



Community Needs Assessment

Arts & Culture Sector

May 23, 2011

4:30-6:30pm, Orcas Fire Hall

Attending: Sharon Abreu, Marilyn Anderson, Doug Bechtel, Karen Greene, Phil Heikkinen, Jill McCabe Johnson, James Lobdell, Kara O'Toole, Ann Ramsey, Todd Spalti, Patsy Stephens, Joyce Stone

Rachel Adams, Diane Berreth, Hilary Canty, Coleen O'Brien, and Kate Long attended from OICF.

What is working? (All respond)

- Depth and breadth of community
- Cooperative effort among artists, especially at Artworks; enthusiastic
- Collaborations are fabulous when they happen
- Awareness and involvement of community in arts and culture on Orcas—people care
- Magnificent enthusiasm of parents, community, everyone!
- Music program at the public school is working—there are two teachers now and the progress in students abilities is remarkable
- So many opportunities as an amateur artist to get involved; blending of amateur and professional
- Kids are free and comfortable on stage and with their artistic side; they have a chance to celebrate as artists themselves
- Passion of artists in our community
- OICMF is amazing
- Performing arts facilities are working well
- All of the people in different groups/oOrganizations bringing arts to our school children so they experience a variety of arts
- History of involvement in our cultural institutions on our island
- Arts are predominant on our island—makes for a very rich community
- Strong support of Orcas Center
- Friends of the Library is strong and working well
- Great many learning opportunities—so many to chose, especially for our size community
- Strength = talented people on Orcas

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Question #:1 What Community Needs Are Not Being Met?

Group 1 (Doug's group)

- Not a central place physically or online in our town where artists can coordinate and communicate; where people can “see” what’s happening ● ● ● ● ●
- No affordable umbrella culture arts facility for classes, displays, info, demonstrations, and performances ● ●
- Lack of financial support for artists ●
- Lack of/insufficient visual and performing arts education and mentoring ●
- Lack of willing and active board membership—willing to work/do ●
- Lack of affordable performance space
- Lack of community et. al. ability to see artists at work
- Need for sufficient mentoring (in the arts) program
- Lack of sensitivity of arts institutions toward artists ●
- Lack of commitment on part of community to commit or commit on time (eg. signing up for classes/buying tickets) ● ●
- Little coordination among similar groups (including dates, central calendar not used)
- Problem attracting younger and less affluent adults to various art and cultural performance ● ● ●
- No central location on internet for cultural community
- Arts community is asked to donate more than is reasonable ● ● ●
- Low awareness existing networking tools
- Lack of community awareness of professional artists worth in terms of marketing/remuneration ● ●
- Inadequate affordable opportunities for children to learn about arts and culture ●

Group 1—Prioritized Listing of Unmet Needs (in no particular order):

- No single place (physical or online) where people can see what’s happening and artists can coordinate and communicate
- Problem attracting younger/less affluent adults to various arts and cultural programs
- No affordable umbrella for arts and culture facility for classes, displays, info, demonstrations, and performances
- Arts community is asked to donate more than is reasonable
- Lack of community awareness of professional artist worth in terms of marketing/remuneration

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- Lack of commitment of community to plan ahead and follow through (signing up and buying tickets).

Question #:1 What Community Needs are Not Being Met?

Group 2 (Hilary's group)

- ✓ Non existing formal/organized studio tours (maybe in progress)
- Lack of access to materials and supplies on island
- Lack of coordinated functions outside of the summer season (focus on tourist not locals) year round programming and transportation support. Expand audience. ●●●●●
- Lack of teacher time (more responsibilities than time) ●
- ✓ Structure and framework is missing for teaching in schools, moving from amateur to professional. Lack of structure among providers and community
- ✓ Highly (specific) skilled volunteers are challenging to find
- ✓ Insufficient facilitation and organization
- ✓ Lack of funding to support visiting artist lodging
- Lack of effective communication between organization and the audience ●●
- ✓ Lack of consistency in media coverage/community calendar
- Poor attendance at events by younger/less financially secure community members ●●●●●
- ✓ Not enough communication among arts groups to carry out missions ●●
- ✓ Limited number of volunteer and sponsor resource
- Lack of subsidies for performances and tickets ●●●
- Need support and direction to support nonprofit business operations/capacity building
- ✓ Not enough community to support the number of artists
- ✓ Challenge in keeping volunteers without burning out; expectations too high
- ✓ Public transportation limited (season & time)
- ✓ No volunteer/knowledge management bank
- ✓ Coordinated/facilitated/administrative coordination ●●●
- ✓ Volunteer—retention, identifying, skills ●●●●●●

Group 2—Prioritized Listing of Unmet Needs (in no particular order):

- Need coordinated volunteer knowledge management retention & training
- Lack of coordinated functions outside of the tourist season and the services needed to support these events (transportation/advertising)

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- Poor attendance at events by younger, less financially secure community members
- Need administrative, communication, facilitation support
- Lack of subsidies/support for performances and tickets

Core Learnings from Today (All)

- Good to know so many in this room feel as disconnect as I do
- We truly do need a cultural arts center—one central location
- If you get a group of the right islanders together with a good methodology it will create ideas and collaborations
- Neat to see everyone with items in common
- Issues are the same here on Orcas as they are in a big city like Seattle
- There is a sympathetic ear to my frustrations
- Learned helpful specifics today; where there are lacks there are also equal strengths
- There is a lot more going on than I even thought there was!
- I was naïve and underestimating the need for connection
- Affirmation of concerns regarding human resource needs
- Learned more about complexity of our community and there is so much we did not discuss today
- Reminded me about awareness of need for central/shared resources as naturally as possible
- We have the same problems in common with one another
- Struck by over use of asking people to donate
- Reminded of why it is difficult to work and volunteer at the same time—why we don't see so many young people in the room