



United Arts Fund Check In Call

June 30, 2020

3:30 – 4:30 p.m. EDT

Recording available upon request

I. Revisit reopening conversations, patron needs assessments updates, specific work around BLM?

St. Louis – framework in place after Ferguson to address racial equity. We own a facility, it's an arts incubator. Space for 20-25 orgs. who have access to office admin services. After Ferguson, worked to address barriers to small orgs that were seeing barriers and set a goal to diversify tenant population. Eliminated "best practice" barriers in our grantmaking. How can we make funds more readily available? Are continuing that work moving forward. Have great information available in St. Louis re: reopening. MO Arts Council spearheading the patron needs assessment. Putting together opening certification process for arts venues to train employees. Arts Safe Certification.

ArtsWave – participating in a [Wolf Brown](#) assessment on reopening. Longitudinal survey every month. Doing 20 organizations and get real time data and compare across markets. Audience outlooks haven't moved. People aren't comfortable about returning. Museums are beginning to reopen. Mixed results of people voluntarily wearing masks. Causing concern about making people think about making masks required. One thing to make a plan vs actual reopening. For museums – concern about how to force masks – didn't want staff to have to enforce. But now the frontline teams are saying that it needs to be rethought. Then how to source enough masks (ArtsWave is producing and providing masks – a little bit branded). Racial equity – grantmaking program in hand for Black led orgs – announced \$250k to black led organizations. Board met on Juneteenth – fund 70 artists who created BLM mural in Cincinnati.

Binghamton – Mixed reactions from the board on how to respond to BLM. Put together a statement in support of BLM and artists of color, and promoted Black organizations; saw different reactions from the board. With regards to re-opening – the arts council is an umbrella for the arts and has a gallery and retail store. Put the online so artists could sell online and opened last week to public. We run the First Friday, none of the galleries wanted to open.

ArtsFund – just distributed another ½ million in relief funds. Had a focus on BIPOC artists. Doing work in strategic planning in the reshape of ArtsFund – DEI and equity work is front and center. Would love input from others on how you have done that work at the board level. Looking for long-term equity plans for the board.

St. Louis – response: Gauge the readiness of the board – organizational make up of the board. Organizational readiness – have to have the right board and involve the staff. Create a grants committee that is ready. Learning comes from 30-40 year practices – thrown a lot of that away to reduce barriers to unrestricted operating support.

Denver Arts & Venues – will share data and training plan. Ask staff and board if they're ready to do the work. If staff isn't willing, it won't move. Board was part of understanding what DEI meant. Re-evaluating every grant part of the grant program. Tracked demographic information from board, staff and selection panels. Goal is always operationalizing equity and embedding those practices. ReTool – Equity in the panel

process. Every team has an EDI goal in their evaluation. At every commission and board meeting, EDI is a topic and part of the agenda. Making it something that is always part of the conversation.

Durham, NC – offices back open but community is not close to reopening. Durham has a recovery task force. Each industry group has a roundtable that is meeting. All economic sectors have table – Arts Council are involved in several roundtables. Everything that they do must reflect the full community they serve. Very diverse community. Board finally reached ½ people of color. Report to the board on all programs. Mandate from state arts council that in order to regrant state funds, have to match diversity percentages of community. Recently launched arts recovery fund – strategy was to extend recovery grants to arts nonprofits and to arts businesses. If they are part of creative ecosystem and they are eligible for funding. New for Durham and very exciting. Arts businesses haven't been eligible for anything previously.

II. Emergency relief funds becoming permanent funds? Impact on fundraising/grantmaking?

Denver – for those that lost jobs in 24 hours, immediate shift, but utilizing basic system and removed barriers. No final report. Understanding that things will be shifted and have to look at everything – looking at this through a rubric. Held a BIPOC artist townhall. Been critical in terms of getting feedback on how to respond to COVID and racism. Create those spaces to allow people to feel safe.

