

## Vermont Steering Team meeting 1-18-17

- Consensus among individuals members of the network?
  - How do we avoid ending up with as many work groups as there are people?
  - This kind of thing happens when an arts organization asks for feedback from its audience members - we can't possibly support them all
  - Creating high-level goals for the network by building consensus for what's important among the greatest number of network members (or zone members)
- Tad Cooke zone report (Chittenden)
  - Diverse group
  - Clear demarcation between Burlington and anyone who isn't in Burlington
    - Issues relevant in Burlington may be completely irrelevant to those outside the city limits
    - Zone demographics and geography are foci
  - Understanding the representation of the group - who is part of this zone now, and how do we efficiently and thoughtfully bring together other people who can represent the zone as well?
  - Timing of group - easy to meet once a quarter, but what is the optimum timing to stay connected?
- Robert McBride (taking over for Steve Stettler)
  - Director of Rockingham Arts Museum Project
  - Southern Vermont Creative Network
  - Have met 3 times
  - At last meeting identified action steps
    - Hosting programs about the arts on local action TV stations
    - Hosting a series of artist town meetings
    - Make sure that when town plans get rewritten, creative economy language is included
  - Last met in mid-October, due for another meeting soon
- Jody Fried (NEK)
  - Have met 3 times
  - Everyone in room was collaborating closely - this is the nature of the NEK
  - In the NEK, there is a collective awareness that at the heart of almost all issues in the region is the issue of poverty
  - Have joined up with a health and human services project interested in expanding collective impact efforts to address poverty in NEK
    - They are primarily interested in education, but are approaching the issue from a multi-disciplinary perspective
    - They have submitted a multi-million dollar proposal to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
  - Working on reviewing town plans to make sure creative economy language is included

- The main focus of this zone is alignment between the zone and other projects in the region
- Michael Zabrowski (central swath of 4 counties north of Montpelier up and west)
  - Having a meeting right now
  - Their leadership team started off with 10 people on it
  - Very similar to other zones in that there are people from planning districts, from arts organizations, libraries, and individual artists/entrepreneurs
- Culture Funders meeting planned for March
  - VAC working with VCF and USDA to identify possible culture funders (people who have funded arts & culture to the tune of \$30,000 and up
  - Could be important to look at private funders/investors - loans and seed money
    - F2P has the Food Funders Network, but they also have a working group focused on identifying all avenues for funding/financing of the sector
  - Will they be familiarized with systems thinking? This seems like it would be a crucial philosophical framework within which to operate in terms of funding the sector
  - Private funding - could come to the table to investing in experimenting with Vermont as a model for other community development efforts
- How are we using the study Michael Kane did?
  - Can he do similar studies for each of the regions?
  - Attach the executive summary of the study to the VCN
  - Incorporate actions/outcomes/goals as appropriate
- Friday, February 3 is the Vermont Arts Council's advocacy day