

January 24 & 25, 2014

Creative Trenton: Call to Collaboration Complete Notes

How do we connect and collaborate to create meaningful partnerships, foster innovation and creatively revitalize Trenton?

Creative New Jersey is dedicated to fostering creativity, innovation, and sustainability by empowering cross-sector partnerships in commerce, education, philanthropy, government, and culture in order to ensure dynamic communities and a thriving economy.

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Preface: Trenton Connects...Collaborates...and Creates!

[I Am Trenton Community Foundation](#) and [Creative New Jersey](#) worked with many local partners to convene Creative Trenton's first Call to Collaboration, a two-day open-space meeting at [Living Hope Empowerment Center](#). More than 125 community stakeholders participated in the event on January 23 and 24, 2014, focused on the central question:

*How do we connect and collaborate to create meaningful partnerships,
foster innovation and creatively revitalize Trenton?*

A diverse group of community members from commerce, education, philanthropy, government, culture, faith-based, community & social service sectors gathered to discuss how to use creativity and innovation to impact Trenton's future. Over one and a half days, the [open space convening](#) bypassed PowerPoint presentations and panel discussions for more than 50 authentic, community-led conversations, during which several common themes emerged from the group discussions, including:

1. Many attendees expressed support for innovative solutions to address intractable societal challenges. A group discussing the challenge of mass incarceration talked about decriminalizing marijuana by ordinance to channel limited police resources and prevent the destruction of young lives for nonviolent drug offenses. Several groups discussed utilizing foreclosed and abandoned properties within Trenton to encourage artists moving into the city, similar to Detroit. Another discussion centered on immigration and a desire to create a safe haven for undocumented immigrants. Many attendees encouraged others to remember the last, the least and the lost.
2. There was broad agreement about the need to support and retain local businesses in Trenton. Several groups discussed a desire to attract additional commercial property and how best to balance community needs with new development.
3. Nearly everyone that participated recognized the need for a positive story about Trenton. A frustration with the mainstream media was expressed in many of the conversations. Multiple attendees expressed a desire for a new narrative about Trenton, focused on the positive things that are happening. In several conversations, [I Am Trenton Community Foundation's billboard campaign](#) was cited as a positive example, and one that might be revisited.
4. Many participants talked about Trenton's need for a comprehensive web calendar, a list of community events, and a resource for finding and also promoting each other's activities.
5. In an increasingly digital age, attendees discussed sharing our own messages, utilizing the Internet and social media to spread news and support each other; though there was also recognition that not all members of our community can easily access a computer, with several groups talking about the need for and possible ways to provide more universal Internet access.
6. There were many conversations about collaboration in general. Trenton has multiple existing collaborative initiatives, including [Trenton Green Team](#), [Partnership for Healthy Kids-Trenton](#), [Trenton](#)

[Health Team](#), [Trenton Stakeholders](#), Trenton Council of Civic Associations, [Trenton Cultural Resource Network](#), [Impact Trenton](#), and now the Creative Trenton effort. Collaboration was expressed as a shared value, but there was also a desire to reduce some redundancy and a recognition that a Paterson collaborative model might be worth studying for additional ideas on coordination between collaborations.

Hopefully, the enthusiasm and positive energy engendered at the first Creative Trenton Convening will have lasting impact. Trenton's Master Plan is in the process of being renewed; it would be great to incorporate the community ideas and projects that were discussed into that process and vision. Several of the group discussions had promising and tangible action steps already identified.

- Stephanie Anderson led a group discussion about [transportation for after-school programs](#). An awesome list of action items was generated and point people have been identified, with plans for a follow-up meeting being planned at [Artworks Trenton](#).
- Shakira Abdul-Ali led a powerful conversation about [ending guns and gang violence](#) that resulted in a long list of pragmatic action items.
- Jim Gordon led a brainstorm about [promoting Trenton jazz](#), with a planned reconvening at Candlelight on February 1.
- Candace Frederick led a discussion about [using the arts as part of the beautification or urban areas](#) that included some great ideas for Trenton, and referenced a citywide cleanup on Saturday, April 5

One last encouraging development, at least three different groups of stakeholders wanted to revisit and recreate the Creative Trenton concept. One group, [youth civic engagement and education](#), plans to partner with youth organizations and students in August or September; a second discussion raised the possibility of an open space convening regarding mass incarceration; and another group suggested organizing another Creative Trenton event, with a central question focused on race relations

There were so many other amazing ideas generated and discussed at Trenton's call to collaboration. I am excited to learn what other good projects and partnerships move forward now that our collective creativity has been sparked! Some participants will be reconvening for [The Citizens Campaign](#) Trenton civic happy hours at [Trenton Social](#), and others are continuing the conversation on Facebook. Join the [Creative Trenton group](#) and "like" [Creative New Jersey's](#) and [I Am Trenton Community Foundation's](#) pages to stay connected. Bring your ideas and let's continue the conversations.

~Dan Fatton

Co-Chair Creative Trenton / President, I Am Trenton Community Foundation
Originally appeared on the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation Blog (1/29/14).

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DAY ONE

Summary Report #1: Collaborating and Sharing throughout the city

Convener: Chelsea Naylor

Participants: Tammy Duffy, Calvin Thomas, Jeanette Grimes, Rev. Karen Hernandez-Granzen, Ellen Mushinski-Tpof, Jacque Howard, Pamela Sims Jones, Jaime Parker, Jim Simon, Robert Fiorello, Ronnie Ragen, Diana Rogers, Sam Fogelgaren, Carter, Lucy Guzman, Tangela Wright, Theorder Christie

1. Highlights & key points from your discussion:

We discussed various ways of getting the word out about events, such as

- * Clubs and grass roots groups, senior centers
- * Radio and TV
- * Civic Associations, non-profits, churches, etc
- * Government and school agencies (School Board, CWEP, housing programs, etc)

But we found that we kept coming back to the internet, and how to disseminate our information online. We ran into two problems/issues with this.

- 1) There are a lot of different groups with different resources online. There is a need for one, city-run, main website where everyone can go to see programs offered in the city, important update, school closings, upcoming events, etc.
- 2) We need greater computer and internet access throughout the city. More wireless zones, more computer labs, etc. We also need to tap into people using smartphones. There is no point in having all our resources online if nobody views it

2. What is your calling for action? (optional)

We believe a lot of this has to come from the city itself. They need to apply for a grant for someone to lead the technology side of things, with putting together a better website with all the city groups' information. They should also put together information about all of the 'learning labs'/libraries/computer resource centers so nobody is reinventing the wheel, and pastors/social workers/community groups can let people know about where they can go to have computer access. There are many different groups (Ford, Comcast/Verizon, IBM) that offer grants to improve technology in areas like Trenton, but a city worker needs to be in charge of making that happen.

