

Newton Cultural Council Meeting 3/4/2020

Attendees:

Amelia LeClair, Rich Frost, Chris Pitts, Paula Gannon, Danielle Moriarty, Lakshmi Kadambi, Grey Held, Kathy Hassinger, Jen Kaplan, Emily O'Neil, Jane Feigenson, Rebika Shaw Bendayan, Robin Stein

Guest: Susan Silberberg, Civic Moxie

**Agenda Item:** Civic Moxie - Susan Silberberg

Current CREATE Newton plan being discussed:

Best way to grow the pie for arts and culture is to create a new organization combining civic and cultural activities under one non-profit culture and arts organization

The non-profit would reside outside of city hall for legal/conflict of interest reasons

The Newton Cultural Council would be part of the NFP - many precedents for such arrangements in other cities/towns - with its defined tasks and processes handed down from MassCulture. Funding would come from MassCulture, City of Newton, and private sources. The organization would then have the added functions of fundraising privately and doing its own programming in arts, culture, and civic engagement

What are civic events? Examples: fireworks, spelling bee, parades - often supported by Newton Community PRIDE

The new org would have revenue streams from...

- Membership, eg, artists website
- Business sponsorships
- Grant application
- Broader board membership - recruiting new members with fundraising expertise

An example of a new source was to look for linkage to know foundation missions, such as encouragement of healthy lifestyle to attract funding from BlueCross Foundations

People on the NCC could look at the new org and mission and find where they wanted to be...

- Rainmaker
- Grants administrator
- Mentorship of arts and culture grantees
- Community building

July 1 is still the target for defining the new organization.

**Agenda item** - Free Tickets to NCC-funded events

- Grantees who charge admission to events will be asked to donate 5-10 tickets to support attendance by low income residents - make it part of notification of award letter?
- Email/letter
- Advertise availability of tickets at food banks and/or library
- Create an NCC pass that people can pick up in the NCC office

**Agenda Item** - Reception committee: Kathleen, Jen, Kathy, and Jane,  
 + Lakshmi volunteered to handle allergy-free offering  
 + Emily offered the New Art Center as the venue

Date: Sometime in April

**Agenda Item** - NCC action needed for cancelled events

Grantees who cancel or change events must request an extension for delays and/or change to content.

2LifeCommunities requested that, in light of only receiving about half of their requested funding, they would do 1 event instead of 2. But they were enhancing the content of the single event to increase its impact. Discussion highlighted two points of view: 1) that grantees had been instructed in advance that they should not expect the NCC to totally fund their activities; or 2) that underfunded programs had to make prudent decisions to address their budget shortfalls; The NCC approved the change with one dissenting vote.

**Agenda item** - need to define roles within NCC

- Job descriptions for officers - Danielle had worked on a team that created job descriptions at another LCC (Medford). She offered to share her templates.
- Committees and their functions - group listed existing committees:
  - Nominating Committee
  - Adjudicating Committee - Rebika, Chris, Christine
  - Reception Committee -Kathleen, Jen, and Jane,
  - Community Outreach
  - Marketing Committee
  - Diversity Committee- Jen, Lakshmi
  - Organizational Development Committee
 Group developed consensus that enough committees existed....need to refine roles and activities

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded and passed unanimously.