

**Assembly 2007  
Peer Group Session Report**

**Community Development Directors**

**Thursday, December 6, 2007**

**Attendees:** Cristina Di Chiera (RI), Randy Oestman (WY), Janice Kilby (GA), Pat Miller (VA), Sarah VanLanduyt (KS), Terry Plummer (DE), Jenifer Lawless (MA), Jennifer Armstrong (IL), Anna Boulton (UT), Nicole Palof (NE), Chris Cathers (KY), Ann Weisman (NM), Dan Katona (OH), Sonia Rae (VT), Lisa Richards (DC), Bonita Lestina (VA), Bobbie Garver (IN), Sherry Schwechten (DC), Katherine Eckstrand (OH), Anne L'Ecuyer (AFTA, DC).

**I. Welcome**

Katherine Eckstrand, co-chair, welcomed the group. She expressed the regrets of co-chair, Bitsy Bidwell (WA), in being unable to attend. A sign in sheet was distributed. People indicated with an asterisk if they were new CDDs and would like to be mentored or with an "M" if they were willing to serve as a mentor. The following people indicated they would like to be **mentored**: Sarah VanLanduyt, Terry Plummer, Chris Cathers, and Lisa Richards. The following people are willing to serve as **mentors**: Anna Boulton and Bobbie Garver.

**II. Overview of SAA CDDs**

***What is a CDD/Job Alikes***

Attendees introduced themselves by identifying their organizations, job titles and other job titles or duties they have and describing their community development duties. It was noted that SAAs take a variety of approaches to community development and that all CDDs have other job titles or duties, such as: public art, services and grants for artists, grants for organizations, accessibility, professional development for artists and/or organizations, technical assistance, capacity building, legislative affairs, cultural heritage tourism, public information, arts education, and folk and traditional arts. Many CDDs can't attend our peer group sessions because they are attending other peer groups.

***Big Book***

Katherine let attendees know that a resource manual known as the Big Book, with a lot of information about the development of local arts agencies, was created many years ago. The information has been put on a CD (it is too large to e-mail) and is available by e-mailing Bitsy Bidwell at [bitsyb@arts.wa.gov](mailto:bitsyb@arts.wa.gov). There may be a small fee for postage.

***Listserv and Web Tools***

Everyone agreed that the current listserv is working well. Everyone also indicated it would be OK to post their contact information on the NASAA Web site. Useful Web tools might be a site where the Big Book can be posted and/or updated and where other useful resources can be listed.

***2008 Retreat***

The 2008 CDD retreat will be held in June in conjunction with AFTA. Details will be forthcoming. The retreat is held with AFTA because it is an annual conference, CDDs aren't split among multiple peer groups at that time, and AFTA merged with the former National Association of Local Arts Agencies, with which many CDDs work.

### **III. Ideas for CDD Professional Development**

- Economic development/growing local economies – Michael Shuman (DC)
- Arts districts – how to achieve long-term sustainability
- Artist's housing/incentives
- Profit/Nonprofit collaborations – Robert McBride (VT)
- AS220 (RI) – Jason Schupach
- Innovative projects in community development – panel of CDDs
- How to speak to business people/the language of business

### **IV. SAA Innovative CDD Ideas**

- Adopt an Artist program (RI)
- Businesses that agree to pay for an arts organizations postage for a year (RI)
- “Made by Hoosier Hands” – Cultural tourism that links arts with rural farmers that make and sell salsa, jams, crafts, etc. (IN)
- Online art market – artsofohio.com (OH)
- Artist training for trails (NM)
- Grant category – Arts Enterprise Projects – links Nonprofit and Profit
- Studio Tour (VT)
- Young Arts Administrators Group (NE)

**Saturday, December 8, 2007**

A smaller group of about ten attended on Saturday and included Mary Margaret Schoenfeld, Community Development Manager at AFTA. Many previous attendees were at other Peer Groups. It was agreed to dispense with the agenda and instead focus on answering several questions in small groups. The groups then reconvened to share and elaborate on responses. The questions and combined responses are listed below.

### **What community development tasks, themes, work elements, etc. do we have in common?**

- Work with local arts agencies (education, volunteer training)
- Capacity building work; technical assistance
- Facilitate communication amongst locals
- Catch-all for new, special project
- Grant-making; managing grants
- Event planning
- Advocacy (or advocacy assistance/education)
- Analysis, assessment and research

- Site visits—personal connections

### **What resources, training, skills, etc. do we need to do our work?**

- Strong networking
- More resources regarding community development
- Best practices/models/case studies
- Professional development—where to go for it?
- Tips
- Monthly or quarterly rollout/newsletter of activities from CDDs
- Teleconferences
- Communication—peer-to-peer
- Conflict resolution skills
- Skills in making presentations/meeting facilitation
- Evaluation methods/tools
- Briefings on research—a “digest”
- Capacity building knowledge—current training techniques
- What does community development look like from a community developer’s view?
- Two training tracks---CDD 101 and CDD 301
- Fundamentals of local arts agency management (Craig Dreeszen)
- Need a welcome packet

### **What do we need from our national service organizations (NASAA and AFTA)?**

- Ability to store/share/access documents or other resources online (Mary Margaret said AFTA should be able to help with this)
- Organization of available information on both AFTA and NASAA Web sites
- Mix of both interactive and practical, hands-on workshops at AFTA and NASAA conferences
- CDD retreats—more in-depth work on one or two major topics
- Start a “Table of Contents” or wiki or repository to lay out main content areas for resources we need
- Katherine mentioned that she and one of her interns had done major work on updating a community development bibliography that Maryo Ewell had put together in 1999. She will share this with Mary Margaret who will compare it against what AFTA has.
- Sonia will look at the Big Book to see if this can be broken out into content areas. Dan and Katherine will draft a table of contents of potential topic areas and share with all to see what resources areas we want to develop on the AFTA site.
- Everyone was encouraged to make suggestions to Katherine ([katherine.eckstrand@oac.state.oh.us](mailto:katherine.eckstrand@oac.state.oh.us)) and Bitsy Bidwell ([bitsyb@arts.wa.gov](mailto:bitsyb@arts.wa.gov)) about topics they would like to have covered at the June retreat.