

**NO Cultural Roundtable Working Meeting
December 30, 2006
Contemporary Arts Center
10 AM - 4:30 PM**

MEETING SUMMARY:

Attendees:

Stephanie Atkins - National Performance Network, Carol Bebelle - Ashe CAC, Eric L. Cager - Music Business Institute, Tyrone Casby - Mohawk Hunters Mardi Gras Indian Councils, MaryLen Costa - Arts Council of New Orleans, Norman Dixon - Young Men's Olympian Ben., Joy Glidden, Ariana Hall - Cuba NOLA Collective, Cherice Harrison - Nelson-Mardi Gras Indian Hall of Fame, Scott Hutcheson - LA Cultural Economy Foundation, Charlie Johnson - NCA, NOAAM, Lorraine Jones - Tekrema Center for Culture and Arts, Karen Kaialivers - ACT - 1, Horizon Institute, Elite Talent Agency, Karen Kern - Arts Council of New Orleans, Sarah Lemoine - National Performance Network, Donald Lewis - ACT - 1, Young Audiences, Don Marshall - NO Jazz & Heritage Foundation, Frederick Mead, Greer Mendy - Tekrema Center for Culture and Arts, Gene Meneray - Arts Council of New Orleans, Rudy E. Mills, Sr., Saskia Ozols - New Orleans Academy, Noella Santos, Mat Schwarzman - Crossroads Project, Tammy Terrell - Ashe CAC, Bev Trask - Tulane, New Orleans Dance Fest, MK Wegmann - National Performance Network, June Wilson - National Performance Network, Mimi Zarsky - National Performance Network

We began the meeting with a welcome and introductions. In the introductions we asked attendees to introduce themselves by sharing their organizational affiliations (such as representatives as staff personnel, board members or any other direct affiliation) as well as their artistic affiliations. The following list reflects the organizations and art forms represented at the meeting:

- National Performance Network
- Stage to Stage
- New Orleans Academy of Fine Arts
- Junebug Productions
- Contemporary Arts Center
- Uprooted
- Transforma
- Ashe
- O.C. Haley Cultural Corridor
- Ford Culture Shaping Committee
- Bring New Orleans Back
- Truth be told
- West Bank West Fest
- Mardi Gras Indian Council
- Tekrema Center for Art and Culture
- N'kafu – African Dance
- ACNO
- Parks and Parkways
- NORD
- Libraries
- Coliseum Square Association
- Young Audiences
- Alliance of Community Theaters
- Act 1's New Orleans Black Theater Festival
- Uptown Musical Theater
- NO African American Music
- Elite Talent Agency
- Horizon Initiative

- LA Cultural Economy Foundation
- Crossroads Project
- Dumbo Arts Center
- The Porch
- St. Claude Main St. Project
- NCECA
- NO Jazz and Heritage Foundation
- Heritage School of Music
- Sweet Home New Orleans
- SEED loan program
- NO. Blues Festival
- Fiesta Latina
- Fem Fest
- Alvar Library
- NO Photo Alliance
- Ogden Museum of Southern Art
- LA Division of the Arts
- Tulane
- NO Dance Festival
- Mardi Gras Indian Hall of Fame
- Guardians of the Flame
- Indigenous Fine Arts Series – Life histories of tradition bearers
- Young Men Olympians
- Norman Dixon Sr. Foundation
- Music Business Institute
- Gambit Weekly
- Big Easy Foundation
- LA Living History Program
- AFTRA
- CubaNola collective
- Latin Music Coalition
- Studio in the Woods
- New Orleans Social Aide and Pleasure Club Task Force
- NO Dance Collective
- SUNO

Following introductions we made a meeting contract. An agreement about how we would conduct ourselves throughout the course of the meeting. The meeting contract was as follows:

- It's okay to leave/get up
- If using acronyms, please define
- Focus your points for discussion
- Please don't repeat
- Create space for clarification
- Silence cell phones
- Don't interrupt
- Big items that can't be resolved will be moved to "a parking lot" for future discussions

We then articulated our expectations for the day. They were:

- The group would support important initiatives
- The days work would be realistic within the UNOP framework
- That we would also envision beyond UNOP
- That steering committee would be formed
- That we would realize a need/mandate for a cultural policy
- Have a better sense of what's happening
- That the vision would be progressive and inclusive
- That concise actions would be created
- Participants would have a better knowledge of resources
- That there would be an appreciation for and inclusion of community based artists

- Calendar
- That there would be a sense of fair play
- Minutes from this meeting
- We would identify who is responsible
- Potential collaborations would be identified
- That the bounce/hip hop/ latino communities are included
- A Contact list would be circulated
- We would find a common language for our discussion

We took several steps to lay the groundwork for our discussion by identifying and claiming the whole culture of New Orleans. This involved naming the elements of culture which make up the breadth of New Orleans' cultural community.