Diana has said she will discuss this with government officials. We also believe Creative Trenton should take

the lead in presenting one, united plan of everything that comes out of today, rather than have all of us, un-united, pushing for technology needs. It is important this is pursued rather quickly, so it can be a part of the City Master Plan, which is currently being established, as well as get on the radar of the mayoral candidates.

Session Report #2: Engaging students in real world relevant learning, ie. sustainability education

Convener: Doug Demeo

Participants: Larry Capo, Kathy Smallwood Johnson, Jonette Smalt, Paula Figuera-Vega, Peggy Brown, Brea Heidelberg, Donna Tell, Carter W. Patter, Kimby Hed, Don Leake, Ayo Johnson, Barbary Flythe, Duncan Harrison, Darren Freedom Green, Aniela Brzosa, Maria Spillman, Michael Rosenberg, Ana Berdecia, Diana McNeil, Susan Haig

1. Highlights & key points from your discussion:

Burlington School of Technology - "School to Work" program is an excellent model of real world relevant vocational training, with focus on "work readiness".

Also, Trenton's "STEM" program- Science Technology Engineering Math is an emerging program that seeks to involve outside partners, with field trips, vocational learning, etc.

We need more mentors for kids - every child receiving a mentor... going into homes
Foundation Academy partners with project lead the way .

Trenton District - Mary Burke- job readiness at High School, partnership with Microsoft.

Need more learning through the environment. Partner with AmeriCorps.

Need more and better cross curricular connections in math and science learning, with environment and emerging "green jobs".

Bring Trenton-based companies like Siemens and Terracycle into our schools, for teaching/ mentoring/ cultural exchange.

Need to expose our students to bigger world.

One successful program has been Fernbrook Farms' 4 days immersion in nature learning, including field trip to Fernbrook Farms where students get excited in learning about soil and food systems, animals and biodiversity.

We need to connect arts/literature/storytelling with the environment.

Continue to do outreach with for-profit companies, like Wachovia to fund long term educational programs in programs like STEM, environmental science and sustainability learning.

Need a Central Directory of Services/ Resources.

Institutionalize 40 minutes online StrengthsFinder assessment. Build on students' strengths!

Need programs that make youth job ready (see Burlington County Institute of Technology - BCIT as working model).

How to programs get into schools? - how do we communicate/ work together?

2. **What is your calling for action? (optional)**

We never got to this stage.

Reading between the lines, it seems that we need to connect program leaders at non-profits, and fundraisers with private companies, with Board members, and institutional and curricula leaders.

Conversations about curriculum development in terms of sustainability learning and vocational training at the board level.

Session Report #3: Good Governance / Internet Access

Convener: Shakira Ali & Gabriel Romeu

Participants: Amanda Roman, Leah Dade, Anastasia Mann, Tricia Fagan, Shirley Tyler, Beau Nelson, Jim Golden, David Ponton, Jr.

1. Highlights & key points from your discussion:

- Libraries and internet access are required for all job searches
- Good governance empowers private lives
- Libraries - low usage and budget sources are important factors
- Good governance may require Citizen Problem Solvers using evidence-based approach; supported with legal technical assistance to craft legislative recommendations
- Govt accountability will have to come from the residents
- Shadow Govt - a collaborative effort among non-profit groups, business leadership
- Trenton may have 500+ community organizations (asset)
- Good leadership is missing in govt sector; non-profits have taken on public sector responsibility where possible
- Community organizations are going after same funding dollars
- In Paterson, Paterson Alliance is a collaboration among all non-profits in the City; they share information & don't overlap services; coordinate funding requests
- Trenton Area Stakeholders is a loose alliance of community groups
- Other 'outside' resource groups are available and waiting to be asked for help

2. What is your calling for action? (optional)

- Send someone to observe what's happening in Paterson
- Turn Libraries back into libraries - don't close at 5pm
- Make computers available @ various community orgs
- Schools should open their computer labs to the public
- Churches should open up computer labs
- Have entire communities foster value in Child Development including literacy
- Generate/Expand/Train citizen journalism to improve media perceptions
- Government should effectively engage citizens
- Government must create performance management and accountability system process/plans
- Equitable spending formula must be developed for public libraries (class action law suit)
- Impact Trenton group to support libraries and good government
- looking for improved return on Tax assessments
- Library access/internet access is critical if accessing employment opportunities

- \$200M city budget
- \$317M school budget
- \$58M - water
- yet NO benchmarks/targets/objectives/standards
- 50% graduation rate
- no accountability for these expenditures

Session Report #4: HIV/AIDS Awareness & Prevention

Convener: Nicole Pflaumer

Participants: Kristin Gonzalez, Elizabeth Casparian, Courtney Brettle, Leonor Tapia, Krystal Knapp, Aniela Brozoza

1. Highlights & key points from your discussion:

- upwards of 84,000 in Mercer County don't know HIV status
- Goal: link HIV/AIDS prevention to family planning
- Focus: Education and prevention at youth level funding should shift somewhat from treatment to education and prevention
- ***Transportation issue - getting kids to afterschool programs

OTHER NOTES:

Success: Back to school night
private home meetings
workshops

Misses:

requirements to teach HIV Awareness - who is held accountable if it's not done
Sex Ed

Issues:

What's the priority? HIV awareness education vs. HIV prevention education
Stigmas as associated with getting tested
How do Parents get kids to program?

2. What is your calling for action? (optional)

- Agency to agency referrals & open community
- Educate parents

OTHER NOTES

Determine who teaches sexual health in TCHS and other schools
Expand to faith based community
Reduce the Stigma
Make this subject a priority
Partner with organizations with unrelated missions
Seek members of the community to assist: retired, members of organizations, grandparents

Session Report #5: How to support freelance artists, musicians, and entrepreneurs

Convener: Jacqui Ivey, Conservatory mansion

Participants: Jacque Howard, Simona Brickers, Bruce Lindsay, Heather Ransome, Heather Camp, Katherine Kish, Beth Plankey, Jim Gordon

1. Highlights & key points from your discussion:

Identify need for collaborative art organizations, supporters, freelance, businesses to come together to understand and cross-pollinate. Create a depot for all events/workshops/news regarding the established and budding art community in Trenton.

Creating safe spaces and support bringing activity to the city

Developing individuals to build community

Combatting negative media

Identifying grass roots movements and non-traditional art activities in Trenton.