Barb – value of specific capacity building programs vs adjusting all grantmaking programs – important convo to have. Ford Fdn invested in CETA era orgs called Working Capital – trying to find this report. Orgs that have their own culture and trying to mold them to the c3 model was not helpful – programs work in their own context.

St. Louis – paused fundraising campaign which has been very challenging from a revenue side. Make a lot of funding decisions based on the campaign. Will resume in July. Million-dollar campaign will resume in September. Almost no employee engagement. Pivoted to developing assets around the campaign that can be access digitally. Online trivia is popular! Pandemic budget. Looking at 35-50% reduction in revenue. Been performing better than that. Changed operating support because other pools are privately funded. Not everything comes out of the 1 campaign pot. Lots of dialing for dollars.

Oklahoma City – extended campaign for 30 days. Were very far from goal. Raise money during the pandemic and oil crisis, and heavily impacted by racial unrest. But this has opened up opportunities they haven't had before. Working up the pipeline (city, county, state, federal). Foundation funds have opened up. Workplace giving – pleased with results. Did videos, conducted campaigns via zoom, goal was \$700k, will get to \$680. May have best campaign ever. Part of it has been the advocacy efforts on every level. Had 1 anonymous donor of \$250k. Launched central OK relief fund for the arts (\$160k) – three stages – stage 2 and 3. Already had 1 arts casualty. It's the domino that has started. The schools have just announced they won't allow community partners. For many people that is their main function.

Meeting Chat

- Dara Silver : Article on our BLM participation in Winston-Salem, NC
https://www.yesweekly.com/news/promoting-unity-while-demanding-change-through-public-art/article_dee01ea8-b02d-11ea-962f-b797692f6700.html
- Kate McOmber (Greater Hartford Arts Council) : I would appreciate that info around DEI work at the board level as well!

- Tariana Navas-Nieves (she/her) - Denver Arts& Venues : 1-CEO and at least Board Chair MUST agree to do the work, even if they do not know how to go about it.
- Tariana Navas-Nieves (she/her) - Denver Arts& Venues : 2-Set external and internal goals related to grants, programming, staffing, data tracking
- Michael Greer (he/him) - ArtsFund - Seattle, WA : I would love to hear thoughts on what Cynthia mentioned in regard to DEI as a stand-alone initiative vs having it as part of other goals.
michaelgreer@artsfund.org
- Tariana Navas-Nieves (she/her) - Denver Arts& Venues :
<http://www.artsandvenuesdenver.com/diversity-equity-and-inclusion-initiative> - Look for the Re-Tool: Racial Equity in the Panel Process
- Tariana Navas-Nieves (she/her) - Denver Arts& Venues : Always, at least 50% of your board representation, grantees, should be BIPOC, and historically marginalized communities. Focus should be to be Race EXPLICIT not Race EXCLUSIVE.
- Lara Garritano NEA : General update from NEA: Next application deadline for Grants for Arts Projects/Local Arts Agencies funding program is coming right up on July 9. (project support grants for programming, services to the field, and subgranting ranging from \$10K to \$100K)
- Barbara Schaffer Bacon : <https://www.barrfoundation.org/blog/four-lessons-from-five-years-barr-klarman>
<https://www.americansforthearts.org/by-program/reports-and-data/legislation-policy/naappd/community-based-arts-organizations-a-new-center-of-gravity> (author: Ron Chew)
- <http://www.pluralculture.org/programs-services/figuring-the-plural-book/>
- Michael Greer (he/him) - ArtsFund - Seattle, WA : wing-luke is a great org
- Barbara Schaffer Bacon : <https://www.tbf.org/nonprofits/grant-making-initiatives/live-arts-boston>
- From Tariana Navas-Nieves (she/her) - Denver Arts& Venues : Participatory grantmaking - We partner with every commission led by the community focused on all historically marginalized groups: African American commission, Latino commission, American Indian, AAPI, People with Disabilities, LGBTQ+, Immigrant & Refugee, etc. We give them funding to distribute, and THEY design the process AND make decisions.