

BC REGIONAL INTEGRATED ARTS NETWORK
NOTES FROM STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION
HELD FRIDAY, MAY 30, 2008
10 am -2:30 pm
Alma VanDusen Room, Vancouver Public Library

In Attendance:

AJ Brown (visual artist & S4DAC Board)	Cate Curtis (The Art Studios)
Linda Chernoff (visual artist and S4DAC Board)	Janet Hinton (writer)
Kirsty Johnston (UBC Faculty)	Richard Marcuse (Arts Consultant)
Cathy McDonald (Theatre Terrific)	Geoff McMurchy (S4DAC)
Joe Moulins (filmmaker)	Irwin Oostindie (Gallery Gachet)
Cleo Pawson (visual artist)	Catherine Pulkinghorn (visual artist)
Alaric Posey (Highs and Lows Choir)	James Sanders (Realwheels)
Janet Scott (singer)	Sarah Sinanan (The Art Studios)
Lawrence Shapiro (filmmaker, dancer)	Stephen Street (Disability Fdn)
Sandra Thomson (facilitator)	Susanna Uchatius (Theatre Terrific)
Maggie Vilvang (Access Works)	

PROPOSED OUTCOMES FOR THE DAY:

- Come to an agreement on an organizational structure for BRIAN
 - Form working groups to take on specific action items to be completed within the next year
1. Everyone introduced himself or herself and as there were a number of people who were attending their first meeting of BRIAN, Geoff gave a brief overview of the process so far:
- At the Society of Disability Arts and Culture (S4DAC) AGM in 2006, questions came up about the 2010 Winter Olympics and funding that might flow therefrom. It was agreed that S4DAC would investigate and share information.
 - The idea for a regional network arose from discussions with Al Etmanski
 - In Sept. 2006 S4DAC convened the first gathering to develop a plan for such a network, hosted by 2010 Legacies Now
 - Richard Marcuse was engaged to conduct a needs assessment and developed a document that was delivered in August, 2007. "A Plan for the Development of Integrated Arts and Culture in British Columbia" recommended that S4DAC be the organization that takes on the work of BRIAN
 - At the Art of Engagement Conference in Vancouver (October, 2007) the steering committee, consisting of Geoff from S4DAC, Irwin from Gallery Gachet and Cathy from Theatre Terrific, formed a small discussion group around network structures.
 - In January 2008 a third gathering was held at Gallery Gachet during a symposium and social event

- In May 2008 the S4DAC Board of Directors conducted a Strategic Planning process facilitated by Sandra Thomson at which it was determined that S4DAC does not have the capacity to take on the leadership of BRIAN
 - That brings us to today. Hopefully this gathering will determine the organizational structure for BRIAN and create a five year vision and a one year action plan to work towards that vision
2. Sandra then presented the group with the mandate and mission extracted from the Oct. 2007 planning document:

MISSION:

To serve the collective interests of BC's Integrated Arts Community.

*Note: during the course of the day it was determined that the Mission Statement needs to be developed by the Governance Committee with wording that will clarify that BRIAN will serve professional disability artists and artists with disabilities and non-profit disability/integrated arts organizations that may provide services to children and youth, arts students, pre-professional, emerging and professional artists.

MANDATE:

- Networking
- Advocacy
- Member Services
- Funding – projects, commissions, research etc.

3. Sandra led a brainstorming session, to create a wish list for what BRIAN can be, five years or more into the future.

BRIAN – FIVE-YEAR VISION: May 2013

- there is a great office in the W2 building with access to gallery space, workshop space, meeting space, a resource center, radio/TV/video/film/creative technology center, rehearsal and performance space
- the space is a “Hub” for members much like Cell Space in San Francisco
- one full time Exec. Director is supported by two part time staff who handle projects, programs and member services
- there is adequate funding to fulfill the mandate
- there is an excellent website with an extensive calendar of events
- there is a list serve, on-line store and on-line magazine for member services
- there is a series of showcases of Integrated Arts in a variety of venues
- BRIAN has a national presence and networks with other provincial, national and international Integrated Arts organizations.
- a capital campaign is being launched for a new building for Integrated Arts as the programs and services have outgrown the space at W2
- tours are organized throughout BC and elsewhere
- some able-bodied arts groups have taken an interest in BRIAN and alliances with other provincial networks/services organizations have been formed

