosystem
- b. Anni is interested in exploring how this concept could be applied to our particular efforts
- c. Could be an avenue for USDA funding, which TRORC has yet to crack
- d. The VAC has explored some aspects of the idea of Entrepreneurial Ecosystems, so we want to be careful that we're not reinventing the wheel
- e. Maybe we can develop a virtual space for this?
- f. Maybe we can create a sort of wikipedia for the creative sector in our region?
- g. Is there a system already in place that we can use?
- h. This could be a great opportunity for an intern
 - i. Alek will talk to his friend Dom to see if he has any ideas about potential interested parties
 - ii. Dartmouth, VTC (they host the small business development center), VLS, Community College of Vermont
 - iii. We would need to guide the process, provide example pages, etc.
 - iv. The New Play Exchange could be a good example
(<https://newplayexchange.org/> - talk to Alek for login info if necessary)
 - v. This could have an educational component as well - people using the wiki would be learning how to network, etc.
 - vi. This would be an excellent tool for keeping the network current on organization's and individual artists' goings-on, whereabouts, changes in career, staffing, etc.
- i. This kind of virtual database would be its own side project, and will require dedicated meetings, etc.
- j. Could we have this done in 6 months?
- k. Alek & Monique will explore options and make a case for the kind of system we would want to create; crucial functions include:
 - i. Communication system (real-time)
 - ii. Cataloging system
 - iii. Database
- l. Once we have end goal, we will clarify (as a group) what it will take to get there

6. Administrative / logistic concerns / definitions

- a. Alek will create a Google Calendar for this team and will send out reminders for meetings
- b. Alek will investigate ProScape as a possible internal communication tool, and will draft up a shared log where we can track which meetings each of us has been to, what action steps have been taken, etc.
- c. Who are the other entities in our region with whom we should develop and/or maintain a relationship? (We will continue to add to this list.)
 - i. TRORC
 - ii. GMEDC
 - iii. Dartmouth District
 - iv. Dartmouth Innovation Network
 - v. Springfield Regional Development Corp
 - vi. Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Corp
 - vii. East Central Vermont Economic Development District
 - viii. Chambers of Commerce
- d. How do we define our region?
 - i. 40 towns, all the towns in Orange and Windsor County
- e. Additional Leadership Team members
 - i. Ideal team size will be no more than 15, but no less than 9
 - ii. Please submit all suggestions to Alek via email no later than Monday, November 7
 - iii. Current recommendations:
 - 1. Joan Eckhart, Fat Hat
 - 2. Bill Craig, writer and adjunct professor at Dartmouth
 - 3. Carolyn Price, retired; used to work at Tuck
 - 4. Michael Alon, gallery owner
 - 5. Caitlin Christiana, Executive Director, Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce
 - 6. Forrest MacGregor, engineer/artist from Randolph
- f. We need to make sure we have clearly defined our map, mission, and rules & regulations before we approach these people
 - i. Alek will develop and share a draft of a set of rules & regulations for being a member of the team, based on input from the group and using basic templates drawn from nonprofit board bylaws
- g. We will also need to make sure we have clearly defined the roles of each of the team members; so far, these roles have been determined:
 - i. PR/press (Amy Sadkin)
 - ii. Administration/internal communication (Alek)
 - iii. Research (Monique)

7. Homework

- a. Contribute to mission statement (Alek will share an additional Google Doc where we can collectively brainstorm and develop this statement)

- b. Review Alek's map (once created and shared with all)
- c. Contemplate names for the zone
- d. Review and edit bylaws (Alek will draft and put in Google Doc for everyone to review/edit/suggest changes)
- e. Platform research (Monique and Alek)
- f. Three year goals (Alek will create a document for these that everyone can edit and add to)