Include colleges in plan

2. What is your calling for action? (optional)

Follow up meeting to discuss an art collaborative

Create a depot of arts activities in the city

Face-to-face meetings

Marketing the arts through organization and communication via all media outlets.

Chat up the positive to counteract the negative perception with the idea of bringing more artists and patrons to the city.

Create/identify free art programming for the entire Trenton community. (All Ages)

Session Report #6: Small Business Development

Convener: Marino Posso

Participants: Marino Posso, Cheri Durst, Francis Blanco, Ida Malloy, Ray Ingram, John Laughton, Maria Tapia-Burch, Christian Martin, Jim Gordon, Katherine Kish, Darren Freedom Green, Jim Young

1. Highlights & key points from your discussion:

Bringing in/attracting businesses to the city as well as supporting and retaining current city businesses; entrepreneurship fostering

Businesses get shut down because they don't know tax responsibilities: taxation outreach needed, from State and it exists but is underutilized.

Educate business owners through webinars where businesses can log in at their convenience.

What are a small business needs? Loyalty from customers/raising awareness to shop locally; also law enforcement so people feel safe.

more options for a night out, go to the theatre and a choice between a few restaurants

Business plan templates needed with outreach that they exist

What businesses are needed/what types? keep in mind that they don't need to be open door businesses, advertising is the new manufacturing.

Open space environment similar to incubators are needed.

Good customer service from businesses in order to keep customers loyal

safe transportation

the New business of Trenton is social service/support

Collaborators: TDA, Trenton Arts Movement, Civic Associations/TCCA, Capital Region Minority Chamber of Commerce, SBDC, Citizen Campaign, City and State, Media outlets.

2. What is your "call to action"? (optional)

One positive message from all collaborators

Perhaps a meeting with all partners

Session Report #7: Transportation for After School Activities

Convener: Stephanie Anderson

Participants: Stephanie Anderson, Michelle Gbelamer, Maureen Llort, Carolyn Stetson, Denyce Mylson, Daraka Saunders, June Ballinger, Theodore Christie, Lynn Lemyre

1. Highlights & key points from your discussion:

Organizations have the potential to provide great after school programming but have two major obstacles. The primary one is transporting students from school to their locations. The second obstacle is participation of children, both for free and fee based activities:

Challenge	Possible Solutions
Buses are expensive	<p>Individual organizations could form partnerships with faith-based organizations that already have vans or mini-buses (that they mainly use on weekends and are not utilized during the week)</p> <p>Form a partnership, or coalition of non-profit groups that would share the costs of buses after school.</p> <p>Collaborate in researching and writing grants for transportation services. A city CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) might be appropriate.</p> <p>Newark has a pdf that lists all the after school activities and locations</p> <p>Sam Frisby had a “safe sites” initiative in the past that could be part of the branding process for our program.</p>
Two Chaperone riders would be necessary to insure the children get on and off in the right places.	<p>Include this cost in the grant proposal</p> <p>enlist volunteers from Volunteer Connect or AmeriCorps</p>
Organizations have both enrollment and attendance problems (even when they have free transportation)	<p>Get parental and student buy-in.</p> <p>Charge minimal amounts so that the families have “skin in the game”. If it’s free, motivation is not as high to attend.</p>

	<p>Create incentives:</p> <p>Daraka's summer camp charges for the program, but students get \$1 back for every day that they attend.</p> <p>Personal contact:</p> <p>June calls parents personally to ensure attendance.</p>
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2. What is your calling for action? (optional)

Action Steps:

- Contact Sam Frisby for more information on his "safe sites" - Michelle
- Research grant opportunities for transportation - Denyce
- Research bus costs - Stephanie, Michelle, Daraka
- Contact other possible interested organizations - Carolyn
- Send Newark PDF to group - Daraka
- Coordinate follow-up meeting - Lynn (hosted at Artworks)

Session Report #8: Trenton Greenways

Convener: Dan Fatton

Participants: Jonathan Gordon, Knute Jensen, David Byers, Tom Townes, Susan Haig, Marissa Davis, Princess Jenkins, Jeff Passe, Jim Gordon, Julie Gause

1. Highlights & key points from your discussion:

Trenton has a great asset in the D&R Greenway. A vision also exists for the Assunpink Greenway, a continuous green path of parks that follows waterways from the Delaware River along the Assunpink Creek up to Hamilton, with bike/ped access throughout. Ideally these corridors will enable residents to enjoy natural parks, get exercise and access resources (like the museum) downtown. A vision for this exists, and the Army Corps of Engineers has allocated funding to support pieces of the project. Leah Yasenchak of Brownfield Redevelopment Solutions has been working with the city to implement the plan, but there is little staff support, and we need outside pressure to push the project along. The conversation broadened and covered a wide variety of topics related to “Trenton Greenways” and how we create safe, accessible green corridors downtown, secure funding for ongoing maintenance, and tell the story so outsiders can also enjoy.

Susan Haig explained that the news media would be interested, but the story is complex - how do we summarize this and help tell a comprehensive story? It may be possible to use Google Maps to help conceptualize the bigger picture.

Isles has done some mapping; Dave Byers created maps for 10 half-mile to 1.5 mile “Spirit Walks” in the downtown area.

The TDA has identified the cut-through path near the abandoned Trenton Times building as an opportunity. They met with Rails to Trails, a national organization that helps create pathways in old railway right-of-ways.

The Trenton Transit Center is a hub for commuters, and tourists, with access to the River Line and potential connectors to the envisioned Assunpink Greenway.

The Partnership for Healthy Kids has been working with Princeton Deliverance Church - pathway for kids to walk to school, part of the D&R Canal system.

We need to engage the City Planning Department, and make sure we take a holistic view. The City is revising its Master Plan, and through community engagement process, we can identify priority parcels for greenways. The mobility element and the open space pieces of a master plan would be important for moving forward with our vision.

There are gaps in trail network within Trenton, places where it is easy to lose the trail downtown, there is the

perception of a gap in the trail between Frenchtown and Burlington City, even though it is possible to ride/run continuously.

Philly Bike Coalition - "Complete the Circuit" a regional trail effort that includes segments in Trenton. Specifically the connection in South Trenton that provides access to the trail to Bordentown, and the Trenton Hamilton Marsh.

The Partnership for Healthy Kids has been working with Isles and the East Trenton Collaborative on a funding proposal to Kresge Foundation for an arts focused pathway, building off the city's complete streets policy, combining murals and paths.

Opportunity to tap into former Trenton residents and business owners - the titans of industry, ex-pats of Trenton. Encourage them to come home - support projects, visit and participate.

Trenton Cycling Revolution annual Trenton Bike Tour - 14 mile ride through Trenton, highlighting a theme like gardens or murals.

