



LIVABLE
MECK

CULTURE CONNECTIONS THINK TANK

Meeting 2 | October 12, 2015

Represented Organizations and Their Current Initiatives

Cardinal Innovation

On many different committees in the community that have established connections with different cultures in Mecklenburg; Mecklenburg County is a resettlement community for refugees—Project 658 works with refugees; monthly community meeting that specifically reaches out Latino community; organize and attend many “meet and greets”

CPCC

Visual and performing arts program with attendance between 12k – 15k each year; the number one thing that CPCC hears is “we did not know you did that”—have a constant awareness problem

International House

Works predominantly with the immigrant community; offers legal services and education services; facilitates Charlotte’s international connections; always trying to collaborate to avoid repeating work; have culture events throughout the year

For Charlotte

A network of churches that are trying to foster a collaborative culture across churches; “Connect, Collaborate, Create, Convene”; working to “learn” about Charlotte to ensure that the community’s Christian churches are able to serve effectively

Keep Charlotte Beautiful

Have 700 volunteers throughout Charlotte; hoping to diversify volunteer base; offers grants for community beautification

Charlotte Neighborhood and Business Services

Engage with neighborhood associations, offers grants, facilitates meetings, working to diversify participants

Mecklenburg County Community Support Services

Work with several communities on addressing the digital divide; working with City and Charlotte Law School to revitalize community leader development; primarily offer services to veterans and their families, individuals and families who are homeless, individuals and families dealing with domestic violence, and individuals and families dealing with substance abuse

Levine Museum of the New South

NUEVolution Exhibit: explores Latinos in the New South and offers corresponding dialogues services (intact, cross-culture, and for emerging millennial leaders); will be publishing at the end of the week a K-12 curriculum

Camino Community Center

Non-profit organization serving the Latino community; provide health and medical services; provide language services; collaborate with organizations to connect them to the Latino community; program to feed homeless and provide them with services





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Arts and Science Council

Bringing arts and cultural programs to neighborhoods that don't typically engaged with ASC's programs; the goal is to use the library system and park & rec to bring history, art, science, etc. into neighborhoods; has a renewed commitment to provide a vibrant culture life for all—providing accessible relevant programming; Culture Blocks program

Carolina Voices

A community group of singers, always searching for talent from diverse communities; always trying to reach diverse communities; beginning to focus on homelessness—working to give voice to the homeless through annual events

Generation Nation

Work with K-12 students in the classroom and in the community to help them understand how community works—the different perspectives and processes involved

Historic Landmarks Commission

Operates a \$9 million revolving fund that allows for buying, saving, and restoring historic properties

Leadership Charlotte

Runs a 10-month program that works to grow and diversify Charlotte leaders; also offers a one-day “Encounter” program that is geared towards newcomers to CLT but open to everyone

Collaborative Initiative Ideas

Group 1 Ideas

(Tiera from ASC, Amy from Generation Nation, Sue from Carolina Voices, Ronnie from CSS, Denise from N&BS)

- **Put together an exhaustive resource list that is open to the entire community;** CHS has Map initiative—can a connection be made; how to fill this gap, so the solution is sustainable and does not quickly fall out of date?
- What would it look like for leadership development groups such as Community Building Initiative, ASC Leadership Development, Innovation Institute, Generation Nation and Leadership Charlotte to put together **a curriculum (in diverse languages—not just English) that pulls together resources around common themes found in each of the leadership training programs;** can those who are trained be called upon to serve as community leaders?; make sure it is basic, free or low cost, and available in the evening (ensuring its accessibility); allows for greater collaboration across taskforces in the community; can this idea be packaged and taken to a particular sponsor?; Knight Cities Challenge—The Knight Foundation
- CBI currently has a bus tour; what would it look like to have some sort of **bus that tours public art throughout Mecklenburg, features a live performance of some sort, includes a civic component about neighborhoods;** can the current walking tours be expanded outside of down town and expand to include cultural and civic components; have it scheduled so that it rotates through neighborhoods; how do we include those individuals who are not typically labeled “community leaders”
- To be included: Park & Rec, CMS, The Library, CATS

Group 2 Ideas

(Liz from ASC, Amy from Cardinal, Wendy from Camino, Suzanne from CSS)





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- Focus on communication
- ACS hosts Charlotte Culture Guide; what are the existing resources we have for bringing together conversations on what is happening in different parts of Mecklenburg; the new initiative would be to **established communication portals and expand/make more accessible (in different languages)**
- **Ensure cultural and arts programs are accessible (low or no cost) and made available to diverse communities**
- Build a **speaker's bureau** that shares opportunities with diverse populations, serving as the voice that connects groups across dividing lines; goes out into the community (versus asking populations to come to the "leaders"); can this be connected to the leadership training consortium
- Have an **ongoing cultural connections group** that continues to have conversations and share resources
- Utilize media outlets that are already trusted sources of information
- To be included: LGBT Community—Charlotte Pride, Timeout Youth

Group 3 Ideas

(Dan Morrill from HLC, Alma from International House, Rob from For Charlotte, Paul from CPCC)

- Focus on information; communicating it and making sure its utilized
- **Put information online** and use the libraries and schools to reach out to populations who can use the info; educational videos online
- Having **town hall gatherings** where organizations can speak to groups and share their services and teach them how to use it; go into neighborhoods for these gatherings (i.e. churches and apartment complexes)
- To be included: CMS, the Library, a Rep. from the Immigration Taskforce (Alexis Gordon); Latin American Coalition, CATS, Mecklenburg Ministries, Carolina Refugee Center, Sustain Charlotte
- *Connection between Livable Meck and Economic Opportunity Taskforce? (has hired SOLID to develop "train the trainer program")
- Does a list of existing taskforces exist?

Group 4 Ideas

(Donna from Carolina Voices, Elizabeth from Leadership CLT, Eric from Levine Museum)

- The focus should be to access the work that is currently being done (versus creating something new); how to make it a necessity of an organization learn about others, **establish an information hub that communicates information and creates collaborative spaces**; Use Esri?

Final Thoughts

- How to facilitate better the connections between organizations between meetings?
- When you "map" all the available resources, how do you make sure the individuals who need those resources can actually access those resource?
- To include: CharMeck Aging Coalition, Kristen Kellog from CMS International Center, ShareCharlotte.org (Kelly)