Elements/entities included:

- Arts Centers
- Neighborhood Programs
- Church Programs
- Quality of Life Providers
- Literary
- Libraries
- Celebrations
- Film, video, and media
- Arts Council
- Social Aide and Pleasure Club's
- Community Based Organizations
- National Spotlight
- Parades
- Sites
- Foundations
- Theaters
- Arts workers
- Spoken word
- Faculty
- Street culture
- Tourism
- Music clubs
- Festivals
- Co-op
- Art market
- Individual artists
- City and state
- Food
- Producing Companies
- Museums
- Green Markets
- Choruses
- Mayor's office of...
- Supporters
- New Blood
- Symphony
- Presenters
- Opera
- Studios
- School programs
- National organizations
- National historic landmarks
- Mardi Gras Indians
- Benevolent Societies
- Public Art
- School Programs K-12
- Higher Education
- Alliances and
- Craft
- Architecture programs

The final step for creating a framework for our decisions included a discussion which allowed everyone to name their vision for the arts and culture community in 2027.

Visions that emerged included:

- Community Space for Artists

- Recognition of Visual Arts Community – Global0
- Deep Bench of Young Artists
- Educational Leader in Music, Arts and Culture
- Equitable Ecology
- Stronger funding infrastructure
- Ashe – home, leaders, endowed
- NPN – expand national and local programs
- Harmonious relationship with the police
- Equitable multiculturalism
- Naming ourselves – neighborhood and community groups
- LA Artworks Thriving
- All public schools filled with art and artists
- Midsized exhibition spaces
- Economic support system for artists
- No tension between culture, art and entertainment
- City revenue stream for arts and culture funding
- PCA – coordination/steering committee (multi-parish)
- More National organizations in New Orleans
- Appreciation of arts and culture
- West Fest – growth
- Arts use of blighted property
- National promotion of New Orleans Artists
- Schools as neighborhood culture centers
- Part of the international community
- Creative thinking about communities
- Tekrema – home
- Mardi Gras Indian culture – embraced as a community event
- Investment in the arts
- Apprenticeships
- Distribution of arts services

After a break we created a project inventory by listing all the projects that we knew of or were directly involved in. We were to only name projects that were currently underway or on the verge and not projects that were being envisioned. This inventory included:

- Support and Expand the Arts in Education Alliance – to include long term educational involvement; artists as teachers; teacher training; and art integration into the curriculum
- New Orleans Black Theater Festival / Act I
- The Cutting Edge Music Business Conference and Roots Music Conference
- West Fest Indian Parade and Festival – including all the community activities surrounding the festival
- Draft a cultural plan and policies for the city
- WPA Style program to employ artists to address identified public needs
- Establish a reoccurring arts and culture grant funding to individuals and organizations by creating a dedicated city revenue source.
- Tax credits for and investment in arts and entertainment
- Provide artist grants for gigs/schools (NO Musician’s Clinic, NO Musician’s Hurricane Relief Fund). This impacts artists , clubs and small businesses, schools, children, neighborhoods, communities, and rebuilding.