Trenton Social Ride - first Friday every month, led by Wills Kinsley, theme rides focused on cemeteries, gardens, etc. \$10, 6pm, departs from Trenton Social.

Trenton Downtown Bike and Pedestrian Plan - need to engage residents - 1st meeting in February. Good opportunity to emphasize the greenway connections.

Lots of discussion about safety. The need for a police presence, better maintenance of the trails, better lighting, push the D&R Canal Commission to do their job on upkeep, use selective thinning (landscape architecture technique), street crossing lights. Graffiti painting on the trail as an example - can we use murals to cover that and also create something positive.

Extensive conversation about maintenance. Who is responsible? How do we encourage residents to take ownership and take more care of the surrounding environment?

D&R Canal path crossing near Shiloh may be a starting point - need better lighting, there is a church group working on botanical gardens nearby - THDC plan.

TDA doing some maintenance in the downtown area. Cutting grass, flower bed plantings, adding bulbs, biodiversity opportunity? Pollinators to help community gardens. Emphasis on the importance of native plants.

High Line as an example - learn from their experiences and history, economic data about impact. Tom to reach out to an architect in NY who spoke at AIA event.

How to brand the greenways/trails? tell complex story through the media - "Garden City Trenton" "Trenton Greenways"

Planned events - get lots of groups engaged, create critical mass, but also need to create a stake for community, invite neighbors! Cultivate a feeling of ownership, appreciation for those that live near the paths and parks. Involvement of the community is key to success.

Clean-ups are important for maintenance, but maybe we also need recycling and trash receptacles along the path so people have a place to discard. Opportunity for artwork on the bins. Be creative! Possible workforce development experience - get crews of students, young people and actually pay them to do the work? Create a "Greenway Fellowship" Potential for groups to do clean-ups and get paid?

Something about Mercer Street Friends - the Capital Gateway.

Need to view these greenways as an asset - graffiti reflects an attitude of neglect. Need for quick fixes when problems arise, the destination needs to look good, and feel safe.

Visual effect of separating canals from paths with chained link fences - need to reconnect, replace fences with better looking structures, or cover with plants.

Beautification efforts - daffodils and day lilies that will multiply naturally. Change the look and feel of the space. Possible tourism opportunity - use butterfly attractors and then market that.

Creative Placemaking - connecting stores, and art spaces - Julia and Isles apply? Need for signage to downtown - wayfinding.

Help connect to the water aspect - offer kayak guided tours. Water report from the city exists - and includes comprehensive list of assets and water quality report.

Trenton has won awards for walkability in the past - Top 10. Playful City USA. Complete Streets - capitalize on these. Leverage for more improvements.

Connect with schools near the paths - get kids involved. Intentional approach to kids, show them the trails, work with after school programs.

Friends of Abbott Marsh - trail system accessibility, Hamilton/Bordentown connections, YMCA programs in the summer.

Thermoplast machine for city to paint crosswalks - need to train the Department of Public Works guys? Contract it out? Follow-up with Andy Carten on status.

CNU Buffalo - theme of water - industry and recreational importance. Corridor of linkages - D&R and Assunpink, promote Trenton

Lots of discussion about funding for establishment, but also maintenance. Economic development piece, environmental changes, ongoing upkeep.

2. What is your calling for action? (optional)

Marissa and NJPHK-Trenton - Kresge proposal to focus on arts pathways.

Trenton Cycling Revolution annual Trenton Bike Tour - 14 mile ride through Trenton, highlighting a theme like gardens or murals. www.trentoncycling.org

Trenton Social Ride - first Friday every month, led by Wills Kinsley, theme rides focused on cemeteries, gardens, etc. \$10, 6pm, departs from Trenton Social.

Complete the Circuit - Dan to follow-up with Matt Norris and Maria Tranguch - what is happening with the Mercer funding for the South Trenton segment?

Trenton Downtown Bike and Pedestrian Plan - need to engage residents - 1st meeting in February - Dan will email the details to anyone interested.

Convene a group of stakeholders to meet with D&R Canal Commissioner and discuss safety concerns.

Check with Jerry Harris and Julia Taylor - D&R Canal path crossing near Shiloh - status of the THDC plan.

Jon Gordon to connect with Jim Simon, Dave Byers about planting and gardening along paths in downtown, focusing on biodiversity and advertising the importance of native plants.

Tom to reach out to an architect in NY who spoke at AIA event about High Line lessons. DONE - architects from Diller, Scofidio & Renfro from NYC - Charlie Renfro

Marissa and Princess to reach out to schools about engagement - talk to Isles Youthbuild about maintenance.

Courtney at NJPHK Trenton to check if Trenton asset map includes greenways? Get it posted to city site.

Talk to Susan Haig about a story focused on "Trenton Greenways" tell comprehensive story, including green team, gardens, greenways?

Thermoplast machine for city to paint crosswalks - need to train the Department of Public Works guys? Contract it out? Follow-up with Andy Carten on status.

Knute will look into funding through DEP - site remediation funds, supplemental environmental grants.

Session Report #9: Using the arts as part of the beautification of urban areas

Convener: Candice Frederick

Participants: Nick Paleologos, Ann Marie Miller, Wanda Austin, Beatrice Jusu, James Day, Kathy Crotty, Elise Mannella, Karen Pinzolo, Marisol Weaver Henderson, Brandon Ponzio, Dara Lewis, Emma Avish, Phyllis Holly Ward, Ronnie Ragen, Carol Cronheim, Benjamin Jenkins, Bryant Williams, John Chamio, Marte King

1. Highlights & key points from your discussion:

We discussed some of the needs and barriers needed to better incorporate the artist community into urban development. Here's what was discussed:

Expanding the state corridor

Leveraging Art All Night to a type of event that happens all the time

Establish beautification of the city by working with youth organizations

State Museum needs to play a more active role in the community with youth programming

More collaboration between groups, conduct an assessment of areas, identify sources of funding

Using art to make the youth accountable for their city

Engage the youth

Connect area college's curriculum with community needs

Coordinate efforts with state, community, city agencies

Research other models from other cities, countries

Connect artists with master planners i.e. developers

Using art for education and development

April 5th there will be a citywide cleanup and beautification effort

Give artists more free will to use open space

Barriers to better utilizing the artists community:

Change from a no culture to a yes culture

No inventory of artists, spaces, events

Not using what we have

Effective use of public space

Lack of group ownership

Affordability of event pricing for some groups

Demographics- not all groups feel comfortable attending certain locations i.e. Ellarslie Museum, Passage Theater

