



## Community Development Coordinator Peer Session Notes

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Community development peers participated in a lively discussion about the field of community development, which began with introductions and brief job descriptions. It was noted that many community development directors wear more than one hat and have positions that include other peer fields such as arts education, grants management, traditional arts and organizational services among others.

Anna Boulton presented on the Utah Division of Arts & Museums' Change Leader Program, a professional development course that addresses leadership issues in relation to leading change with continuing workshops and mentoring. Community development directors from other states shared their experiences with leadership development and asked questions about how to implement this type of program.

Terry Plummer made a presentation on Delaware's STARTUP Program, a training program designed for emerging arts organizations to provide basic nonprofit management tools. Discussion of nonprofit training and how it pertains to their unique statewide situation ensued. Some states noted that they have a state nonprofits association that provides this

type of training. Others questioned the encouragement of formation of more nonprofits and whether new models need to emerge.

Other topics discussed by the group included artist service organizations and how states are working with them to help them remain sustainable, relationships with regional partners, cultural and folk art festivals, and updates from the Americans for the Arts peer retreat.

The group wrapped up its sessions with breakout groups to talk about key issues this peer group would like addressed by NASAA and their national listserv peer group. The following points were noted by the group as the most pertinent and action-oriented as follow-up for this group:

- The field is changing. We would like access to the most current projects and best practices with outcomes. **Quarterly webinars** directed to this peer group would be a good delivery system with a method of archiving the sessions for community development directors as reference or as new peers enter the field.
- A profile of the **collective resources** with references. An index of where to go to get answers or consult with someone in the field.
- An **effective listserv**. Many had not heard of the listserv and have not received any notifications. Possibly find a way to update this on a regular basis.
- Consider having the **community development director retreat at the NASAA conference** or alternating the retreat every other year. The dilution of the community development director voice at NASAA because of the location/time of the community development director retreat not only affects attendance at our NASAA peer group but weakens that voice at the national level.
- As a peer group we noted that the attendance at NASAA is heavily influenced by outside financial support subsidies from the National Endowment for the Arts and NASAA, i.e., the reason most states' arts education and folk arts peers are represented at the conference. With due respect to the reasons for this support, we would like to make the case that most of the current topics at this conference and some of the most compelling arguments for arts funding are closely related to the field of community development, e.g., creative communities, project housing, culture and tourism, creative industries, community arts participation, etc. We collectively request that the support networks consider **bolstering our peer network with future conference subsidies** to strengthen the community development field.