- there is delivery of services and programs around BC in various regions
 - BRIAN is connected with different Arts Councils in various regions
 - professional development workshops are offered
 - mentoring relationships are fostered
 - assistance is provided for grant writing, graphic design and other services
 - BRIAN is a match maker, linking artists and encouraging collaborations between different disciplines, artists and organizations
 - there is a well established, informal social network for disability artists who gather at a great coffee shop/licensed lounge that provides earned revenue to BRIAN
 - there are open-mike nights and other informal opportunities for “pop up” art
 - BRIAN plays a leadership role in the Canada Council’s research into disability arts/artists with disabilities and equity issues
 - there is a well developed corporate sponsorship program and individual donation program
 - BRIAN has a presence at professional training institutions connecting them with disability artists
 - advocacy is high on the agenda
 - there is a speakers bureau of disability artists
 - there is a cross marketing/joint marketing program for BRIAN member organizations
 - there is access to creative technology for members
 - there is a fund to which members can apply for “seed” money, “startup funds” or “matching” funds
 - there are some “cluster” management services for Disability Arts organizations/artists
 - there is a library/archives which supports documentation of projects
 - BRIAN fosters interdisciplinary and cross disability practice within very diverse communities (ethnic, sexual orientation, age, socio-economic, regional)
4. Irwin detailed for everyone the exciting plans for the old Woodward Building – W2 will be opening in September 2009 with 16,000 sq. feet of community arts space. Both BRIAN and S4DAC will have their offices there. Gallery Gachet will relocate to W2 and it is planned that the offices, performance space, studios, workshops, technical services and public areas will begin to form the HUB that was part of the 5-year vision for BRIAN.
5. There followed a detailed discussion about the best way to proceed with BRIAN. One option discussed was to keep BRIAN an informal network without forming a new society with a new board. A second option was to find an existing provincial service organization that would house BRIAN’s activities and projects, such as BC Coalition of People with Disabilities (BCCPD). It was explained that this conversation has been held before and the group agreed that they did not want to be affiliated with the disabled community but rather with the professional arts community. The third option was to form a new society that would be eligible to apply for funding and become a registered charity that could accept donations from Foundations and individuals.

There was a fourth suggestion that BRIAN be formed as a non-profit society but using the newly emerging Social Enterprise model. There was not much knowledge of this option in the room but it was agreed the idea had some merit and could be investigated down the road.

6. Following lunch everyone who remained for the afternoon joined one of three working groups charged with creating one-year action plans to advance the vision.

GOVERNANCE: (Geoff, Irwin, Cathy, Stephen, Janet Scott, James, Kirsty)

ACTION	WHO	WHEN
1. Begin the process to create a non-profit society. Determine size of Board and membership requirements. Research mandates/by-laws of existing orgs. to save time. Prepare documents (Vision, Mission, Mandate, Constitution and bylaws) for approval by members at AGM.	Gov. Committee	July 31/08
2. Open a bank account	Steering Committee	July 31/08
3. Organize follow up meetings: Friday, September 26/08 and Friday, January 30/09 Organize two social networking events Recruit board members and hold first AGM	Steering Committee	fall/08 April/09

MEMBERSHIP: (Janet Hinton, Alaric)

1. Conduct a needs survey of individuals and organizations to determine what services should be a priority for BRIAN. Recruit a graduate student to design and conduct the survey in the fall of '08.
Janet Hinton (with help from Irwin) Aug. 31/08
Alaric to work on what we want to know so student can design questions.
He'll use email to gather ideas from those interested in the survey. Aug. 31/08
2. Determine Membership categories and annual dues structure to be approved at first AGM in April 2009.
Research other networks for membership info and prepare draft for comments
Alaric June 30/08
3. Create BRIAN website using disabled artist/designers that have done this before.
Janet & Irwin June 30/08
Recruit someone to maintain website once it's created
Irwin July /08

ADVOCACY: (Lawrence, Joe, Linda, A.J.)

1. Write a letter heralding BRIAN's participation in W2 project and why it's valuable for BRIAN to be part of the new W2 community.
Geoff/Irwin June 15/08
2. Request support of \$5,000 from Arts Now 2010 Legacies Now for a contract project coordinator to be engaged in the fall of 2008 to advance the process of the formation of BRIAN.
Sandra in final report June 30/08
3. Solicit letters of support for the formation of BRIAN from key influencers and established arts organizations
Project Coordinator Fall /08

7. Everyone was asked to comment on how they felt about the workshop and the decisions that had been made. There was general agreement that good progress had been made and that initial ideas about what BRIAN should be and who it would serve had been reconfirmed. Several people commented that they felt enthused about the idea and were amazed that an action plan with names attached had been created. One participant commented that it is important to find the balance between the dream, the mission and reality.

The steering committee was thanked for their efforts. The support by Arts Now 2010 Legacies Now for the facilitator and the great lunch was recognized and appreciated. The gathering adjourned at 2:30 but people stayed and talked together and learned about interesting projects that are in development...a testament to why BRIAN is needed so people can NETWORK!

respectfully submitted
Sandra Thomson
Development Consultant
sj-thomson @shaw.ca