Leader that has true understanding of constituents

Lack of awareness of constituents

Endorsement, Marketing, Image

What We can Do:

- Collaboration between groups
- Get artists from colleges and surrounding areas
- City commits to hiring an arts, culture point person that resides in city hall
- Gather a census of artists in the city
- More Art All Day type of activity
- Invite a youth to be a part of the planning of events that happen in the city
- More Communal Events
- Bartering for services
- Promotion of the city
- Have more street performances

Communication: Outlets that can be used to get the word out
Creative Trenton

Trenton Culture Resource Network

Place on city website (model Philadelphia's website they have a tab on website that lists art organizations, schools, etc broken out by neighborhood)

Mercer County email blast

2. What is your calling for action? (optional)

Community advocate for an art/cultural person in the city

Utilize Trenton Housing Authority Media & Marketing Team to help smaller groups get the word out about events

Establish a database that lists artists, events, etc. Sustainable Jersey provide grants to develop a database

Karen Pinzolo offered to write the grant for this to happen

Connect arts people to developers (follow the Devco New Brunswick model)

Incorporate the schools

Who takes the lead?

City takes the lead

Trenton Housing Authority Media & Marketing team

Artworks

Collaborate with Sustainable New Jersey

Greater Trenton

Phyllis Holly Ward offered to take inventory

Session Report #10: Community Bonding and Consensus Building

Convener: Diana Rogers

Participants: Jacque Howard, Ellen Mushinsla, Beau Nelson, Marino Posso, Pamela Sims-Jones, Jim Simon, Karen Pinzolo, Leah Dade, Heather Camp, Sasa Montano

1. Highlights & key points from your discussion:

- Don't dwell on the methods of our past history. Consider the use of new technologies to connecting community.
- Reinvent how we share information
- Identifying methods to get residents and others to change the perception and image of Trenton
- Residents have to begin to thinking more positively about the City and being a Trentonian
- Be more aggressive with having conversations with everyone in the City, not just the usual suspects
 - Create safe havens for people (particularly groups that have been marginalized) to have bring their concerns to the table.
 - Move toward a more inclusive attitude rather than an exclusive attitude.
 -
- Those who have a voice have to be willing and not afraid to speak up for communities that have been marginalized in the City.
- Residents, organizations and groups have to get out of their pods and silos move across the City. Learn what is happening in other parts of the City.
- Make concerted efforts to celebrate all neighborhoods in the City so that everyone feels like they are part of the Trenton community.
- Identify innovative ways to reach everyone across the City.
- Address the outside forces that keep the City of Trenton down (County, State, political entities, businesses, etc.)
- All neighborhoods should be treated the same to avoid the idea that some neighborhoods are more important.
- Identify ways to change the feeling of disempowerment. Residents are disempowered and others disconnect themselves from the City.
- Use structured organizations (schools, libraries, hospitals, etc...) to ensure cultural sensitivity is always addressed and all residents feel included.
- Use schools as community schools and gathering places for community bonding.
- Consider identifying an organization that can serve as a coordinator of all non-profits to leverage resources (ex. Paterson Alliance).
- Identify the leaders of the various cultural and ethnic groups in the City and determine how they are training their young leaders to be engaged in the community. How are they attracting new leadership?
- When we meet as groups we have to always remember to back the conversations back to the reason

why we have gathered. Remove the individual agendas from the conversations.

- Look at other cities for best practices.
- When gathering we must be mindful of how we (as individuals) can address the common goals.
- Be transparent when gathering.
- Make a concerted effort to invite everyone to be a part of the conversation. Send written invitations.
- When gathering address issues that cut across all groups so that everyone feels included.
- When gathering agree to respect and trust and to work within the resources that you/organizations has.
- No on organization can change concerns by itself given diminishing resources. A collaborative efforts is required to create change in Trenton.
- When reaching out to the community consider using basic principles of civic engagement. Civic responsibility has to be taught.
- City leadership should be held accountable for the dissemination of information.
- Consider organizing a non-profit mixer (Summit, NJ example)

2. What is your calling for action? (optional)

- A. An accountable Community Liaison w/in the City. City Hall must establish a Customer Service Office where residents can voice their concerns. This office should also be staffed by individuals who have the ability to communicate with all. Translators for all cultural groups is critically important.
- B. Establish a centralized communication office w/in the City.
- C. Develop an initiative on Immigration Integration responsible for show new residents on how to navigate living in the City and County as well as teaching civic engagement. Develop a Creative Passport like Tampa Florida where new residents have the opportunity to go to amenities, and entertainment venues in the City.
- D. Convene organizations and non-profits to work on a common issue. Use I AM Trenton as the group convener.

Session Report #11: Creating financial stability in the city

Convener: Ray Ingram

Participants: Ray Ingram, Elise Mannella, Knute Jenson, Carol Cronheim, Benjamin Jenkin, John Ch...., Anastasia Mann, Candice Frederick

1. Highlights & key points from your discussion:

- 80% (approx.) of city budget is fixed - leaving very little flexibility for the city administration
 - look at more innovative ways to utilize the 80% (example given of Camden)
 - Shared services (with county/state, e.g. Library, trash pickup, recycling, school districts, police)
- Renegotiate PILOTS (payments in lieu of taxes) and have set in law with state and renegotiate with all nonprofits in the city
- reclaim parking lots from the state for redevelopment (housing and businesses)
- market the resources and businesses to the state as if the state were a company (it is the major employer in the city)
- Create new jobs
- Build partnerships and (some) tax base with hospitals and education institutions
- redevelop Trenton land, e.g. dept. of corrections, psych. hospital)
- develop local talent (continuing Ed. etc.) to attract businesses to the city (businesses go where the talent is)
- City leadership needs to partner better with the state and county
- Make Trenton a more economical place to live
 - live where you work incentives
 - green energy initiatives
 - Free city-wide internet for residents
- put abandoned buildings (housing) to use for people that will fix them up/maintain them but could not afford to buy them - perhaps tax breaks (property tax breaks) to make this affordable
- A historic area tax credit for fixing up building/property - no need for the neighborhood to be designated a historic district.
- Incentives at the state and local businesses to get people that work in the city to live in the city

Session Report #12: Ending Guns and Gang Violence

Convener: Shakira Abdul-Ali

Participants: Kimby Heil, Bob Fiorello, Paula Figueroa-Vega, David Ponton, Amanda Roman, Elizabeth Casparian, Jim Golden, Sam Fogelgaren, Wanda Austin, Martin L. Tapia-Burch, Doug Demeo, Beth Plankey

