

Community Education & Policy Committee Meeting

Minutes: October 10, 2017

Attendance: Rev. Antonio Alexander, Zachary Alexander, Erin Brown, William Bumphus, Danny Camacho, Stephanie Fulk, Megan Henderson, Andrea Jandernoa, Sandy Jeffers, Don Sawyer, Mike Schwing, Amanda Wilkerson

Spirit and Place

Each respective exhibition contributor updated on their project:

- Damien Center (Amanda Wilkerson/Andrea Jandernoa) - In the process of creating a dance/performance on stats on homelessness regarding LGBTQ homelessness.
- School on Wheels (Erin Brown) - Recording and interviewing at Wheeler Women's on Wednesday. They will capture 360 photos of the shelter. School on Wheels will interview one family who resides in Wheeler to build a script for the space. A television will screen the images that are a part of the virtual reality headset for those who don't want to wear the headset.
- Volunteers of America (Stephanie Fulk) - Stephanie is creating canvases that display different entries into homelessness, including addictions, PTSD from being a veteran, and leaving jail.
- Homeless Memorial (Mike Schwing) - We will be displaying the names of those who have passed and have experienced homelessness. We talked about possibly having recordings from Matthew's Voice homeless choir as a part of the exhibition also.
- Veteran Homelessness (Andrea Jandernoa on behalf of Emmy Hildebrand) - We will be displaying veteran homelessness statistics on an object. We talked about projecting on a flag, a wheelchair but want to be respectful of the flag and don't want to directly associate veterans with wheelchairs/disability. Talked about also projecting on a uniform.
- Pathway to Recovery (Sandy Jeffers/Andrea Jandernoa) - Creating a structure regarding ideas of shelter and using red tape that has different barriers/reasons that keep people from housing. This will have an interactive component to the art piece that allows the user to identify additional barriers.
- Zine program (Zachary Alexander/Andrea Jandernoa) - Workshops will be led by Andrea Jandernoa, a local teaching artist, and Zach Alexander, CHIP's Community Relations Manager. During each session the facilitators will use the medium, technique and history of zine-making as a way to approach personal storytelling. Participants will be invited to create their own zine about their experiences. As the artmaking progresses, facilitators will invite individuals to explain their work and experiences. This will be captured in an audio recording to be exhibited alongside the final work.

Increase Engagement

The members talked about how participation could be incentivized for individuals who participate in the Homeless Advocacy Council. Several members expressed that participants will need to know that their voice is actually being heard / action is being done if we want to retain members and have continued participation. Rev. Antonio Alexander suggested we could possibly have each camp have a representative at this homeless advocacy council. Don Sawyer mentioned that we'll have to break down the idea that there aren't camps that the City holds in order to accomplish this. Zachary Alexander suggested we'll need Blueprint Council approval to create this council.

Zachary Alexander synthesized the group's discussion and suggested the following:

1. We can't let past failed attempts inform how we attempt to do things this time around.
2. We will want to gather buy-in from both the Blueprint Council and the homeless community members in order to create a most effective Homeless Advocacy Council.
3. The Community Education and Public Policy Committee needs to foster and galvanize the pipeline between the Blueprint Council and the Homeless Advocacy Group in order to keep the communication strong between the two groups.

Mayor 400 Units

Rev. Antonio Alexander suggested issuing a new letter about the 400 units. This letter would support the Mayor's commitment to create the units, as well as hold the City accountable to this commitment. The Community Education and Public Policy Committee members expressed that this would be good to generate and publish a second letter from the Continuum of Care as outlined by Rev. Antonio Alexander.