



United Arts Fund Monthly Network Call

August 31, 2021

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Call recording available upon request.

UAF/Community Arts Funders Sharing Document:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mXbbNePr4Hk6oqDPj9DS3xf9-FU-sxTllaCDlasba88/edit?usp=sharing>

I. Updates

Memphis – Just finished arts information meeting talking to different arts organizations about where everyone is at from vaccination, masking, things for staff, venues, audiences. Had over 50 organizations participate. Talk about what would the sector like to do. All spoke up and said, ‘this is what the sector believes, and this is what we choose to do re: masks and vaccines.’ Sent out survey to all organizations to find out what everyone was already doing. Bell curve of requiring vaccinations of staff, requiring masks, questions about youth programs. Not everyone is in the same place, but there can hopefully be a statement formulated on behalf of the sector. Has been a great conversation and has engaged a big cross section of community. Have a big music festival coming up in October.

Seattle – State has an indoor mask mandate, all of large organizations and venues have required vaccines and masks. Talking with City to lobby for public dollars to support staff in checking vaccinations. Sector is in favor but there is a public safety aspect as well as a staffing issue to do that. Not a venue issue, is a public health issue and should be supported by the state/city/county. Passed capacity plan to increase headcount. Bringing on full grants department, adding staff on programming. Ramp up as the orgs move into more spaces. Internally everyone should be vaccinated, but not scheduled to go back into office until January. Focusing on producing rather if people go back to the office.

Dayton – working to have unified voice around COVID. No one is asking for proof of vaccination yet in Dayton, but everyone is asking for masks. Venues are starting to pick up on it so not blaming the celebrities. But otherwise, it’s venue by venue. 2020 was the surprise funding wise, this year and next are harder as emergency funding goes away.

Oklahoma City – Were able to end year with \$3.6 million – largest in organizational history. Had one significant gift at the end of campaign. Had 3 arts organizations had to close doors, looking at potentially 10 that might close. Governor has made it difficult for arts groups. Venues have taken different stance from Governor. All venues announced proof of vaccination or negative test within 24-hour period. ARP funds is another job. Applied at city, state, and county being passed around. City postponed funding decision until September. Made progress on all applications, strong advocates, asked for big numbers, but will likely get much less. Keeping up with that advocacy has been difficult. Brought all arts groups together, the ‘great resignation’ is real – people want 15-20% raises in addition to losing staff. Redesigning workplace to make Allied Arts a desirable place to work. Will have to incorporate even more attractive place to work. People want the flexibility.

Question: ArtsMemphis has small staff, one person had to step down, already replaced them, had amazing candidates. Has it been challenging to find replacements for positions?

Denver Arts & Venues – Not part of general fund, earn all income. Who makes the mandates? Venue or performer? It's helpful when the artist makes the mandate, it's helpful for the venue. Venues offering rapid tests onsite. Still having conversations with cultural groups about mandates. Takes \$1.5 million every month to run the venues – moving into depleting that bucket. Received \$10 million grant from SVOG. Launched next cycle of CARES funding. ARPA funding is coming on but with longer timeline. Still have tax revenue from SCFD as people kept spending money from home – saw less of a drop than expected.

Memphis – planning big fundraiser that was cancelled last year. Wondering what folks are doing for fundraising plans for remainder of this year or early next?

Lexington – same boat, it's a 50th anniversary year with 4 events planned. Going to pay attention to the week after Labor Day – there will likely be a surge after Labor Day.

OK City – Had a summer event planned and it was in the period of time where things were safer. Have an 800-person event in October that just moved outdoor. Pre-event that has been cancelled. Every single event has been planned 3 ways as contingency for different health scenarios.

Have attendees hung in there with OK City with date changes? People have stayed with them, with virtual event gave option to give money back and only a handful asked for money back. People want the guarantee that they're going to be in person.

What is the value proposition behind these events? Before, it was gathering, convening, maybe all of that is not the same. Does having the event have the same value? Zoom has made it easier to have 1-offs with people. Some folks feel more connected. Social justice, accessibility, fundraisers are not accessible. Ask the question of 'why' do these things.

Broome Co – restoring building, working with the chamber, and trying to move into building but building was given to another organization.

What can this group do? Seattle has downtown recovery group; is there a way we can bring city folks together to talk about something? What can we do to help get some traction across communities?

Agenda for the USUAF Meeting. No one has capacity to put this together.

Saved Notes from Chat Box:

EDA state and competitive grants: <https://eda.gov/arpa/travel-tourism/>