1. Highlights & key points from your discussion:

- NJ Attorney Gen. has targeted Trenton for an Anti-Gun initiative which produced Mandatory Minimum sentencing
- We have a heavy State Police presence to make up for reduction in local police force
- Trenton is in midst of a Perfect Storm relative to Guns and Gang Violence:
 - Trenton - Camden 'rivalry' exacerbated by Riverline connection to easy guns, drugs and rival groups
 - Gang culture is tough, demanding and supplants birth-family influence and loyalties
 - Dominant Groups: Latin Kings and Bloods; Crips also present
 - Gang relationships are determined by: 1) where a member lives; 2) which gang they're connected to
 - If school attachment is weak, gang affiliation has greater draw and attraction
- Gang members DO APPRECIATE respect, and will GIVE it if they RECEIVE it
- Gang members can be bargained with - releasing membership in exchange for needed human services (eg dental work; job opportunity; etc)
- Teachers are fearful of students as young as 6th grade
- Gang culture has impacted the political network in Trenton
- 70% of youth want nothing to do with gangs if they can avoid it
- Gang membership is often an economic response to lack of work / income
- Bad media coverage is a major contributor to both the problem and the perceptions about the problem (gang coverage supersede any positive news)
- Gang culture is seen as the ONLY / BEST option for 'making a life'
- Gardens in the City offer some beauty and hope as they have not been destroyed / damaged by gang activity
- Gang rivalries are often exacerbated by different affiliations within individual families (membership precludes attending family functions)
- We need to view this matter as a Public Health epidemic
- As Public Health problem, we should consider a 2-part response:
 - 30% - Mitigation / law enforcement intervention
 - 70% - Public health response - addressing problems that contribute to gang membership
 - If addressed as a full-out Campaign, we have the possibility to address / mitigate the problem
- Drug buyers from out of town keep the "business" going
- Violence in Trenton is spilling over into neighboring towns

- American culture in general is feeding the problem of gun violence
- Straw purchasing - gun purchasing in southern states - fuel the problem in Trenton; guns cross the borders
- We often lock up the wrong people

2. **What is your calling for action? (optional)**

- Educate parents as to how to recognize gang activity among their own children
- We need to move the orientation of gang members from an illegal to a legal political economy with civic education / training; connecting with icivics.org - Youth Civic Education Initiative
- Book - Tattoos On The Heart - speaks about Home Boy Industries - economic activity (jobs) for gang members
- Use Enterprise Zone to pursue job creation
- Apprenticeships and corporate philanthropy
- Add more half-way houses
- Reopen Detention Center (use Treatment model)
- Restoring police dept - focus should be effective intervention and crime prevention
- Open Mic / Artists' outlets
- Open the libraries
- Parenting services in connection with probation services
- Create strong relationships with Pastors' groups (make them more aware of issues, and solicit their input and support)

Session Report #13: Free Intensive After-school music program

Convener: Michael Rosenberg

Participants: Michael Rosenberg, Maureen Llort, James Day, Ronnie Ragen, Bryant Williams, Daraka Saunders, Jacqui Ivey

1. Highlights & key points from your discussion:

Needs: \$, kids, staff, building and instruments, community

Interest in creating El sistema inspired program: free youth orchestra training program created in Venezuela to serve poorest communities

- excellence and accessibility

- social justice through music making

What does a program look like?

- see Abreu TED talk

- El Sistema USA fellows

- ensemble learning with frequent performance

Has potential to bridge cultural divides despite preconceived notions about classical orchestras

An opportunity to collaborate with existing programs, such as Foundation Academy Charter School, Trenton Community Music School (TCMS), and Trenton Children's Chorus (TCC).

Recommendations

- Start small

- incorporate peer teaching

- include culturally relevant programming

Anticipated challenges:

- transportation

- funding

Need for quality instruments (grant \$ to purchase preferable to rental program, which limits accessible)

2. What is your calling for action? (optional)

Representatives from TCC and TCMS to meet with Foundation Academy and other interested community members (Daraka's cousin is a jazz singer)

Read *Changing Lives* by Tricia Tunstall

Listen to Stanford Thompson (leader of Tune Up Philly and an Abreu fellow) podcast on WHYY

Session Report #14: Healthy Kids/Families & Bike/Pedestrian Safety

Convener: Marissa Davis

Participants: Ana I. Berdecia, Tom Townes, David Byers, John Laughton, Marisol S. Weaver-Henderson, Jeanette Grimes, Dan Fatton, Marissa Davis

1. Highlights & key points from your discussion:

Health Components: Physical, Emotional, Mental & Nutritional

Settings to focus on: Faith Based, Pre-Schools, Schools, Homes, Non-profits, Camps, Hospitals/Clinics.

Potential/Existing Partners- Sustainable Jersey, Trenton Health Team, Faith based groups, Isles Inc.,

Wednesdays on Warren, Green Team, Farmers Markets, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Mayors Wellness Council, Urban League, NJ Partnership for Healthy Kids-Trenton, American Diabetes Association,

- **To Ponder**

- For those who are already obese or overweight, what support systems are in place?
- Anticipate the stigma around addiction- how do we promote healthy lifestyles while educating people on their possible addiction?
- How to balance relationship with local fast food chains?
- Why hasn't health of the Trenton community been a factor in governance?
- Can exercise be incorporated into local fundraisers more often?

- **Potential Activities**

- Ciclovía/Open Streets in Trenton- *Marissa to email Dan question to add to TCR's Trenton Mayor Questionnaire.*
- Bike Share Program- boys and girls club, Bike Exchange; Pop-up shop downtown? Check with TDA.
- NJ Partnership for Healthy Kids-Trenton to partner with Anchor House on Bike Rodeo and Bike Event. *Marissa and Marisol to discuss.*
- Partner with Greenways (topic- session 1) on trail/rail improvements to increase biking, walking, running
- KidsShape Program in Pennsylvania- *Marisol has curriculum to share*
- Increase and improve Home Education around Health & Parental Involvement
- American Diabetes Association researched based Program Modules- *Jeanette to share*
- Partner with TCNJ Health Communication Students and link them to orgs. working on these activities. *Contact John Laughton.*
- Innovative ways to promote Health through incentives (ie- turn your lights on with stationary bike riding, get free train ticket by participating in fitness activities (40 push ups, etc..)
- Mini-Food Hub (organic foods) *very futuristic..*
- Perceived leadership- have them lead by example; come as you are- all invited (ex. Walking town hall meetings)

- Department of Transportation maintained route improvements (Rte.1, Train Station and ArtWorks location) Improve Lighting (Kinetic art connects people to the downtown), murals to promote safety and health Commissioner has a passion- *Dan and Tom to send letter and request meeting* The city is to re-do the intersection
- To be Successful
 - Increase visibility of what health assets already exist; institute City-wide campaign
 - Publicize existing & Potential events- TCR, Trenton Social, around health- including radio, billboards, tv, flyers, organization calendars, web presence
 - Consistent Engagement of residents and organizations
 - EDUCATION!
 - Collaboration
 - Take into account all areas of ACCESS- including but not limited to: Food, Transportation, Dollars (or lack thereof), cultural competencies, language barriers
 - Ensure variety of activities for all age ranges, and abilities
 - Make sure events are regular and promote habit/behavior change
 - Gain community input and buy-in
 - Make Bike/PED a priority.

Session Report #15: How Can WE Market Trenton for A Positive Reception

Convener: June Ballinger

Participants: Tammy Duffy, Carolyn Stetson, Kathy Crotty, Denyce Mylson, Emma Avish, Krystal Knapp, Jim Young, Bruce Lindsay, Leonor Tapia, Katherine Kish, Michelle Gbelama, Gabrielle Romen

1. Highlights & key points from your discussion:

- Strategy for the news media for getting our stories told
- Collaboration between multiple groups to get stories written (power of numbers)
- A new slogan (example - "Trenton Makes...great art, food, people, etc.)
- Connecting with wider known, event national organizations of like kind
- Overcoming the problem of residents who have a negative self-perception of Trenton - Are we drinking our own negative kool-aid?
- Inviting national media out to watch, see and experience what we do. Not to write about us - just to observe us in action.
- Join/Connect with a sister organization from elsewhere.
- Focus on micro-marketing. Journalists like the human personal story
- Repeat the "I am Trenton" Billboard campaign spotlighting our current and former noteworthy individuals
- Communicating the visual artists opportunities in Trenton - Synergy - the confluence of artistic energy.
- Educate everyone to utilize social media.
- Pulling out of isolation, the rich culturally specific events; parades, celebrations, festivals, etc.
- Celebrate LOUDLY our cultural diversity.
- Getting accurate data on comparative crime and safety risks. How do we compare to other areas - North Philly, etc.?
- Reduce anxiety for visitors over parking and safety.
- Signage!
- Big takeaway - the IMPORTANCE of COLLABORATION of like minded/goaled people to keep things moving.

2. What is your calling for action? (optional)

- Finding and sharing accurate data on true statistics
- Establish a strategy to news media to get a Trenton story to be told about our collaborations.
- Find and share our personal stories

Session Report #16: Lets give it another try

Convener: Jonathan Gordon

Participants: Hi top- health organization, Retired Teacher, Will Kasso, TCNJ Dean of Ed., Alysia Souder

1. Highlights & key points from your discussion:

City
Art
Schools
Health

Leadership
I can do it... perseverance
Why didn't you give up
leadership Training
18 months

2. What is your calling for action? (optional)

Keep on Truckin'

Session Report #17: Improving Race Relations among the different ethnic groups in Trenton

--African-American, Latino, Polish, African, Caucasian, Russian, Slavic, Caribbean, Haitian, Italian, etc.

Convener: Ayo Johnson and Aniela Brzoza

Participants: Stephanie Anderson, Karen Hernandez-Granzen, Lucy Guzman, Nicole Pflaumer, Maureen Heffernan, Tricia Fagan, Chelsea Naylor, Ashley Alvarez, Barbara Flythe, Ayo Johnson, Aniela Brzoza, Kathleen Smallwood-Johnson

1. Highlights & key points from your discussion:

- Schools are a key partner in the discussion to break down tension among students. Currently the Trenton district offers district wide PTA/PTO organizations, Faith-based summits, the district also hired a company that parents can call to get a translator to help them communicate with the schools.
- Suggested model: Conversations of Race (used in Montclair)
- Have another Call to Collaboration that focuses on race relations
 - Create a safe space for people of all backgrounds to be able to honestly express their concerns without being labeled a racist
 - Do the Cross the Line activity so people can see we have more similarities than differences
- Understand the needs of each culture
 - Sensitivity to language barriers
 - Need for low cost ESL classes
 - Breakdown generational stereotypes and address the issues openly if the stereotypes are accurate
- How do we address the violence in the city and stop the flight of businesses and senior citizens that fosters the stereotypes and makes groups reluctant to work with each other?
 - Get involved in each other's (ethnic groups) causes
 - Create opportunities for young people to work together
 - Parents are key!!

2. What is your calling for action? (optional)

Stephanie Anderson owner of Hamilton Washery would like to host an outdoor multicultural gathering of people at her business to continue the discussion of race relations and community building in the city of Trenton.

The group would like to get together and continue the discussion at future ongoing meetings. The challenge would be at every meeting for everyone in attendance to bring one person with them to the next meeting. This should keep the conversation growing.

Session Report #18: Trenton Jazz: Promote

Convener: Jim Gordon (Content Trenton)

Participants: Lynn Lemyre, Ida B. Malloy, Peggy Brown, Brandon Ponzo

1. Highlights & key points from your discussion:

Candlelight Live goes on every Saturday from 3:30-7:30

- Losing \$\$ and audiences due to...? Perception of location, people don't know about it?

Youth need to know about and witness jazz in order to appreciate it

Not enough venues in Trenton that are playing jazz - only consistent one is Candlelight

Possibly brand a collective of artists as TRENTON JAZZ

Potential touring venues:

- Trenton Artworks
- Rider University
- Mercer County Community College
- Westminster Choir College
- TCNJ

Venues IN TRENTON:

Trenton Social, Trenton Conservatory, Mill Hill Saloon, RHO, Trenton Conservatory, Lafayette Yard Hotel, various locations in Polish sector, various outdoor venues including the Gandhi Garden, Mill Hill, courtyards, etc.

2. What is your calling for action? (optional)

Jim, Brandon, Lynn, Ida, and Bruce Lindsay (215-208-1711) will meet on February 1st for Candlelight to meet and talk to artists / discuss plans further

Session Report #19: Workforce Development

Convener: Carter Patterson

Participants: Carter Patterson, Tangela Wright, Princess Jenkins, Jaime Parker, Dara Lewis, Shirley Tyler, Simona L. Brickers, Duncan Harrison, Diana McNeil, Kristin Gomaler, Calvin Thomas, Cheri Durst, Stephanie Hanal Cohen, Donna Teel

1. Highlights & key points from your discussion:

Value of volunteerism

How do we prepare HS students who are not going to college, and want to enter the workforce upon graduation?

Experience and exposure

Targeted training

Training: workplace readiness, soft skills, financial literacy, character education, social responsibility, mental health, cultural competence, mock interviews.

