

SACC Meeting 12/13/23
Meeting called to order at 9:04

Peggy Freedson
Rachel Moore
Mort Butler
Seth Soloway
Don Jones
Loren Polk

Visitor: Executive Director of Vermont Arts Council

Added to agenda: Rachel will share results of her subcommittee meeting

Need to provide access to shared Google Files, update permissions
Everyone with link should now have access

We will approve November minutes next meeting (January)

Rachel discusses meeting with Carrie on town plan.
Rachel and Carrie met to review current town plan, marked where they needed to edit. Rachel also asked others to reach out to model towns that support Arts and Culture to see how they write A & C into their town plans.
We discussed ways to make these plans more “actionable”. There’s a lot of room for improvement.
They will meet with other subcommittees to go through other plans.
This was just a first run through.

Introducing Susan McClure, Director of Vermont Arts Council (VAC)
Was motivated by invitation to investigate what other town arts councils are doing around the state.

VAC is the state’s independent art agency. Unique in being the state arts agency...the only one that is an independent non-profit. Mix of funding streams from Fed, State...primarily though also can fund-raise as a non-profit.

Direct grant funding:

Does a lot of grant-making. Directly to artists and organizations, funding to towns and for education for arts projects.

Vermont Creative Network: works to bring together the arts sector; supports opportunities to bring people together, funds research to quantify impact of Arts and Culture sector (e.g. Arts and Economic Prosperity Six study...showed a lot of people coming to Vermont for Arts and Culture experiences.

3rd largest sector of Vermont's economy. 3% of GDP.

Advocacy for A & C: Encourages state to strengthen investments in sector. Examples include:

Film and Media Workforce Investment:

Arts Residency funding: brings teaching artists into schools

Setting a vision for what arts education looks like in the State

Working together groups of arts educators at end of 2024

Agency of Education

Without some centralized way of organizations serving schools

Support for artists' roster

The schools apply for funding

S notes that Stowe's SACCouncil seems to be more integrated into Town Government than in any other town.

There are different models across the state:

- Some as independent non-profits, e.g. Cambridge.
- Public Art angle: public art committee in town government, el.S. Burlington. Soon working on a "cultural plan" for S. Burlington.
- St. Albans Arts and Culture committee: is associated with the downtown organizations. Focused on how to get people into town.
- Closest example to Stowe (handout) Brattleboro not a part of town government but very active in town. Spent a lot of time defining their mission.
- Burlington Model: Burlington City Arts (similar to the Current, part of the municipality, 50% of funding from city, fund-raises for the rest)

Request feedback on how the VAC can support the SACC; In January Rachel is helping to rewrite town plan to get the work of the SACC better integrated into the town plan.

Questions/Comments:

Strategic Research committee update: 9 model towns, including Brattleboro. Looking to talk to Randolph. Portsmouth New Hampshire, Providence RI. Also looking to ski towns that have govt. supported arts councils, including Vail, et. Al. Goal to complete work in mid-January.

Q: Loren: Has Susan seen discussion of pandemic impacts on A & C.

Susan does not believe that any particular direction is the "wrong" direction. Anything we choose to focus on will be a boon to the Arts and Culture sector. Pick and Area of focus.

Rachel shares the work the SACC has accomplished to date and our current focus/challenges.

Susan: Most valuable goal for arts' councils to make all the people involved in A & C feel connected and part of a collective.

Next meeting, January 10th: