Creative New Jersey is dedicated to fostering creativity, innovation, and sustainability by
empowering cross-sector partnerships in commerce, education, philanthropy, government,
and culture in order to ensure dynamic communities and a thriving economy.

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On January 11 & 12, 2017, the Creative Asbury Park Call to Collaboration took place and welcomed a highly diverse group of individuals representing all areas of city life in Asbury Park. This two-day gathering was part of Creative New Jersey’s statewide series of community-based convenings, aimed at helping to fuel current efforts already in action and to foster creativity, collaboration, and inclusion by facilitating cross-sector partnerships in commerce, education, philanthropy, government, and culture.

Over the course of the two day meeting, participants grappled with topics that fell under our central guiding question:

*How can we work more creatively and collaboratively to build our local economy, strengthen ties across our culturally rich community, and leverage our diverse assets, so that all who live, work and play in Asbury Park can benefit from our city’s renaissance?*

Thirty-eight breakout sessions took place on topics as varied as the skills and interests of the 125+ participants. The energy and vibrancy of those conversations sparked new collaborations and strengthened partnerships, leading to a variety of actionable outcomes including:


- A new Mayor’s Youth Council (the result of conversations led by Asbury Park High School students);
- More collaborative approaches to reaching out to and helping homeless individuals and families;
- Social service organizations working across industries to bring services to clients in need;
- An arts & culture and tourism collaboration between several organizations and groups with plans for a multi-cultural city-wide festival;
- The launch of a new Mayor’s Wellness Campaign; and
- Increasing the number and reach of existing re-entry programs and partnering with like-minded organizations who can help to broaden this service to more people;

Creative Asbury Park’s Call to Collaboration was supported by many generous restaurant sponsors, including a delicious cake from Confections of a Rock$tar – which echoed the feeling in the room!

If you want to become involved with the Creative Asbury Park members, please email us at info@creativenj.org and we’ll be sure to connect you. There’s a new Creative Asbury Park Facebook group that recently launched and you can check out photos and videos on our Instagram account. The compendium of notes from all thirty-nine discussions will be available soon on our website.

Our next community is Camden and we are deep into preparations for the Creative Camden Call to Collaboration! Let us know if you want to be included in that invitation list: info@creativenj.org.

Kacy O’Brien is Creative New Jersey’s Program Manager and is a Lead New Jersey’s 2015 Fellow.

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Creative New Jersey’s leaders and partners are regular contributors to the Dodge blog.
DAY ONE

Session #1: Affordable Housing

Convener: Felicia Simmons

Participants: Derrick Griggs, Tracy Rogers, Susan Austin, Anthony Smith

1.) Highlights & key points from your discussion (bullet points are great!):
   - Finding options to create Affordable Housing
   - Taking Abandoned Properties on the city abandoned properties list which the city has the legal right to do by law
   - Abandoned Property using the city’s 2.4 million funding RCA funding to rehab properties for low income people
   - Rent Control ordinance
   - Lowing Property taxes by leaving Monmouth County property tax assessment plan
   - Using funds developers put into fund to fund affordable housing

2.) Who is taking the Lead?
   - Tracy Rogers working with HUD CHOICE Grant

3.) Who are the Collaborators?
   - Asbury Park City Councils making a resolution to take the property and create ordinances
   - Housing Alliance of Monmouth County to develop plan for the city
   - City Master plan input

4.) Who else do we want to invite? (individuals, organizations, agencies, etc.)
   - iStar
   - Realtors

5.) Immediate Actions/Next Steps:
   - Present plan to the city council to take abandoned properties and use RCA money
   - Create ordinances that have all LLC register their properties with all owners who own 10% ownership and list one person a contact for emergencies and court matters
   - Create ordinances that rental owners have energy efficient appliances (toilets and stoves etc.)
   - Increase retables so as to decrease taxes
• Lowing Property taxes by leaving Monmouth County property tax assessment plan
• And giving breaks to rental owners who fix their rents
• Using tax credits
• Rent Control ordinance
• Community buy in

6.) **What resources would be useful in moving forward?** *(human, technological, financial, etc.)*
   - RCA Funding
   - Adding Affordable Housing Waterfront development plan

7.) **Next Meeting:**
   - Will email group by months end
Session #2: Bridging the divide

Convener: Brendan Meehan


1.) Highlights & key points from your discussion:
   • How to link all parts of the city together so that everyone prospers: Homes, Helping Families, AP Day, City Plan, Economic divide, Racial divide, Investment on one side of town, Development, Cultural, Educational, Physical Divide (railroad/Roadway), street lights, safe streets, more active streets, how to bring people to different areas of town
   • Solutions: Communication around time, City wide events, come up with a dream plan (2030), Long term plan, Keep locals local, community

2.) Who is taking the Lead?
   • Brendan Meehan

3.) Who are the Collaborators?
   • To be decided Project U.S.E.

4.) Who else do we want to invite? (individuals, organizations, agencies, etc.)
   • TBD

5.) Immediate Actions/Next Steps:
   • Create a plan that will help create a culture and reason for visiting all areas of Asbury Park through public spaces that incorporate gardening, recreation, use of nature, art installations, and various stakeholders.

6.) What resources would be useful in moving forward? (human, technological, financial, etc.)
   • Artist, nonprofits, youth organizations
Session #3: Helping Parents to See Importance of Investing in Kids?

Convener: Semaj Vanzant, Sr.

Participants: Heather Schulze, Maureen Mulligan, Karen Escobedo, Doug McQueen, Lisa Lee, Maryann Antenucci, Theeany Shannon, Sarah Jenkins, Angela Ahbez Anderson, Trudy Syphax, Connie Isbell, Kerri Martin, Leonel Contreras, Linda Roma, Carla Vanzant, Tu’Jaim Berry

1.) Highlights & key points from your discussion (bullet points are great!):

I will list the top three solutions/answers from a lively conversation, then list the rest with no priority attached. They are all important, but a few highlighted as vital.

Top three in no order:

- DATABASE for kids activities and family services
  - Listing the various activities that are free
- Space/forum for Parents to voice their needs
- Information Sharing (getting info out beyond a database) to places like Pediatric offices, maternity wards in hospitals, housing
- Parent Empowerment

Other Ideas mentioned and discussed:

- Parent Support and mentoring
- Building relationships for trust with parents and students, adjusting approach
- Intercultural development and training
- Faith based support groups for parents / family activities
- Clarification of process to obtain services
- PARENT ADVOCACY (includes being honest of challenge toward goal)
- Community Mentoring
- Creating Captivating events for information disbursement
- CONSISTENCY!
- Trade off of baby sitting
- Reaching parents of kids below school age

BIGGEST TAKEAWAY -- There are little to no things in place for kids under school age.
2.) Who are the Collaborators?
   - Family Success Center
   - FSO
   - 2nd Life Bikes
   - Library
   - Boys & Girls Club
   - YMCA
   - Summer Splash (Asbury Park Board of Edu)
   - Pediatric partner Initiative
   - NJ Natural Gas "Project Venture"
   - We NEED business owners to buy in to this process
   - AP Recreation Department
   - AP Parent Center
   - Monmouthresourcenet.org

3.) Who else do we want to invite? (individuals, organizations, agencies, etc.)
   - Absent Business owners

4.) What resources would be useful in moving forward? (human, technological, financial, etc.)
   - Human resource to develop database and provision of website
   - Those able to educate in cultural responsibility
Session #4: How can we create affordable housing and work space for the artists and creative culture in Asbury Park?

Convener: Carrie Ruddick, Jenn Hampton

Participants: Joe Barris, Natasha Davis, Lisa Revels, Christy O’Connor, Harriett Rubin, Victoria Reis, Joanne Schuh, Carrie Ruddick, Mike Sodano, Danielle Acerra, Isaac Jones, Tracy Roger, Duanne Small

1.) Highlights & key points from your discussion (bullet points are great!):
   - No Master Plan for the Arts --> no vision of the community working together
   - There is funding and there is land, but....
   - Biggest obstacle: iStar, and ideas having been rejected by them
   - iStar owns 30 sq. ft. of land in Asbury Park
   - We need to DEFINE affordable housing
   - We need to create recurring meetings with all the members of this group to work towards results. We need to grow our group to make impact.
   - We need to merge ART people with LOW-INCOME people because we are working for the same goals in the housing situation
   - Problem: developers are selling our “culture” but there is no protection for the artists/culture classes.
   - We need rent control, housing is way too high right now.

2.) Immediate Actions/Next Steps?
   - ATTEND PUBLIC MEETING ON FEBRUARY 9TH FOR RE-EXAMING THE MASTER PLAN!!
   - ATTEND PUBLIC MEETING ON FEBRUARY 21ST FOR RE-EXAMING THE MASTER PLAN!!
   - Ask town leaders what their vision for the city is
Session #5: How can we create greater cultural understanding and collaboration?

Convener: Charles Trott

Participants: Karen Escobedo, Sonia Quiles, Pat Jelly, Christy O’Connor, Digna Diaz, Henose Valcin, Wendy Liscow, Semaj Vanzant, Jen Souder, Sheila Gross, Anthony Allen, William Thorpe, Leonel Contreras, Maureen Shaffer

1.) Highlights & key points from your discussion (bullet points are great!):
   - Music and food
   - Open minded to receive and appreciate each other’s differences
   - Move past categories
   - Recognize commonalities
   - Utilize unique experiences

2.) Who is taking the Lead?
   - Charles Trott

3.) Who are the Collaborators?
   - Family
   - Use public spaces to convene community as a whole
   - Folks from all cultures, etc.

4.) Who else do we want to invite? (individuals, organizations, agencies, etc.)
   - Our youth
   - Families
Session #6: How can we increase public engagement with our beautiful natural resources?

Convener: Travers Martin

Participants: Kerri Martin, Maryann Antenucci, Linda Roma, Claudette Blackwood, Theeany Shannon, Karen Escobedo

1.) Highlights & key points from your discussion (bullet points are great!):
   - Perceived disconnection with the environment
   - Lack of families (particularly from the west side) on the beach
   - Lack of beach/water safety
   - Lack of transportation to beach and other local natural resources (county parks, etc.)

2.) Who is taking the Lead?
   - Largely, this is unclear (perhaps this is an issue onto itself).
   - Surfriders
   - Langosta Lounge
   - Boys and Girls Club

3.) Who are the Collaborators?
   - More specific collaborators are yet to be identified

4.) Who else do we want to invite? (individuals, organizations, agencies, etc.)
   - Local school system
   - Monmouth County parks systems
   - Faith based organizations
   - Fraternity and Sorority groups
   - City of AP
   - Brookdale Community College
   - Second Life Bikes

5.) Immediate Actions/Next Steps:
   - Research the rules of liability and accessibility on the beach
   - Connect interested organizations
   - More specifically (with statistical information and questionnaires) identify the need
- Organize transportation to allow accessibility. (What good is permission to a site without transportation?)
- Explore funding options

6.) **What resources would be useful in moving forward?** *(human, technological, financial, etc.)*
- City income from beach badge program
- List or organizations and businesses interested in beachfront accessibility
- Liaison with public school system/ curriculum director
- Any survey information regarding beach access and use

7.) **Next Meeting:**
- Goal setting. More input is required to actually design a program, event, or further action steps.
Session #7: How can we make Asbury Park a healthier place to live, work, and play using policy, environmental change and people power?

Convener: Lisa Lee

Participants: Travers Martin, Kerri Martin, Robert Stewart, John Moor, Connie Isbell, Conrad Neblett, Isaac Jones, Lisa Revels

1.) Highlights & key points from your discussion (bullet points are great!):
   - Healthy Eating access
     - Youth – goal to educate them and instill a desire and awareness to want to eat healthy foods
     - We are not a food desert b/c there are healthy food stores available such as Super Extra, Asbury Farm, and La Tapatia
     - EZ Ride and the Alliance for a Healthier Asbury Park has a grant in 2017 to partner with corner stores to introduce more healthy foods for customers and will be working with 4 stores. Will hold food demos, tastings, and health screenings at stores as goals.
     - Workgroups with Alliance coalition and the HUD Choice grant to focus on health for residents
   - Does Asbury have a Mayor’s Wellness Initiative Campaign?
     - Belmar Mayor holds a walk with mayor on the Boardwalk
     - The school had a healthy chef contest for kids and Mayor was MC and judge to choose winners
     - No Mayors Wellness Committee presently, but John says he would like to go forward and start that. He likes to get up early and walk
     - We also don’t really have a green team which fits with that effort
     - John will participate next time we do walk to school day to help
   - Our Lady of Mt Carmel School
     - Some foods are not so healthy
     - They are limited by foods they receive
     - Some kids are form families with low income and they are hungry on weekends – Lisa noted FoodBank has a backpack program for the 3 elementary schools to send food home with kids on Fridays and is confidential and she can connect Connie to the person to see if they can include OLMC school in future
     - They sell snacks – not so healthy
     - They have a nutrition squad afterschool (4th-6th gr. Do nutrition education and 6th-8th gr has a cooking class
     - They have to be realistic about affordable and available ingredients for kids to cook
   - 2nd Life Bikes
     - They have a women’s and girls’ nutrition program that meets occasionally.
     - Coordinated by Leslie Martin
o They bring in two RDs from Nourish (Wendy & Debbie) who teach them to make healthy recipes
o Some pay and others invited (some teen girls form their programs and public)
o Seasonal and theme events
o They have a blender bike
o Lisa asked if they advertise and what is their capacity – could it be offered to whole community?
  o The cost has been suggested $15 per person but they have had a smaller group in past.
  o Program for 2017 is set and she will talk to group to see if they would like to open to whole city to participate
• Have health fair with demos and education re food content – Lisa shared that Rutgers and SNAP-Ed have those programs and can come to do them for free in communities and at schools
• Policy Change Ideas
  o Mayor Bloomberg did great things in NYC with health policy such as limiting soda cup size to decrease sugar
  o Can we approach local Asbury restaurants to publish nutrition data on menus or to have healthy options for clients? Doesn’t have to
  o John suggests to talk to Business Committee in town bc they have several restaurant owners to get their feedback – Isaac Jones heads that (owns barber shop on Asbury Av)
  o We can also teach people about how to ask restaurants to customize their orders (no salt, leave off cheeze sauces, etc.) as a way to empower them to eat healthier
• Incentive or Reward programs for youth
  o How to incent kids to eat healthy- Lisa shared at some schools, teachers look for kids who are eating their veggies and fruits and give them homework passes or stickers
  o Some schools like Farmingdale track miles kids walk each week on walk to school day and they have a punch card to keep track. At end of year, kids with most points will get invited to a healthy breakfast prepared by cooking club teacher and school health council. Kids reward could be to walk with Principal or Mayor
  o Perhaps give free beach badge as reward
• Issues for Families
  o Some families don’t have cooking facilities
  o Affordable Food for families
    • CSA is like a food coop but on a smaller scale
    • Families sign up with a farm partner to get a small box of produce at a designated drop off point
    • Some families can donate funds for those who can’t afford
    • Small boxes of fresh produce given to some families who cannot pay, no stigma like food pantry or soup kitchen b/c it’s kept private.
    • Could be run with help of Family Success Center or Trinity or churches who know needy families who may have interest
• Sources of Fresh Produce
Food- Not Bombs program at train station on Sundays distributes garden produce
Sat AM and Wed afternoons – City garden gives out produce
Kula garden allows people who help work to take produce
Trinity church has a food program and a community garden – Derek

County vocational school is Asbury has a program to teach kids to cook and has dining room with affordable meals, but not all can go. How to work so that AP HS kids could attend and benefit from this program?

Environmental Change ideas
Recycling – city needs to educate residents about how to do it
Calendar discusses but its late and has not been sent yet
Suggest to have another flyer to explain to residents
This could be part of Mayors Wellness Initiative
Composting is a good idea but where to do bc City has no large space to do
Possibly do at city garden?
Monmouth Master Gardeners have an education program re composting for free

2.) Who is taking the Lead?
  • Mayor Wellness Campaign
  • Alliance for a Healthier Asbury Park

3.) Who are the Collaborators?
  • Alliance for a Healthier Asbury Park and anyone who has interest

4.) Immediate Actions/Next Steps:
  • HUD Choice Healthcare groups meets tomorrow Jan 12th at 5 pm at City Hall Council chambers and Alliance for a Healthier Asbury Park meets next Wed Jan 18th at 330-5 pm at Bradley Elementary School

5.) Next Meeting:
  • HUD Choice Healthcare groups meets tomorrow Jan 12th at 5 pm at City Hall Council chambers and Alliance for a Healthier Asbury Park meets next Wed Jan 18th at 330-5 pm at Bradley Elementary School
Session #8: How can we offer Meditation/Meditative Awareness in our community?

Convener: Rev. Dr. Sheila Gay Gross

Participants: Jen Bredehoft, Nina Summerlin, Rev. Katie Grace Pepe, Mary Ellen Scott, Claudette Blackwood, Veronica Gilbert-Tyson

1.) Highlights & key points from your discussion:
   - Meditation is accessible to everyone, even though there can be some resistance to/fear of it
   - Communities in need in Asbury Park include parents/families in high-stress situations and individuals in court-ordered anger management or in need of anger management services
   - Volunteers in the community who want to help but don’t know what opportunities are available
   - Explosion of yoga studios in the area with potential volunteers/resources
   - Important to make programs accessible to participants and volunteers—not push one particular school of thought for participants; have detailed descriptions/training for potential volunteers
   - Important to be creative in thinking about partnerships and opportunities to maximize resources

2.) Who is taking the Lead?
   - Jen Bredehoft will distribute contact information to the group; Sheila Gross convened the group

3.) Who are the Collaborators?
   - Individuals in this group
   - Contacts at local yoga studios/similar service providers
   - Local volunteers

4.) Who else do we want to invite? (individuals, organizations, agencies, etc.)
   - Local yoga studios, specifically EvenFlow Yoga and its Local Mala Project, Yoga University and 12 Steps-8 Limbs program
   - Mercy Center in Asbury Park, serving multiple communities in the area
   - Local businesses, organizations and schools
   - Individuals interested in meditation and mindfulness
   - Community residents looking for services/assistance/support

5.) Immediate Actions/Next Steps:
   - Jen Bredehoft to distribute contact information to group for ongoing collaboration

6.) What resources would be useful in moving forward? (human, technological, financial, etc.)
   - Financial, specifically for Mercy Center to help support programs
• Human: volunteers (readily available once connections are made to Mercy Center and other community programs)
• Organization: develop plan for moving forward

7.) **Next Meeting:**

- Unknown at this time, will be connecting by email today
Session #9: How can we save our urban schools and education?

Convener: Milagro Gomez

Participants: Anthony Allen, Pat Jelly, Michael Sodano, Sheila Etienne, Mike Piscal, Brandan Meehan, Wendy Liscow, Tom Hayes

1.) Highlights & key points from your discussion:
   - CSA people are able to purchase vegetables and have a donation done for other families.
   - 21 Century Grants to be more available.

2.) Who is taking the Lead?
   - Sheila Etienne, Mike Piscal, Anthony Allen

3.) Who are the Collaborators?
   - N.J. Natural Gas

4.) Who else do we want to invite? (individuals, organizations, agencies, etc.)
   - Schools involving entire families in the community
   - To collaborate in activities that are going to take place in the community.
   - Computer consultant thinks that it’s very important to instruct computer to the kindergarten grade.

5.) Immediate Actions/Next Steps:
   - Having food baskets, available for parents of children in schools available.
   - More focus on Language and reading skills for the children. Also the Achi program is being offered to help families in need. Bring more hand on experiences for the children in the schools. In arts, cooking, science. Network families with food banks.

6.) What resources would be useful in moving forward? (human, technological, financial, etc.)
   - CSA can be helpful for many families and organizations
   - 21 Century Grant through the N.J. Natural Gas company
   - Performing Arts Center available, Asbury Park
Session #10: How can we start a professional theatre company in Asbury Park utilizing community involvement and support?

Convener: David Rossetti

Participants: Caileen Waldron, Jen Bredehoft, Nicole Tillman, Danielle Acerra, Marcia Blackwell, Kaitlin C., Isaac Jones, John McEwen, John Kaplow

1.) Highlights & key points from your discussion (bullet points are great!):
What kind of things would you want to see?
- Local Talent & Playwrights
- Professional vs. Community Theatre explained – Professional; all participants are paid, Community theatre are not usually paid. Most are volunteers

What are some current spaces and current organizations in the area?
- House of Independents – Great space, small backstage
- Paramount – Long history, but very large house size is challenging and expensive for a professional theatre (Actors Equity bases pay rates on house size)
- Mental Health Players – Local troupe
- Savoy – in renovations currently, not sure when it’s done. John McEwen commented that he spoke with Madison Marquette and they are looking for that space to be a commercial concert venue space for large events.
- Black Box – This was brought up as a space TBD that could be a blank canvas for theatre. Store front possibility?
- Moving Locations/Site Specific Theatre – It was brought up by John that REVISION THEATRE was successful doing this. It was an artistically challenging with a good pay off, though logistics could be a real challenge depending on the space being used. David (convener) expressed his interest in this type of theatre but also expressed logistical concerns of doing that for every show.
- TAPT – The American Poetry Theatre
- Dunbard Repertory
- Springwood Park – New concert venue for an event
- NJ Rep – Very specific mission of original works. Good following.
- Lastrada Ensemble
- Jersey Shore Arts Center – Beautiful theatre. Lastrada does shows there.
We came back to the question of what type of things you’d like to see in a theatre:
- New works – John expressed concern that this could be a hard sell. There was some agreement of that. Then a discussion opened about doing theatre for the people traveling TO Asbury, as opposed to doing theatre FOR Asbury, as in its residents. A lot of strong opinions. Some felt you had to make a decision, others thought you could achieve both. Pretty split.
- Summer Season – Good quality and mainstream (i.e. recognizable) shows for maximum ticket sales.
- Cultural Diversity – Someone brought up that “not everyone likes rock” so to think about purposeful programming and having cultural diversity in that programming.

John McEwen spoke on next steps and what should happen next:
1. Community Assessment & Research (most important!)
   - What’s already being offered currently? What’s not? And is there a void to be filled or is there a reason there isn’t something offered?
2. Make a commitment
   - Find a board (maybe four friends)
   - make some bi-laws
   - Get incorporated.
3. What’s working in the area? What’s not? Competition?
   - Finding the why for that?
   - Can you do it better? Or differently?
   - How can you improve and take it further
4. Mission Statement/Business Plan
   - Really finding a mission that is specific and tells the story of the theatre
   - Outlining what’s most important and the main vision of the theatre
5. Possibility to co-produce or do a small sized event to test the waters as part of the “Community Assessment”
6. Identify community leaders

Someone brought up something beyond a theatre – an arts council. This was expressed a lot throughout the day that was a significant “want” for people which was interesting to me as part of this conversation. Someone where all the arts could come under one roof and thrive and collaborate.

Someone told us about Sustain NJ and they have a type of cultural research of the area that might be helpful. John M wrote this down and we’ll be looking into that.

2.) Who is taking the Lead?
- David Rossetti (convener) and John McEwen (NJ Theatre Alliance)
3.) Who are the Collaborators?
   • The whole group! Lol! They were fantastic!

4.) Who else do we want to invite? (individuals, organizations, agencies, etc.)
   • Madison Marquette (Developers), House of Independents. Any board members who can help with fundraising.
   • To collaborate in activities that are going to take place in the community.

5.) Immediate Actions/Next Steps:
   • The first four steps listed above.

6.) What resources would be useful in moving forward? (human, technological, financial, etc.)
   • FINANCIAL! HA! But, seriously, that would help, but also thoughts on spaces that could be used. I know it’s lofty, but my dream is the CAROUSEL building. And though I know that avenue has been explored, that will always been my dream. I think it being an incredibly unique building, with a lot of history, is screaming to be a theatre and it being right on the boardwalk...it would be perfect. But, I know that’s a big dream...but that’s what I do. 😊
Session #11: How can we train youth for the construction industry/ workforce?

Convener: Karen De Chavez

Participants: Jen Bredehoft, Duanne mall, Nancy Shields, John Moor, Mark Wilcox, and Karen De Chavez

1.) Highlights & key points from your discussion:
   - Apprentice programs with contractors
   - Vocation training @ local high schools (graduate with certificate or license)
   - Connect contractors with youth organizations (workshops, internships, stipends, etc.)
   - Set something up similar to Asbury Works
   - Labor Unions – develop better relationships
   - Ask utility companies such as JCP&L if they could do free trainings
   - Monmouth County Workforce Development
   - Create a community workforce guide that could be distributed and readily available to high schoolers, community organizations, churches, AP library, barber shops, etc. That display employment opportunities/ internships/ apprenticeships

2.) Who is taking the Lead?
   - Duanne Small (Kings Group) and John Moor (AP mayor)

3.) Who are the Collaborators?
   - Nancy Shields (Interfaith Neighbors), Jen Bredehoft (?), Mark Wilcox (Covenant House)

4.) Who else do we want to invite? (individuals, organizations, agencies, etc.)
   - Ilene Higgins, Habitat for Humanity, Board of Ed., JCP&L, member of the Community Development Initiative

5.) Immediate Actions/Next Steps:
   - Contact contractors/ utility companies and connect them with local organizations or schools to see if an apprenticeship program or licensing program would be something of interest
   - Create community workforce guide and immediately distribute

6.) What resources would be useful in moving forward? (human, technological, financial, etc.)
   - Financial incentives
Session #12: How Can We Use Public Space in Non-traditional Ways that Benefit the Entire Community?

Convener: Doug McQueen

Participants: Pat Jelly, Mariel DeKranis, Milagro Gomez, Jen Souder, Christy O’Connor, Sonia N Quiles, Natasha Davis, Victoria Reis, Digna Diaz, Alexandra Luther, Lisa Revels, Henose Valcin, Marcia Blackwell, Kaitlyn Cleary, Conrad Neblett, Mike Sodano, John Moor

1.) Highlights & key points from your discussion (bullet points are great!):
   - Public space consists of many distinct places: parks, city hall, post office, train station/public transit, libraries, public agencies, lakes, the beach, boardwalk, sidewalks, sports fields, schools/gyms, streets, faith-based facilities, community centers, parking lots.
   - The community can decide exactly HOW to use these public spaces according to our needs and priorities. In fact, the use to which we put public space is a reflection of our priorities.
   - Uses for public space: Visual and performing arts, bike lanes, storm water management, community workshops, gardens/fresh food, activism, street trees, dining, active or passive leisure.
   - There are a couple of national examples of groups doing things to get us to look at public space from a fresh perspective: Better Block, National PARK(ing) Day

2.) Who is taking the Lead?
   - City council, planners, Complete Streets Coalition, Environmental and Shade Tree Commission

3.) Who are the Collaborators?
   - Businesses, DPW, residents

4.) Who else do we want to invite? (individuals, organizations, agencies, etc.)
   - Better Block, Park(ing) Day, National Consortium for Creative Placemaking, parents - should get kids involved in all activities using public space.

5.) Immediate Actions/Next Steps:
   - Plan short term or temporary exhibitions of ideas - for one day, week or a year trial. See what the community thinks of a non-traditional use of public space.
6.) What resources would be useful in moving forward? *(human, technological, financial, etc.)*

- City planning department / transportation planner, local businesses/chamber.

7.) Next Meeting:

- Day 2 or TBD
Session #13: How can we work together to create an art, science and technology exploratorium and AST city wide educational programs?

Convener: G. Brown Simmons

Participants: Maureen Shaffer, Joe Barris, Carrie Ruddick, Tracy Rogers, Michael Piscal, Trudy Syphax, Susan Austin, Anthony Smith, Mike Sodano, Karen O’Neil

1.) Highlights & key points from your discussion:
   - Form planning team
   - Pop-up once a week AST immersive educational experiences
     - Kids key to planning programs
   - Get a space or piggy-back into a space
   - Internships and outreach interaction with partners

2.) Who is taking the Lead?
   - GBS+ break out group. We are going to meet-up again to follow up

3.) Who are the Collaborators?
   - Board base, Expertise in startup non-profit, Brookdale, Monmouth University
   - Art organizations, Technological companies, Co-Werks, Bell Works
   - Scientists, Kids, Girls and Boys Club, AP Charter School, educational partnerships,
   - Government, Interfaith

4.) Who else do we want to invite? (individuals, organizations, agencies, etc.)
   - Identify and select -- Kids, Kids, Kids

5.) Immediate Actions/Next Steps:
   - Form group
   - Pop-up planning

6.) What resources would be useful in moving forward? (human, technological, financial, etc.)
   - Space
   - Funds
     - Marketing
     - Materials
     - AST participant stipends
Take-aways for Pop-up workshop participants

7.) Next Meeting:
   - Soon
Session #14: How do we bridge the diversity gap in Asbury Park?

Convener: Conrad Neblett

Participants: Alexandra Luther, Henose Valcin, Digna Dig, Lisa Revels, Joe Barris, Deedee Montanaro, Marcia Blackwell, Mary Ellen Scott, Betty Israel, Claudette Blackwood, Katie Grace Pepe, Carrie Ruddick, Sheila Gay Gross, David Rossetti, Jen Souder, Natasha Davis, Faith Rice, Caileen Waldron, Danielle Acerra, Harriett Rubin, Conrad Neblett

1.) Highlights & key points from your discussion:
   - Acknowledging that there is a diversity gap
   - There is indeed diversity in Asbury Park, but there is also indeed separation.
   - Asbury Park has not necessarily been an integrated “renaissance”
   - How to get people to move beyond their comfort zones of their smaller communities
   - How to communicate better and get the word out about events to ALL communities in the area
   - Creating PURPOSEFUL PROGRAMMING that has the intention of bringing the community together.
   - Conversation is key
   - Creating access to all language communities
   - Finding alternative locations to share information and resources that are not just in the digital landscape.

2.) Who is taking the Lead?
   - Conrad Neblett

3.) Who are the Collaborators?
   - Monmouth Arts, VNA, New Art Syndicate, all members who attended the group session

4.) Who else do we want to invite? (individuals, organizations, agencies, etc.)
   - More art collectives, and more diversified communities.

5.) Immediate Actions/Next Steps:
   - Connect & communicate with one another in this group
   - Exchanging contact details to collaborate
   - Joining Conrad’s engagement group in AP
   - Develop art collectives and community collectives of ALL the local communities and having regular meetings to take actions together
6.) What resources would be useful in moving forward? *(human, technological, financial, etc.)*

- Interfaith Neighbors
- Monmouth Arts – connecting communities + funding for the arts
- VNA, connecting the arts with the healthcare industry
- Churches and local market – where we can reach out to further audience and integration of communities
Session #15: How Do we connect our Youth GED students to you (agencies and services in town) and how do you connect your youth to our GED program?

Convener: Karen O’Neill

Participants: Nancy Shields, Claudette Blackwood, Duanne Small, Heather Schultz, Linda Roma, Carla Vanzant, Mark Wilcox

1.) Highlights & key points from your discussion:
   • Of all the issues that are being explored today, there are many commonalities: complex issues, many initiatives, lack of knowledge of other initiatives that could support one’s own initiative, duplication of effort, etc.
   • We need a data base created and kept up to date of all resources, agencies available in town
   • This needs to be maintained by a person who is paid to do so
   • We ALL need to advocate to the town for this position to be created and funded

2.) Who is taking the Lead?
   • All of us are responsible for advocating for this position to be created and funded, starting with the Town
   • Te and county

3.) Who are the Collaborators?
   • All stake holders who are working with youth

4.) Who else do we want to invite? (individuals, organizations, agencies, etc.)
   • We would invite all stakeholders (faith based, educational institutions, state and county services, to take responsibility to advocate for this position and keep their information up to date in the database

5.) What resources would be useful in moving forward? (human, technological, financial, etc.)
   • Right now, we need across the board advocacy for the creation of such a position here in town

6.) Next Meeting:
   • To be determined
Session #16: How do we create/encourage a year-round, diverse economy in AP?

Convener: Hannah Walker

Participants: Mike Sodano, Duanne Smalls, Sheila Etienne, Jenn Hampton, Nancy Shields, Tracey Rogers, member of the Salvation Army

1.) Highlights & key points from your discussion:

- Promotion is primarily of Asbury as a beach-destination. What is the vision for Asbury, and whose vision is it? Creating a plan for the beach and a plan for year-round residents. Top-down change via City Council and developers, and also grassroots organization for top-up change.


- Plans and contracts. Master Plan redevelopment is in progress, with community engagement meetings in February to create a new ten-year plan. Building mandatory deadlines or review dates into plans and contracts with developers etc. Enforcing affordable housing in developments, especially the waterfront.

- Creating a Tourism Board.

- Incentivize businesses in Asbury Park. For locally-owned businesses, for hiring locally, for paying a living wage, for engagement in the community through community projects, volunteering, etc. Through tax breaks, parking breaks, etc. Creating a more diverse business community, not so dominated by bars/restaurants.

- Communication and community involvement. Reaching residents across language barriers, encouraging representation beyond white/black, as there are communities within communities and cultural groups not represented. Healing trust issues. Encouraging locals, training them in community involvement. Creating ward leaders to represent by areas. Understanding cultural differences and needs of the community.
Session #17: How do we engage youth in our community decision making?

Convener: Veronica Gilbert-Tyson

Participants: Maureen Mulligan, Teretha Jones, Nina M. Summerlin, Pamela Major, Trudy Syphax, Caileen Waldron, Connie Isbell, Heather Shulze, Carla Vanzant, Shelia Etienne

1.) Highlights & key points from your discussion (bullet points are great!):
   - Community assessment multi-level
     - Housing income
     - Race culture
   - Develop trust
   - Youth panel → youth policy board
   - Educate the youth, empower them, highlight their talents
   - Neighborhood events

2.) Who is taking the Lead?
   - The youth themselves and the adults who can identify with local youth and engage with them

3.) Who are the Collaborators?
   - Churches
   - Social service agencies
   - School

4.) Who else do we want to invite? (individuals, organizations, agencies, etc.)
   - Parent
   - Youth

5.) Immediate Actions/Next Steps:
   - Just get out and do it → know on doors
   - Need for parental consent
   - Mayors youth board
   - Identify groups and form one unified group
Session #18: How do we keep the cultural history of Asbury Park “alive” in the redevelopment of Asbury Park?

Convener: Jen Souder

Participants: Robert Stewart, Kathleen Melgar, Kathryn Cleary, Digna Diaz, Hannah Walker, Henose Valcin, Pat Jelly, Conrad Neblett, John Moor, Marcia Blackwell, John McEwen, Doug McQueen, Leonel Contreras, Maureen Shaffer, Felicia Simmons

1.) Highlights & key points from your discussion:

- So many existing resources to gather history from and such rich multi-layered history and opportunities for musical heritage trails, LGBT history etc. – not only for tourism but also for community
- Jazz & blues – needs to be included in interpretive ways around the City, particularly in SW neighborhood
- Cultural districts could be looked into
- Interpretive elements can be incorporated into developments – various to work with developers but a lot of properties on Springwood Ave are privately owned so maybe there are creative ways to work with property owners
- City is somewhat constrained by master plan and redevelopment plans, etc. But master plan review is currently happening and there will be opportunities for public input
- Creative ways to work within existing framework – encourage developers to let community name bldgs. that reference historical sites or history
- Lots of good examples of cultural heritage tourism from other cities
- Need to show/understand real history – segregation, redlining, etc.
- Virtual tours, interpretive landscapes, markers, exhibits, festivals, events, food tour, can be integrated with other elements such as storm water management, etc.
- Historical documents and structures etc. Have not been well preserved in town at many points – a lot has been lost - need collaborative effort to collect stories and documents and history
- Concern over condition of Convention Hall
- Curriculum about comprehensive AP history should be in AP schools
- Lots of attention on AP since hotel opened in 2016
- Lots of interest in AP history and community
- Interesting stories about natural and cultural history (Count Basie, creek under Boston Way housing, etc.)
- A lot of creative people and longtime residents leave town because can’t afford as gentrification happens—need to keep ‘arts class’ in town
- Currently there are few official designated historic sites in AP but so much history to be captured
- Historical society is a great resource
- Music heritage center is opening at Monmouth (through Bruce Springsteen funding)
- Historical club in schools can be a start – connect youth with seniors and seniors can share stories and youth can be trained as tour guides – intergenerational
- AP has so many layers of history
- Great existing books about AP history
- History can be shared in many ways... probably need multiple pronged approach

2.) Who is taking the Lead?
- Not sure yet, but Jen Souder willing to help
- Library has resources to help

3.) Who are the Collaborators?
- Historical society
- Musical heritage group
- Schools – board of Ed
- AP library
- City

4.) Who else do we want to invite? (individuals, organizations, agencies, etc.)
- Others with knowledge of musical heritage in AP – jazz and blues, etc.
- Historical society

5.) Immediate Actions/Next Steps:
- Attend historical society meeting in January
- Provide examples from other cities (Jen Souder and others have some examples)
- Determine mechanisms for funding oral history projects
- Talk to city about ways to incorporate cultural history into city projects
- Talk to school about history club

6.) What resources would be useful in moving forward? (human, technological, financial, etc.)
- Grants
- People willing to help document history
- People willing to facilitate process
Session #19: How get AP residents and visitors to move freely and safely around city without a car?

Convener: Kerri Martin

Participants: DeeDee Montanaro, Robert Stewart, Travers Martin, John McEwen, Karen Escobedo, Lisa Lee, Brendan Meehan

1.) Highlights & key points from your discussion (bullet points are great!):
   - Forming bike/walking clubs with themes.
   - Making bike ownership possible for all residents.
   - Bike Share programs
   - Bike Parking – more racks with an artistic vibe.
   - Making Main Street a more bike/ped friendly street.
   - Form a Green Team.
   - Plan events for National Bike Month
   - Move visitors from the train station around the city.
   - Deliver produce around the city via bicycle.

2.) Who is taking the Lead?
   - Kerri Martin

3.) Who are the Collaborators?
   - Travers Martin, Second Life Bikes, AP Complete Streets Coalition

4.) Who else do we want to invite? (individuals, organizations, agencies, etc.)
   - Kula Farm, Boys and Girls Club, Asbury Park Cyclery, Trinity Church, AP Complete Streets Coalition, Meadowlink, NJ Bike/Walk Coalition

5.) Immediate Actions/Next Steps:
   - Make Asbury Park Complete Streets Coalition a stronger advocacy group for bike/ped issues.
   - Plan a city-wide bike ride for National Bike Month.
6.) **What resources would be useful in moving forward?** *(human, technological, financial, etc.)*
   - Meeting with the city planner and other officials about the Complete Streets policy and a city-wide bike/ped plan. Help from a state-wide level to convince those on a local level about the importance of Road Diets and Complete Streets policy.

7.) **Next Meeting:**
   - Second Life Bikes plans to host the next AP Complete Streets Coalition meeting at the shop.
Session #20: How to Motivate Unmotivated People?

Convener: Harriett Rubin

Participants: Nicole Tillman, Teretha Jones, Betty Israel

1.) Highlights & key points from your discussion (bullet points are great!):
   - Identify the Wants and Needs of the people you are trying to reach
   - Make your objective clear (be sure they are realistic and achievable)
   - Establish trust and build real relationships through consistency
   - Build a clear plan of how to reach these objectives: including activities, how-tos, methods, and referrals
   - Evaluate and tweak where there are unanticipated problems.
   - Relieve stress, depression, and oppression
   - Provide people with the social support they need
   - Recognize and fight worker burn-out
   - Give and earn respect
   - Converse with, do not talk at
   - When discussion solutions and making decisions, be sure you have the right people "at the table."
   - Build REAL relationships
   - "Hunger is crazy's brother."
   - Identify people's strengths and weaknesses
   - Impart knowledge when it is lacking and needed
   - Identify the long-term causes issues and deficiencies that often cause lack of motivation
   - Provide a wide range of resources to impact a wide range of people
   - COMMUNICATION: understanding and support
   - When issues are discovered, honestly confront them
   - Education, Opportunity, Employment

2.) Who is taking the Lead?
   - Teretha Jones

3.) Who are the Collaborators?
   - Harriett, Nicole, Betty

4.) What resources would be useful in moving forward? (human, technological, financial, etc.)
   - Human Resources and Financial Resources
Session #21: How we get our students exposed to mentors and more involved in the local workforce?

Convener: Brian E. Stokes

Participants: Theeany Shannon, DeeDee Montanaro, Maryann Antenucci, Mariel DeKranis, Trudy Syphax, Doug McQueen, Kathleen Melgar, Tom Hayes, Faith Rice, Veronica Gilbert-Tyson, Jennifer Lewinski, Carrie Ruddick

1.) Highlights & key points from your discussion:
   - Career Fair
   - Develop a network
   - Increase exposure
   - Youth passport (a community access booklet)
   - Internships / Volunteering / Job Shadowing

2.) Who is taking the Lead?
   - Input was a collaborative effort.

3.) Who are the Collaborators?
   - All

4.) Who else do we want to invite? (individuals, organizations, agencies, etc.)
   - Business owners, community members and corporations. That can mentor and or employ our students.

5.) Immediate Actions/Next Steps:
   - Do an email blast to establish new network.

6.) What resources would be useful in moving forward? (human, technological, financial, etc.)
   - Mentors for students and jobs in the community.
Session #22: Positive Academic and Behavioral Support Services for At-risk Youth?

Convener: Tu`Jaim Berry

Participants: Theeany Shannon, Semaj Vanzant, Carla Vanzant, Derrick Griggs, Maryann Antenucci, Faith Rice, Tom Hayes, Felicia Simmons, Karen De Chavez, Maryann Antenucci, Caileen Waldron, Sara Jenkins, Linda Rossi, Kathleen Melgar, Joanne Schuh, Maureen Mulligan, Connie Isabell, Angela Ahbez Anderson, Pamela Major, Diane Mendez, Alice Johnson, Trudy Syphax, Natasha Davis

1.) Highlights & key points from your discussion:
   - At-Risk youth ages (11 to 21) years of age
   - The community and schools are in need of academic and behavioral support for students with emotional, social, academic, and behavioral concerns
   - Locating Funding for afterschool program
   - Developing Family Support
   - Finding Student/Youth Mentor (Big Brothers and Big Sisters)
   - Providing continuous Teacher and Parent Training

2.) Who is taking the Lead?
   - Tu`Jaim Berry

3.) Who are the Collaborators?
   - Theeany Shannon
   - Semaj and Carla Vanzant
   - Derrick Griggs
   - Maryann Antenucci
   - Faith Rice
   - Tom Hayes
   - Felicia Simmons
   - Karen De Chavez
   - Maryann Antenucci
   - Caileen Waldron
   - Sara Jenkins
   - Linda Rossi
   - Kathleen Melgar
   - Joanne Schuh
   - Maureen Mulligan
• Connie Isabell
• Angela Ahbez Anderson
• Pamela Major
• Diane Mendez
• Alice Johnson
• Trudy Syphax
• Natasha Davis

4.) Who else do we want to invite? (individuals, organizations, agencies, etc.)
   • Urban School Districts (Administrators, Special Services, and Guidance Counselors) can benefit from this discussion to better services at-risk youth who are attending their school districts.

5.) Immediate Actions/Next Steps:
   • The immediate Action that needs to take place is to find funding to create multiple community base centers, that can provide at-risk adolescent youth with the support services designed to alter their future

6.) What resources would be useful in moving forward? (human, technological, financial, etc.)
   • Technology
   • Community Center and site
   • Business plan
   • Staff
   • Financial backing
   • Love and support

7.) Next Meeting:
   • Tomorrow
Session #23: Single Moms raising children - how to help?

Convener: Wahaba Walker

Participants: Angela Anderson, Theeany Shannon, Tu’Jaim Berry, Karen DeChavez, Katie Grace Pepe, Harriett Rubin, Natasha Davis, Lisa Revels, Mel??, Maureen Mulligan, Derrick Griggs, Alice Johnson, Betty Israel, Sara Jenkins, Felicia Simmons, Sheila Etienne

1.) Highlights & key points from your discussion:

Single Moms raising children – How to help? Where to start? Solutions!!

- Form groups
- Have topics – talk about resources, contacts
- Technology – Form a group on Facebook
- Meeting at Libraries
- “Spacing” – spot dedicated people
- Not to be afraid to voice feelings
- Have a group meeting, drop children off so parents (mom) can talk
- Boonceyouth
  - Parents Group (Rotate) on sitting
    - Start in the home
    - Food, Juice
    - Other women are the best resources
  - Guilt / Bereavement
    - Children resource classes
  - Relationships
    - Build a relationship with SELF
    - Self-esteem is hugely important
- Tutoring programs
- Education
- Income program – Affordable Housing Alliance
  - Utility program – NJPowerOn.org
  - HousingAll.org
- Stress Management
  - Nonprofit orgs
  - New & Old mom support
  - Village
- Make group on Facebook
  - Target single/young moms
Creative Asbury Park Call to Collaboration January 11 & 12, 2017

- Mentor program
- Parents “Anonymous”
- “Lunch Break”...

- Sharda Jetwani – mentor program called “Woman's Worth”
- “Basket of Hope” program – fresh produce for $40-$60 includes food for a month, no income requirements
- NJ Community Capital – financial services for homebuyers and others
- Lactation specialists/consultants to teach breast feeding
- VNA
- IPO Referral / Healthy Family can connect you to different resources

SOLUTIONS
- “When there is no hope there is a solution for those who care” mission statement
- Single parents, caregivers, solutions for those who care

Begin:
1. Start Group
2. Name
3. Flyers to school district
4. Social media – Facebook <=START
5. Topics to talk about
6. Everyone Support
7. Who will we target
8. Meet up Group
9. Guest speakers

On your own parenting
10. Single Moms United
11. AHA $1 for $1 Match (3 year) $1500 per year
Session #24: What is the most meaningful visual arts (or other art form) experience you’ve had in Asbury Park? Why was it meaningful?

Convener: Victoria Reis

Participants: Christy O’Connor, Kathy Cleary, Gloria Brown Simmons, Jenn Hampton, Mike Sodano, Nicole Tillman, Teretha Jones, Hannah Walker, Charles Trott

1.) Highlights & key points from your discussion:
   • Very spirited conversation about Asbury Park’s engagement & presentation of arts over the past 40 years.
   • Both long time & new residents felt it is crucial for there to be more access to & understanding of the rich history of the arts in AP pre the rock & roll Bruce Springsteen presence that has grown to current music scene.
   • There was a lot of discussion about growing access to all arts in the city on “both sides of the tracks” and all neighborhoods
   • Concerns about the rapid commercial development of the city and the arts and entertainment (commercially driven/no soul) was of big concern
   • The need for more artist-driven art spaces, non-profit art spaces was raised
   • The need for an Arts Council as well as a percent for art program were discussed
   • Concern that locally Red Bank is getting more arts attention and financial support than Asbury Park

2.) Who is taking the Lead?
   • Jenn Hampton of Parlor Gallery and Mike Sodano of Showroom were both identified as leaders; also session moderator Victoria Reis and The Promised Land exhibition she presented via Transformer in 2014 on the AP Boardwalk 5th Ave pavilion was discussed.

3. Who are the Collaborators?
   • Entities in the community that were identified as important resources + needed resources include:
     • Asbury Park Technical Academy of Dance
     • Shepard Fairey exhibition on boardwalk and the public murals /wheat pasting he did around AP
     • Parlor Gallery
     • The former Asbury Lanes (concerns about current Lanes Development and over commercialization of arts as “entertainment” rather than being artist driven and educational and experimental)
     • Artists Cortez and Larry Walker were mentioned
     • Asbury Angels exhibition of musicians & artists from the 50’s & 60’s
     • Showroom Cinema
• The AP Public Library as an arts destination  
• Garden “GARTan” of Art – next to Parlor Gallery – art garden of artworks made from found & recycled materials

4.) **Who else do we want to invite?** *(individuals, organizations, agencies, etc.)*  
• Need for an AP Arts Council was discussed  
• Need for a percent for art program with a percent of city taxes going to support the arts  
• Foundations should be invited to learn about interest & needs in the community; there should be a convening of artists in the community

5.) **Immediate Actions/Next Steps:**  
• Keep talking to people in the community at all levels about the arts experiences you value in AP  
• Develop an Arts Council  
• Build communication between area developers and the locally based arts community to have locally created art & artists presented and supported in new buildings

6.) **What resources would be useful in moving forward?** *(human, technological, financial, etc.)*  
• Grants to artists  
• Audience Development  
• Growing access to the arts for kids – addressing issues of racism & access  
• Percent for art program with a percent of city taxes going to support the arts  
• Increase visual art spaces for practicing artists to create & exhibition  
• Further access the library and other public resources in the community to partner with in presenting art

7.) **Next Meeting:**  
• A next meeting was not discussed
Session #25: Youth Literacy

Convener: Mariel DeKranis

Participants: Kathleen Melgar, Robert Stewart, Michael Piscal

1.) Highlights & key points from your discussion:
   - Literacy opens doors for all members of the community.
   - Focus needs to be on ages 4-8.
   - Engagement with parents is key.
   - Community involvement through B&GC, Dorothy McNish Center, AP Public Library and Junior Library, Brookdale Community College, Ocean Family Success Center
   - The goal is to expose students to all opportunities and resources the community has to offer.

2.) Who is taking the Lead?
   - B&GC along with public library service + Brookdale Community College Career Services (to recruit interns)

3.) Who are the Collaborators?
   - B&GC, AP Public Library and Junior Library, Brookdale Community College

4.) Who else do we want to invite? (individuals, organizations, agencies, etc.)
   - Dorothy McNish Center, Ocean Family Success Center, students, teachers, alumni

5.) Immediate Actions/Next Steps:
   - Reading coordinator (BGC) to coordinate with Junior Library to access HOOPLA (reading resources subscription with library card)
   - Brookdale CC to recruit for interns to serve as reading tutors and coaches

6.) What resources would be useful in moving forward? (human, technological, financial, etc.)
   - A streamlined way to bring together all the initiatives already in place (via social media and long term planning)
DAY TWO

Session #26: Community Assessment for Theatre in Asbury Park

Convener: David Rossetti

Participants: John McEwen, Carrie Ruddick, Mike Sodano, Jenn Hampton, Victoria Reis, Hannah Walker, Danielle Acerra, Deedee Montanaro, Christy O’Connor, Nina Summerlin, Lorraine Stone, Veronica Gilbert-Tyson, Joe Barris, Mary Ellen Scott, Pamela Major, Nicole Tillman, Joanne Schuh, Jesus Barley, Bryan Aguilar, Fenelson Etienne, Fiona Puig, Conrad Neblett

1.) Highlights & key points from your discussion (bullet points are great!):

There was a great energy in the room and a lot of support for this idea, hence 23 people in the room! We first spoke of The Revision Theatre as an example of a theatre company that worked here in AP, at least at one time. We also spoke of “How this theatre could be different.”

A constant theme RE: Revision were reservations expressed due to the very quick and quiet implosion of the company. This has left a bad taste in many mouths for those who supported, especially financially, to that institution. So, some questions and thoughts were added to the specific problems REVISION had and how we could learn from them.

- They experienced success early, and then eventually bit off more than they could chew in their final season (going from 3-4 shows to 7 productions)
- What they set up with their season and operations were not sustainable for the long term
- They were an “outside” group that had a theatre company already established in NYC and so they didn’t have strong ties to the community and their needs and wants.
- They didn’t listen to advice of Board and others and didn’t ask for help.

*Actions Step – John McEwen mentioned he could pull up previous meeting notes of Revision, compile information from previous Board meetings and meetings with Artistic staff, maybe finding out sponsors of the theatre as a point of contact to reach out for future funding. This would be a great starting point to start an outreach to those with an interest in theatre.

We then spoke of the loss of TRUST and how to regain that back from the community as we create this theatre. These were ways offered:

- Doing smaller shows (maybe without sets), but with solid artistic merit. This will show the potential instead of relying on big sets and costumes.
• Being super-transparent with the community, Board of Directors, city planners, etc.
• Speaking of transparency: sharing a 3-year plan with the community
• COMMUNICATION – Big one! An open dialogue as things happen instead of AFTER they happen.
• Maybe open up rehearsals to the community? Have a free performance? Or maybe a “pay what you can” night, so anyone can see the work.
• Don’t be too aggressive. Can turn people off, create defensiveness, comes off too strong.

And NOW to the talk of the actual Community Assessment and what to consider in this research:
• Environment
• Demographics
• Key Stakeholders
  Businesses
  Board of Directors
  Donors
• Honest and accurate responses
• Inclusion of not necessarily strictly theatrical groups
  1. Churches
  2. Community centers
  3. Grassroots organizations
  4. AP Rec Department
  5. Boys & Girls Club
  6. Westside Citizens United
  7. AP Music Foundation

*ACTION STEP: There was an idea as a “start” to do something with the “Springwood Park” as part of the concert series. Might be able to give some more variety to the AP Music Foundations lineup for summer 2017 and “introduce” theatre to community.

Someone brought up the AP Music Foundation as a way to bridge the East vs. West divide. Another voice stating the importance of INCLUSION FOR ALL, not just some.

Chicken Wings & Theatre – Someone said that, and I just liked that idea cause WHY NOT? 😊

*ACTION STEP: February 9th and 21st there is a meeting on the CITY OF ASBURY master plan. David is planning on attending this meeting to gain more insight.

*ACTION STEP: Jan 19th, Joe invited David to the Monmouth Arts Annual Meeting.
*ACTION ITEMS THAT COULD HELP IN SPECIFIC ASSESSMENT:

- Small Steering Committee – 4-6 (max) people
- Peer Groups in NYC – who did they use for assessment? Possible connections?
- Foundations who helped the previous theatre or the arts. Potential Future Focus Groups
- AP Music Foundation current sponsors – do they have more money for other musical things
- ARTSCAP – some confusion on its current role, but worth checking into
- City of Monmouth – Long Range planning workshop in the Spring (Date TBD)
- Associate Theatre Company – Upcoming Meetings
- City Support – some thoughts that in the past it had been little, but that things are changing and with a new City Planner, they may be more willing to help. There ARE pathways.

Michael, post discussion, brought up the idea of doing something in the off-season to “introduce” theatre to the actual AP community as a way to gain support.

2.) Who is taking the Lead?
- David “Theatre Guy” Rossetti and John McEwen were taking the lead, but some great thoughts and support from Nina at Westside Citizens United speaking on NCLUSION in programming, Hannah Walker of the City of AP, and the super stars of the County of Monmouth (all 3!) really providing us with great research about the support for theatre and the arts in Asbury.

3.) Who are the Collaborators?
- EVERYONE! Seriously, everyone had great ideas and volunteered to be on the info waiting list.

4.) Who else do we want to invite? (individuals, organizations, agencies, etc.)
- City of Asbury Park people, Monmouth County Arts, AP Music Foundation, ArtsCap

5.) Immediate Actions/Next Steps:
PULLED FROM ABOVE NOTES

*ACTION STEP: Jan 19th, Joe invited David to the Monmouth Arts Annual Meeting.

*Actions Step – John McEwen mentioned he could pull up previous meeting notes of Revision, compile information from previous Board meetings and meetings with Artistic staff, maybe finding out sponsors of the theatre as a point of contact to reach out for future funding. This would be a great starting point to start an outreach to those with an interest in theatre.

*David and John scheduled a time to chat about first steps, getting a nonprofit status, planning first show.
*ACTION STEP: There was an idea as a “start” to do something with the “Springwood Park” as part of the concert series. Might be able to give some more variety to the AP Music Foundations lineup for summer 2017 and “introduce” theatre to community.

*ACTION STEP: February 9th and 21st there is a meeting on the CITY OF ASBURY master plan. David is planning on attending this meeting to gain more insight.

*ACTION ITEMS THAT COULD HELP IN SPECIFIC ASSESSMENT: Small Steering Committee – 4-6 (max) people

6.) What resources would be useful in moving forward? (human, technological, financial, etc.)
   • ALL HANDS ON DECK! Funding is always helpful, even with the small things. Donated space. Donated housing for incoming artists, musicians.

7.) Next Meeting:
   • TBD, but an email group has been started to keep dialogue going, and will be posting on the Creative NJ FB group for AP to open up our scope to the community.
Session #27: Cultural Heritage Trail

Convener: Jen Souder

Participants: Christy O’Connor, Mike Sodano, Jen Souder, Kathryn Cleary, Conrad Neblett, Harriett Rubin, Kathleen Melgar, Robert Stewart, DeeDee Montanaro, Betty Israel, Natasha Davis, Fiona Puig, Alexandra Luther, Henose Valcin, John Moor, Brendan Meehan, Joanne Schuh, Danielle Acerra, Sheila Etienne, Nancy Shields, Victoria Reis, Jenn Hampton, Charles Trott, Lorraine Stone, Hannah Walker, Connie Isbell, Digna Diaz, Marcia Blackwell

1.) Highlights & key points from your discussion:
   • Existing resources
   • AP Historical Society
   • Music Heritage Foundation (follow up with Tom Gilmore)
   • Horner (writing a book about AP history)
   • Kay Harris
   • Madonna Carter
   • AP Library
   • Oral Histories
     o Lorraine noted that an oral history/video project took place a few years ago through HS)
     o Kathleen & Matthew from AP library took training re: Oral histories
     o Felicia made suggestion yesterday of having youth and seniors work together on oral histories
   • Nancy Shield – AP press
   • Smithsonian exhibit / series

Discussion of Scope
   • Could be overall history of AP History but some stories can get “lost” depending on perspective. Important to have history of west side and African American community made visible
   • Different aspects of AP history needs ‘champion’ to move each forward but there are existing resources and individuals willing to move forward the history of the west side and African American community

There was also specific discussion of
   • AP musical history
   • LGBTQ community

All of this fits into broader goals of making sure there is a cultural plan in the master plan and would contribute to tourism goals etc. but also help build awareness and focus a light on histories not often widely shared.
2.) **Who is taking the Lead?**
   - Jen Souder will help coordinate

3.) **Who are the Collaborators?**
   - AP Library and hopefully others from the existing resources noted above

4.) **Immediate Actions/Next Steps:**
   - Create a one page project plan (Jen Souder)

5.) **What resources would be useful in moving forward?** *(human, technological, financial, etc.)*
   - People willing to help collaborate and pull together existing resources
   - Being included in the master plan (cultural component)
   - Eventually applying for grants to help with the project – both the process and eventual product (tour/interpretive trail, etc.)
Session #28: From a global perspective, how do we move forward collaboratively to inform & take action?

Convener: John McEwen

Participants: Pat Jolly, Maryann Antenucci, Joanne Schuh, Connie Isbell, Pamela Major, Karen Escobedo, Heather Schultz, Deedee Montanaro, Leonel Contreras, Joanna Tieso, Danielle Acerra, Nicole Tillman, Selma Betancourt

1.) Highlights & key points from your discussion:
   • Look into the county interactive map...can we get service organizations and resources on the map so it represents a broader list of community resources
   • How can we solidify and connect the dots of groups who had overlaying topics? (i.e. youth, culture)
   • Look at different online opportunities to inform folks of what meetings and other activities are occurring
   • How could we set up a Creative Asbury app
   • Can the host tram reconvene and determine how they can help moving the information and actions forward?
   • Are there other communities that Asbury Park can learn form in terms of the steps they took to keep communication moving forward?
   • How do we utilize the videos that John did to in
   • Is there something here that can live on the CDI format?
   • Can there be a report of the highlights of discussions/findings that could be shared with the whole group?
   • Host committee can look at these notes and boil it down to 5-6 main items and create a “cliff notes” description of discussions and point person
   • Identify the leaders of some initiatives that grew out of Creative Asbury to serve on host committee.
   • Schedule a breakfast meeting with host committee in 2-3 weeks. Karen of NJ Natural Gas offered to host the meeting.
   • Can we link to things on the City’s website?
   • Choice Neighborhoods---Working Groups—Youth, Health, Public Safety –How can we let these working groups know what was discussed at Creative AP

2.) Who is taking the Lead?
   • John McEwen and Host Committee

3.) Who are the Collaborators?
   • Host Committee
4.) Who else do we want to invite? *(individuals, organizations, agencies, etc.)*
   - Leaders of determined initiatives that may not be on the host committee

5.) Immediate Actions/Next Steps:
   - Organize a meeting of the host committee in 2-3 weeks.

6.) What resources would be useful in moving forward? *(human, technological, financial, etc.)*
   - Human resources

7.) Next Meeting:
   - Host Committee in 2-3 weeks
Session #29: Homelessness in Asbury Park

Convener: Danny Harris

Participants: Jennifer Lewinski, Natasha Davis, Teretha Jones, Harriet Rubin, Kathleen Melgar, Leonel Contreras, Maureen Schaffer, Lisa Lee, Nancy Shields, Sheila Gray Gross, Sonia Quiles, Felicia Simmons, Henose Valcin, Emily Harris, Alexandra Luther, Digna Diaz

1.) Highlights & key points from your discussion:
   • Address root causes as opposed to band-aid solutions
     o Unemployment
     o Eviction
     o Rising housing costs
     o Addiction
     o Mental illness
     o Child support
     o Mass incarceration/ parole/ probation/ criminal record
     o Abuse
     o Foreclosure
     o Chronic poverty
     o Utility costs (leading to eviction)
     o Natural disasters
   • Change mindset/ vision/ wording re: homeless people
   • Address Individual humans vs. set of problems

2.) Who is taking the Lead?
   • Jennifer, Danny and Teretha

3.) Who are the Collaborators?
   • VNA, Salvation army, various community organizers, library, trinity and other churches

4.) Who else do we want to invite? (individuals, organizations, agencies, etc.)
   • Visiting nurse services

5.) Immediate Actions/Next Steps:
   • Compile resources and advocate
   • Build personal relationships with people experiencing homelessness
   • Spread awareness/ Each one teach one
• Join group currently working
  o Homelessness prevention coalition
  o Housing alliance
  o ATEAM
  o AP food justice collective
• Work with local businesses owners to create a "buy it forward" meal program in order to create a friendlier environment through personal relationships with our homeless population
• Visiting nurse services going to churches during pantry days to service the people

6.) What resources would be useful in moving forward? (*human, technological, financial, etc.)*
   • Spread the word:
   • Homeless Count1/25 @ Mount Carmel church Asbury Ave. 9am to 1pm
   • Health cancer screenings 1/25 @ Pilgrim, Baptist, Springwood and Borden Aves. 9am-3pm
   • Kula Farm’s WORK FOR A DAY ($10 an hour up to $600 per person) Go straight to greenhouse or cafe and ask for Matt or Lisa
Session #30: How can we better design our city to accommodate pedestrians, bicyclists, people with special needs and recreational users?

Convener: Doug McQueen, Kerri Martin, Travers Martin

Participants: Katie Grace Pepe, Marcia Blackwell, Connie Isbell, John Moor, Robert Stewart, Maryann Antenucci, Roger Boyce, Brendan Meehan, Sonia Quiles, Nina Summerlin, Selma Betancourt, Joe Barris, Felicia Simmons, Tracy Rogers, Mike Piscal

1.) Highlights & key points from your discussion:
   - AP needs a bike/pedestrian master plan
   - Make AP more walkable and bikeable
     - Policy and infrastructure changes that can promote more diverse modes of transportation
   - Identifying modes of transportation and complications. What is available and what is known?
     - Pedestrians
     - Bicycles, scooters, skateboards
     - Public transportation and taxi users
   - Potential for publically or privately ran shuttle
   - Identifying the symbolic and very physical division between the two sides of town
   - Issues of personal safety often dictate our choice of transportation mode
   - How limitations to transportation limit our accessibility to the great natural resources of our county
   - Ways Bike/pedestrian based infrastructure can help business and alleviate the demand for parking
   - Identifying streets as public space
   - Potential to incorporate environmentally friendly elements (solar, rain gardens, etc.) into bike/pedestrian infrastructure

2.) Who is taking the Lead?
   - Doug McQueen and the AP Complete Streets Coalition, Kerri Martin, Travers Martin

3.) Who are the Collaborators?
   - City of Asbury Park (town officials, Mayor and Council)
   - City planner
   - Transportation planner
   - AP Complete Streets Coalition
   - DOT
4.) **Who else do we want to invite?** *(individuals, organizations, agencies, etc.)*

- Meadowlink
- Monmouth County Planning
- Department of Public Works (road maintenance and plowing)
- Local business associations
- Adjacent residents
- Faith Based Organizations
- Police and Fire Department

5.) **What resources would be useful in moving forward?** *(human, technological, financial, etc.)*

- Funding (grants) for a bike/pedestrian master plan
- Assistance from Monmouth County planning
- Statistical information regarding traffic (traffic modeling)

6.) **Next Meeting**

- Folks from Second Life Bikes and Asbury Park Complete Streets Coalition are working on scheduling a meeting with the city planner and transportation planner. Additional public meetings are in the works to collaborate on ideas design a public awareness campaign.
Session #31: How Can We Move the West Over to the East?

Convener: Lorraine Stone

Participants: Sheila Gay Gross, Lisa Lee, Katie Grace Pepe, Leonel Contreras, Maryann Antenucci, Danielle Acerra, Karen Escobedo, Maureen Mulligan, Anthony Allen, Nicole Tillman, Angeline E Brown, Sonia Quiles, Teretha Jones, Heather Schulze, Selma Betancourt, Michael Piscal, Emily Harris, Daniel Harris, Warren Hall

1.) Highlights & key points from your discussion:

We began discussing how to move the West over to the East, but what we discovered is that it would be beneficial to also brainstorm ways to move the East over to the West. AP belongs to everyone. A thriving AP provides employment, entertainment and cultural opportunities for ALL AP residents.

Issue: Barriers to West side citizens spending time in the East
- Lack of people of color downtown
- Lack of minority-owned business in AP
  - Chocolate Sage, At The Table and AP Academy of Dance...why not more?
- Entertainment, food and attractions not budget friendly
- Unaffordable Rents
- AP Cityscape favors high-priced bars/restaurants, inaccessible to low income owners and customers. Lacks a diversity of businesses that serve the entire community’s needs.
- Systemic racism that excludes minorities in employment, housing, business (many current citizens and biz owners lack the historical context)
- Typical AP musical programming favors rock n roll, excluding more diverse and accessible genres like gospel, salsa, rap, etc.
- Unwelcoming atmosphere on the East side
- AP Police Department profiles young males of color contributing to a racial divide and mistrust.
- Beach: parking, lack of supervision, lack of swim lessons, fees
- Lack of resources that the “Y” used to provide; Boys/Girls club has fee
- White flight from education

Moving forward
- Refocus on future: stop the old taboos about race
- New times, new energy, new money
- Take the initiative to learn about community members
- Open yourself to what’s available, learn local resources, laws and regulations
- Look forward to a greater good
• Participate in Dialogue Group of AP 1st and 3rd Mondays @ 6:30 Conrad Neblett @212-662-2006 clubtogetherinspirit@yahoo.com
• Work with schools to get free beach passes to students receiving reduced price lunch
• Create activities for children to attend with parents
• Revisit naming Springwood Avenue Park for 1st black AP council member. Prior request denied.
• Include musical programming for Latino, W. Indian, Haitian populations on the boardwalk
• More opportunities for street art and murals via collaboration with young artists and artisans whose products are often affordable and accessible. Like the concept in Boonton NJ “Dog Days of Summer” decorating dogs, arts in community including walking tours, summer-long events.
• Dream Center and Church at House of Independents untapped resources available
• African Street Festival
• AP Day 4th Saturday in June; tables for artists, booths, Scavenger Hunt
• Build bridges with APD (have officers out of uniform for activities with youth—see them as people not ‘cops’)
• Lights on the basketball court increase it use as community activity

2.) Who is taking the lead?
   • Lorraine Stone

3.) Who are the Collaborators?
   • AP Dialogue group, Dream Center, House of Independents Church, Deliverance Temple Warren Hall Pastor Pine and Monroe, AP Day

4.) Who else do we want to invite? (individuals, organizations, agencies, etc.)
   • APPD
Session #32: How can we prevent teen pregnancy?

Convener: Addy Dawkins & Talmaijah Pipkin

Participants: Nina Summerlin, Veronica Gilbert-Tyson, Gloria Brown-Simmons, Carla Vanzant, Claudette Blackwood, Brian Stokes, Trudy Syphax, Zach Simmons, Joanna Tieso, Angela Anderson

1.) Highlights & key points from your discussion:
- Having meaningful adults talk to you (teens with real life experiences)
- Abso
- Getting men (young men) involved (spoken to)
- Knowing the consequences
- Experiencing it
- Skits, plays, etc.
- Early talks with young people
- Prepare them for what to expect
- Start programs at school
- Get involved

There was also discussion about partnering with Big Brothers Big Sisters on their mentoring program, where college students mentor high school students, who in turn mentor middle school students. Using that established structure to get sex ed conversations at earlier ages

Other possible partners could include the VNA, since sex ed is health related. Discussion also of a peer support group or peer counselor program to help support fellow students who are going through difficult times

Conveners were encouraged to use the adults in these conversations for support and guidance.
Session #33: How do we provide meaningful re-entry programming to include employment training and actual jobs for all Asbury Park stakeholders?

Convener: Lori Ross

Participants: Sheila Etienne, Betty Israel, Caileen Waldron, Charles Trott

1.) Highlights & key points from your discussion:
There continues to be a great need to develop re-entry programming in Asbury Park which must include employment training and actual jobs for Asbury Park stakeholders. Our group will focus on developing a comprehensive strategy to address the needs of those re-entering our community after being incarcerated with a focus on the entire family based on how they define “family”. The idea is to create a “continuum of care” for the individuals and families we serve, by collaborating with existing providers and developing new programming.

While briefly identifying the challenges faced by those re-entering our community; we identified resources which may already be available to assist. However, the group acknowledged the need for further “self-education” to find additional resources to assist those re-entering our community. The Salvation Army is currently developing its Pathway of Hope Program which will provide case management services for in a repeating cycle of crisis, which may include individuals previously incarcerated in their families; based on a plan the clients must create. This will be an eighteen (18) month program which will include other supportive services such as job training and education, child care, literacy and parenting classes through a network of collaborators. The West Side Community Center is currently developing a job training program with another local provider. The plan for this group is to again partner and collaborate with other existing providers to develop a strategy to assist those previously incarcerated, with the engagement of the entire family identified as a key to success.

2.) Who is taking the Lead?
- Lori Ross and Sheila Etienne

3.) Who are the Collaborators?
- Everyone in the group

4.) Who else do we want to invite? (individuals, organizations, agencies, etc.)
- Young Lawyers for Justice
- Family Success Center
- Boys and Girls Club
- Monmouth County Vicinage & its Intensive Supervision program (ISP)
• Monmouth County Probation Department
• Monmouth County Workforce Investment Board
• NJ Department of Labor (ex-offender resources & On the Job Training Program)
• Asbury Park City Government- contractor agreements to provide job training & employment opportunities
• Asbury Park Housing Authority- contractor agreements to provide job training & employment opportunities
• Asbury Park School District
• Clergy/ Ministerium
• Various City Expungement Programs
• Local businesses for placements such as:
  o Home Depot
  o Wegmans
  o NJ Natural Gas Co.
  o Builders/ Developers (i.e. new development in the west side and elsewhere in the city)

5.) Immediate Actions/Next Steps:
• Identify existing resources
• Identify a path to get clients (outreach)
• Identify a network of employers
• Develop a plan of action (i.e. “Continuum of Care”)
  o We don’t want to re-create the wheel

6.) What resources would be useful in moving forward? (human, technological, financial, etc.)
• We need information resources initially which includes the identification of the following:
  o What currently exists?
  o What is the criteria to participate?
  o Can we work together?

7.) Next Meeting:
• We will be sharing information electronically first, with our next meeting to be determined.
Session #34: How to Make Asbury healthier by improving access to physical fitness in public spaces or improving current spaces

Convener: Lisa Lee

Participants: Betty Israel, Henny Valcin, Natasha Davis, Digna Diaz, Kathleen Melgar, Felicia Simmons, Lorraine Stone

1.) Highlights & key points from your discussion:
   - Use activities for adults to have physical fitness events for all esp. kids
     - I.e. VNA had Community Day and CATCH Day and they offered Zumba for kids
     - Library – offering Eat Healthy Be Active program in January starting Jan 17th for 7 weeks at 11 am (Spanish and English (noon) and will have Zumba one week
     - CCYC in Red Bank has $5 Zumba classes. Find out who their instructor is and if willing to do in Asbury and if we can find space here to host (consider schools or other space like churches
   - Salvation Army has a gym – Betty Israel will check and see if could be available for community fitness activities
   - AP Senior Ctr has space
     - Perhaps hold exercise classes
   - Sunset Park
     - Can we develop a par course trail with fitness stations
     - Walking path for walking and biking would be great
     - City has law against benches in parks – No playground
     - Perhaps if we can find funding can ask City if we can build a trail for fitness
   - Churches in AP on West Side
     - St Stephens has a big grass area
     - 2nd Baptist on Atkins Ave
     - Allen Chapel – Dewitt and Bangs
     - Triumphant Life has indoor space to fit 100 and moving in March – Natasha Davis can find out from Pastor Lydell Akins or spouse Tracey
     - Good Hope on Washington St has a parking lot and indoor space
     - Holy Spirit RCC has large basement
     - Mt Carmel School has cafetorium space
   - West Side Community Ctr
     - Has gym and classrooms
     - Disrepair and leaks
     - In Tax lien
     - Why is it not available for community to use??
Who owns it: People think it is owned by a Board
- Boston Way new development will have rec rooms in each townhouse area
- Washington Village has a rec room
- Can we use the school gyms and HS lawn area? Shared space agreements?
- What is status on new community center near Bangs Ave? Needs approval and funding to be built

2.) Who is taking the Lead?
- Lisa Lee and Alliance for a Healthier Asbury Park

3.) Who are the Collaborators?
- VNA, Library, people who attended

4.) Who else do we want to invite? (individuals, organizations, agencies, etc.)
- Talk to District, Pastors of churches

5.) Immediate Actions/Next Steps:
- Follow up with Betty at Salvation Army
- Talk to Pastors – Natasha Davis will check with her Pastor
- Talk to City re Sunset Park idea

6.) What resources would be useful in moving forward? (human, technological, financial, etc.)
- Find funding to build a fitness trail
- Think of programs and best times – ask community

7.) Next Meeting:
- Will continue at Alliance for A Healthier Asbury Park and CHOICE healthcare meetings
Session #35: Multicultural Festival (part of large cultural/tourism breakout)

Convener: Henose Valcin

Participants: Christy O’Connor, Mike Sodano, Jen Souder, Kathryn Cleary, Conrad Neblett, Harriett Rubin, Kathleen Melgar, Robert Stewart, DeeDee Montanaro, Betty Israel, Natasha Davis, Fiona Puig, Alexandra Luther, Henose Valcin, John Moor, Brendan Meehan, Joanne Schuh, Danielle Acerra, Sheila Etienne, Nancy Shields, Victoria Reis, Jenn Hampton, Charles Trott, Lorraine Stone, Hannah Walker, Connie Isbell, Digna Diaz, Marcia Blackwell

1.) Highlights & key points from your discussion:
   - Inclusive celebration
   - Covering history myths, music, art, and food etc.
   - Foster understanding, define diversity
   - Tourism Link
   - Define diversity

2.) Who is taking the Lead?
   - Patient Navigator and 2 For Care

3.) Who are the Collaborators?
   - VNA community center
   - VNA-seed
   - CARC
   - 2 for Care

4.) Who else do we want to invite? (individuals, organizations, agencies, etc.)
   - LGBT
   - Different cultures throughout Asbury Park

5.) Immediate Actions/Next Steps:
   - Picking a location
   - Establishing date
   - Target community i.e. Haitian, Dominicans, Irish, Jamaicans, etc.
   - LGBT
   - Senior storytelling
• Vendors
• Tents
• Certificate of liability insurance
• Flow
• Keyport Chili fest
• Highland Park - Arts in the Park
• Budget
  o Vendor fees
  o Donations
    ▪ Sponsors
    ▪ Radio stations
• City - special events - get form from Alicia
• Location: Sunset Park
• Main sponsor - VNA present
• Use Creative Asbury Park list to request interest, vendors
• Branding - kid friendly, should have an agenda
• Food, music, free services
• NAMES
• Cultural tour of Asbury Park
• Asbury Park alive

6.) What resources would be useful in moving forward? (human, technological, financial, etc.)
• Sponsorships
Session #36: Nurture of Students & Parents NOT in Public School?

Convener: Semaj Vanzant, Sr.

Participants: Joanna Tieso, Carla Vanzant, Claudette Blackwood, Karen Escobedo, Angeline E. Brown, Angela A. Anderson, Heather Schulze, Dr. Vernon Brown, Maureen Mulligan, Charles Trott, Isaac Jones, Joe Palazzo, Trudy Syphax, Diane Shelton, Felicia Simmons, Karen O'Neill, Theeany Shannon, G. Brown Simmons, Brian Stokes, Genise Hugh, Katie Grace Pepe, Talmaijah Pipkin, Addy Dawkins

1.) Highlights & key points from your discussion:
   - Parents need to understand the rights they have in regards to child education
   - BIG QUESTION: Why do students dropout and who are the responsible parties?
     - Example to follow: “City As School” in NYC/Chicago
     - External Factors: bully, teachers, curriculum, department of education, homelessness
   - Resources for students not in school
   - Support for students specifically in Middle School students and parents
   - Activities of development for children under 6 years old
   - Program Suggestions:
     - Head start Programs needed. One example is “Ascelero”
     - Citizens Science Programs
     - Program Speaking/communication Programs

2.) Who are the Collaborators?
   - People with passion for kids to develop and implement programs to satisfy action items.
   - Churches who can make available Parent Engagement programs

4.) Who else do we want to invite? (individuals, organizations, agencies, etc.)
   - Corporations and/or individuals who can fund well thought out programs.

5.) Immediate Actions/Next Steps:
   - Night School with child care, food, transportation (other alternative school options)
   - Paid Interest Internship
   - Policy Change with Law makers, candidates for office
   - Partnerships/ Programs to Address External Elements of bully, teachers, curriculum, department of education, homelessness, anxiety, economic oppression.
Session #37: Schools: How to inform students and parents about school resources, get students involved in the community, and get more sports or clubs?

Convener: Fiona Puig, Fenelson Etienne, Bryan Aguilar, Jesus Bartoy

Participants: Joanne Schuh, Victoria Reis, Caileen Waldron, Brendan Meehan, Genise Hughes, Connie Isbell, Carrie Ruddick

1.) Highlights & key points from your discussion:
   - Need for hands on learning and vocational learning within the school
   - Have some clubs/ need more clubs (I have ways of providing some of these services through my nonprofit work)
   - Need to motivate the student body to engage in clubs/ school/ community
   - No theater/ need for theater programs (David Rossetti’s dream, was not at this group but I am copying him in the email)
   - Talk of starting an Asbury Park Youth Council
   - Students want internships (Genise Hughes said that this exist within the school and may be able to elaborate on it more)
   - Mayor met with the students and asked if they wanted to start an Asbury Park Youth Council
   - The students said yes!!!
   - Mayor stated that it should be run through the City Manager with no more than 2 council members so the students can get the most done. (I believe this is so the students will not be overwhelmed with a public meeting. I might have misunderstood this.)
   - I will find information to be shared with Genise that describes the model of the Paterson Youth Council.
   - Council will learn about government to empower themselves, school, and community.
   - Questions about how to involve students from various schools and dropouts
Session #38: Tourism - Can We \ Will We Create Asbury Park as THE Destination Place of NJ and How?

Convener: Conrad Neblett

Participants: Christy O’Connor, Mike Sodano, Jen Souder, Kathryn Cleary, Conrad Neblett, Harriett Rubin, Kathleen Melgar, Robert Stewart, DeeDee Montanaro, Betty Israel, Natasha Davis, Fiona Puig, Alexandra Luther, Henose Valcin, John Moor, Brendan Meehan, Joanne Schuh, Danielle Acerra, Sheila Etienne, Nancy Shields, Victoria Reis, Jenn Hampton, Charles Trott, Lorraine Stone, Hannah Walker, Connie Isbell, Digna Diaz, Marcia Blackwell

1.) Highlights & key points from your discussion:
   - Artist link to history
   - Tourism app
   - Walking tour app
   - Asburyparknow.com is a good resource
   - Garden spaces at schools
   - Address public intoxication on weekends so tourist are not turned off and stop coming to Asbury
   - Date night package links (art gallery| restaurants| movie etc.)
   - Westside musical heritage trail (walk | bike)
   - Promote businesses (daytime events \ family events i.e. Krampus)
   - Apps as an economic driver (music, visual, performance\collaboration strengths)
   - Intergenerational involvement
   - Springwood park concerts for residents and tourist
   - Monmouth County MoCo Arts Walk – they may be able to help promote and offer funding
   - Structure and process
   - The mayor advised that there is no tourism council – we discussed the possibility of creating one
   - There is no arts council
   - Creating an identity of a Spa \ wellness town
   - Acknowledge negative perception of AP and come up with some creative ways to turn it around
   - Marketing and social media to push events
   - How does AP promote new business
   - WE (the city the people) need to set the tone, inclusion
   - Create a tourist Board – Conrad will have further conversations with the Mayor
   - Businesses are functioning as defacto tourist centers
   - Youth involvement
   - Humans of AP
• AP music foundation use as a resource
• Use twitter
• Advocate for cultural planning at masterplan assessment
• Interest from Monmouth County tourism ALREADY exists. Capitalize on it! Maybe they can help create an AP tourism guide, fund tourism projects
• AP representation on Monmouth County tourism board
• “Fish” carousel on boardwalk where the old one was
• Create art, science, tech, entertainment space, discovery “exploratorium” on west side
• Bring back ice skating on boardwalk
• Asburynow.com video by iStar is good but does not acknowledge cultural heritage of AP

2.) Who is taking the Lead?
• Conrad Neblett