- Make sure that artists are on the list of special housing needs.
- Establish an artists housing fund.
- Establish a cultural facilities fund.
- Utilize school as neighborhood centers for cultural activity.
- Invest in our creative base.
- Raise support for projects developed by indigenous tradition bearers.
- Create community centers offering arts workshops, cultural seminars, and events.
- Ashe CAC – Touring works, presenting works and produced works.
- Create a cultural policy for the city that gives all New Orleans art and culture structure and support.
- Establish the Theater District tax credits.
- The New Orleans Social Aid and Pleasure Club Taskforce
- Establish visual arts tax credits.
- Approach national funders to create a sustainable endowment for arts/culture grants.
- The Neutral Ground Project
- ELLA Project
- L.I.F.T.
- New Orleans Renaissance Society
- Lt. Gov. Office and Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism
- Leveraging Investments in Creativity for individual artists
- Support a “Broadway South” in District 1
- New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival community grants
- New Orleans Dance Festival
- Jazz and Heritage Foundation – 6 new festivals
- A New Muse
- NewOrleansVoice.com
- Louisiana Cultural Economy Foundation
- Truth be Told
- The Porch (an arts organization)
- S.E.E.D. Micro Loan Program
- New Orleans Photo Alliance
- Coordinate efforts of the Downtown Development District, New Orleans Tourism and Marketing Corp, and the New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau to promote New Orleans globally.
- NOLAFunGuide.com
- New Orleans Arts Tourism Partnership
- Empowerment CD’s and entertainment
- Louisiana Living History Project
- Mardi Gras Indian Hall of Fame
- Mexican/Banda/Border Music presentations
- Getty Visual Arts audience project
- Human rights film festival
- Heritage to legacy
- Shakespeare festival
- Teaching and lecturing on professional career development for visual artists.
- Teaching and lecturing on Creative Capital Culture and Community Development
- Katrina Monologues and V-Day
- Cinque Group Theater Season
- Holiday on the Boulevard Festival
- National arts publication based out of New Orleans highlighting New Orleans culture
- “The Sky Is Blue”
- MAAFA (Community Celebration)
- Affordable housing advocacy for community artists
- NO Library Renovations for Arts and Cultural Programming
- Tekrema Center for Arts and Culture
- Push use of blighted property for artists/arts groups
- NPN’s Shared Business Center

- Mahalia Jackson and Armstrong Park restoration
- City Park restoration
- New Orleans Academy for Fine Arts programs
- Jazz and Heritage Museum
- Renovation of NORD facilities that would allow for artist-based programming
- Renovation of “Abandoned” theater as workspaces for artists – all disciplines
- Neighborhood Civic and Arts Center
- Develop and Secure Cultural Arts Site in Algiers Community
- New Orleans Mardi Gras Indian Museum
- Public Art
 - WPA – type program
 - Private developers with dedicated money
 - Community outreach
 - Maintenance and conversation of our public monuments
- Main Street Projects
- Civil Rights Museum
- Side By Side
- Sweet Home New Orleans: Housing
- LA Artworks
- Explore Afro-Caribbean influences in our New Orleans dance tradition
- Institute for Cultural Education for teachers
- Big Chief and Big Queen Book Club
- Heritage School of Music
- KidSmart
- Arts in Education Alliance
- CubaNOAL – N.O. and Latino performance curriculum project
- Young Men Olympians Cultural Center
- Ecos Latinos
- Memorials
- Manchester Craftsman’s Guild
- Apprenticeship and internship programs to introduce youth to occupations in creative industries
- Digital Film Institute
- Community Book Center- Reading Program
- African American Museum – Cultural Program
- Rudy’s Caribbean Funk Band
- Young Audiences
- NORD and Artist Partnership
- Restoration and Preservation of N.O. Historical architectural inventory
- Educational outreach – teachers and community groups
- Creative forces
- Indigenous Fine Arts Series in schools
- Big Easy Foundation
- Collect life histories of community artists
- Reach out to funders
- Transforma Projects
- Big List
- A Studio in the Woods Environment/Arts
- Inter FEST
- CubaNOLA – N.O. Tradition bearer self-documentation initiative
- Create public/private partnerships to carry out and sustain all projects
- Culture Shapes Community
- New Orleans Film Festival
- Horizon Initiative – Collaborate

We then took the inventoried projects listed above and categorized them underneath their most appropriate BNOB Objective (see enclosed hand-out for the five BNOB objectives). This categorization enabled us to see how individual projects could be supported by

broad umbrella projects, thus avoiding the need to select one organization's pet project over another. Once all of the projects were categorized we prioritized them by naming 2-3 key projects that could be created to umbrella several projects and meet UNOP's focus on Recovery. The three recovery projects that emerged as efforts appropriate for UNOP were:

1) A WPA style project to employ artists – based on identified public needs.

Potential components include:

- Existing models include artist grants for gigs and schools – New Orleans Musicians Clinic, NO Musician's Hurricane Relief Fund, Musician's Clinic – impacts artists, clubs, small business, schools, children, neighborhoods, communities, rebuilding
- Tax credits for investment in arts and entertainment
- Recurring and expanded arts/cultural grant funding – for individuals and organizations – from dedicated city revenue source. Multi-year funding preferred.

Task force: Kaia, Gene, Tammy, Don, Ariana, Mat, Greer, Joy (convener)

2) Facilities Funds

- Cultural facilities fund
- Artists housing fund – and/or ensuring that artists are on the list for housing needs, recognition of artists' particular needs for housing.

Task force: Carol, Rudy, Jordan, MK (convener)

3) Utilizing schools as neighborhood centers for cultural activity

- Integrating arts and cultural education into schools
- Increasing funding support for arts and culture
- Increasing artist training for educational settings
- Increasing teacher training to integrate arts into daily curriculum
- Life-long learning opportunities for post-school individuals
- Venues for cultural activity
- Integration with "Nexus" idea

Task force: Charlie, Don, Bev (convener)

Additionally, several other long-term issues emerged for future discussion and visioning:

- Supporting festivals and annual events, including West Fest Indian Parade and Festival (plus year long community activities), Cutting Edge Music and Business Conference and Roots Music Gathering, New Orleans Black Theater Festival (and ACT One)
- Encouraging the Arts in Education Alliance at ACNO to include life long education, support long-term educational involvement, expand horizons and clout
- Development of a comprehensive, grass-roots-attentive cultural plan and policy.

New Orleans Cultural Roundtable
Working Meeting 12/30/06

Agenda

Welcome and Introductions

- What hats are you wearing?
- Making the meeting contract
- Expectations of the day

Ground Work

- Claiming the whole culture of New Orleans
- Mapping pre-/post-Katrina sense of cultural community
- Vision 2027

Project Inventory

- Identifying projects that are underway or on the verge
- Categorizing according to BNOB Objectives

Project Assessment and Affirmation

- Assessing named projects for need, impact and risk
- Affirming high need/impact, low-moderate risk projects

Project Details (if time allows)

- Filling in more details about named projects

Next Steps

- How to get additional detail on named projects
- How to capture other major projects not named

Evaluation and Wrap Up

Overall Time Frame:

10:00 – 10:30 am	gather
10:30 – 1:15 pm	working session
1:15 – 1:45 pm	lunch
1:45 – 4:00 pm	working session
4:00 – 4:30 pm	wine and cheese

BNOB Cultural Sector Recommendations

Rebuilding the cultural economy of New Orleans is a multi-faceted, multi-decade challenge and opportunity. The BNOB Commission's Cultural Committee recommended 20 investments in five distinct but mutually reinforcing areas:

Invest in our creative talent pool by assisting artists, cultural institutions and cultural entrepreneurs.

1. Provide funding to restore cultural organizations to full operation.
2. Assist artists regain their footing with cultural employment that serves the public.
3. Provide loans and grants to develop and market cultural products, and offer training and business support to cultural entrepreneurs.
4. Develop online, e-commerce resources to connect artists, cultural organizations and associations to audiences and markets.

Support neighborhood-based cultural traditions, repair damaged cultural facilities and build new cultural venues.

5. Repair and restore uninsured damage to cultural properties.
6. Develop housing and work spaces for artists and cultural workers.
7. Support community-based cultural traditions and rebuild or develop community art centers and cultural attractions in all neighborhoods.
8. Raise the City's Percent for Art Ordinance to Two Percent.
9. Develop the National Jazz Center and Linear Jazz Park, and expand and enhance the Arts District.

Market New Orleans as a world-class cultural capital.

10. Aggressively promote the City's signature cultural offerings.
11. Develop a marketing campaign that blends cultural promotion with the rebuilding of the City.
12. Improve signage, orientation, translation and hospitality services.
13. Strategically export our cultural treasures to markets around the world.

Teach our arts and cultural traditions to our young people.

14. Develop curricula on Louisiana's cultural history and cultural resources.
15. Strengthen training for teachers on Louisiana's arts and culture.
16. Expand Artists-in-Schools programs.
17. Partner schools with local arts organizations and businesses.

Attract new investment from national and international sources and develop comprehensive information to ensure that investments are made wisely and their impact understood.

18. Create a comprehensive information database on the cultural sector, and conduct an economic impact study of Katrina's damage to the creative industries.
19. Promote national and international partnerships with Sister City, Adopt-a-City and Neighbor-to-Neighbor initiatives.
20. Develop a coordinated framework for national and international investment in the cultural sector and work with leading funders to secure resources.