Partnerships/Collaboration: Isles, UIH, TASK, Minding our Business

2. What is your calling for action? (optional)

Establish partnerships for shared resources to educate, prepare, and train job-ready and qualified individuals.

Session Report #20: Building Coordinated Community, Gov't & Organizational partnerships

Convener: Donna Teel

Participants: Tammy Duffy, Elise Mannella, Cheri Durst, Calvin Thomas, Chelsea Naylor, Tom Townes, Ronnie Ragen, Leah Dade, Jeanette Grimes

1. Highlights & key points from your discussion:

- Exec Dir & Community at the table
- Authority of Decision makers to implement and effect systematic change
- Regular meetings to assess progress & movement
- Components:
 - Who is the community
 - What sectors of Government
 - What organizations
 - What's purpose...agenda
- Creating a "Board"
- Cross Sector appeal
- Create 501(c)3 organizations
- Connect with others...partners
- Need investors
- Question???
- Duplication of coordinating groups, ex.: I am Trenton, Trenton Stakeholders, Creative Trenton
- Do they need to come together?
- Strategic Planning!
- Business Partnerships
 - Leveraging resources
 - Knowledge
 - on-line tools
 - Ex: Trenton Health Team coordinated efforts as a model
- Community & Gov't roles
- Are we fragmented?
- Is our role what the community needs? OR where it needs to go...move forward
- **Model: Patterson Alliance
- Sustainable
- Lead by organization, not just government

- Recommendation- Warren Buffet non-profit course
- Diagram showing a central circle with offshoots
 - Central circle: Driving engine & purpose, Accountability, Buy-in, Strategic & encompassing
- Offshoots:
 - Foundation/Funders
 - Non-Profits
 - Community Beneficiaries
 - Business
 - Tech
 - Government @ various levels
 - Students & Parents

Session Report #21: Creating Excellent Schools

Convener: Jeff Passe, TCNJ

Participants: Jim Golden, Ellen Mushinski, Kathleen S. Johnson, Paula Figueiroa-Vega, Ayo Johnson, Princess Jenkins, Wanda Austin, John Laughton, Michael Rosenberg, Lucy Guzman, Michelle Robinson

1. Highlights & key points from your discussion:

A) In a partnership between TCNJ and Trenton Public Schools,-- Vision of a Model School:

- high literacy,
- access to tech, global focus,
- nurturing/welcoming environment and facility,
- arts and PE emphasis;
- personalized/differentiated curriculum and assessment;
- collaborative teaching,
- grassroots community engagement;
- community programs for parenting, health care, careers;
- formal, long-term commitment

B) Obstacles

Competition with charters, private schools, “reform fatigue,” inadequate teacher development, state strangleholds (testing), intense student needs, facilities, territorialism, lack of teacher autonomy, leadership turnover, “Ghosts of Trenton Past”, cultural difference

2. What is your calling for action? (optional)

Widen the table (unions, parents, community)

Democratic decision--making

Patience

School system point person

funding to incentivize cooperation and commitment

Session Report #22: Environmental Stewardship & Gardening

Convener: Jim Simon & Susan Haig

Participants:

1. Highlights & key points from your discussion:

Green cities are more livable

How to better utilize existing green space (D&R canal state park), encourage use, ensure accessibility & safety.

Inventory all gardens & parks and highlight the relationships between. Tie in to Complete Streets initiatives and use greenways for transportation.

use parks & gardens as promotion tool for tourism...destination marketing

Have process for the public to utilize properties for recreation or gardening (adopt a lot)

City of Trenton master plan for 2015: sustainability & food elements

Can Trenton lay claim to a title like "Garden City"?

Benefits of promoting environmental stewardship through gardening:

Civic engagement

food production

educational opportunities

physical activity/recreation

intersect with childhood obesity issue

economic development potential: job creation, marketing food

2. What is your calling for action? (optional)

Highlight connectivity of organizations and extent of gardening and environmental work in the city to publicize the work and help catalyze/expand growth.

Identify educational opportunities in community greening to help address environmental issues.

Make sustainability an issue in upcoming election, and get local government more engaged and supportive. For example, zoning for urban agriculture.

Session Report #23: Good Jobs Back to Trenton

Convener: Anastasia Mann

Participants: Marino Posso, Marisol Weaver-Henderson, Ida B. Malloy, Katherine Kish, Jim Young, Gabriel Romeau, Jim Gordon, Will “Kasso” Condry, Peter Kasabach, Ray Ingram

1. Highlights & key points from your discussion:

A GOOD job means: access (transportation), opportunities to advance, respect, enough money to live decently, flexibility

HISTORICALLY Trenton had: a vibrant downtown, manufacturing & service economy, art, population, a tax base, tourism

Many ASSETS still exist -- & there are NEW ones: a global talent pool, vibrant arts scene, universities, arenas and other large venues, hospitals, infrastructure (transportation, including public); great “bones” (architecture).

Distinct employment challenges apart from general unemployment picture for: African Americans, the formerly incarcerated, youth, non-native English speakers, single parents, older workers.

REGULATION can hurt or hinder prospects for good employment.

Trenton needs to abandon its “beggar” mentality and set the terms for engagement.

From an 8-hr city, Trenton needs to become a 24-hr city.

Look at other examples of thriving capital cities: How did they get that way?

Resident universities are a great step.

The city owns great buildings but needs to manage (sell, lease, rent, etc) them better -- in a way that benefits residents and builds momentum.

Incubators (private and public funds). There are 19 existing statewide.

Citywide WIFI

With significant incentives, Amazon may bring 1,400 jobs to Robbinsville. Are these “good” jobs? (Amazon is anti-union.)

Session Report #24: Mass Incarceration: The New Jim Crow

Convener: Barbara Flythe

Participants: Karen Pinzolo (arts & education), Maureen Heffernan (Young Audiences) Diana McNeil (ETS), Stephanie Cohen (People & Stories), Reverend Karen Hernandez-Granzen(Westminster), Ana Berdecia (Thomas Edison State College) , Dan Fatton (I Am Trenton Community Foundation), Heather Camp (TCNJ), Duncan Harrison (UIH Family Partners), Carter Patterson (Isles), Shakira Ali (Alchemy Enterprises),

1. Highlights & key points from your discussion:

- Racial Profiling
- Recidivism
- Prison as an industrial complex.
- Judges Discretion is bias towards people of color.
- DVD: Broken on all sides.
- Bob Barker Industries provides all the material for the prison.
- 86% of men incarcerated have grown up without a father.
- Systemic dysfunctional justice system
- Young African American and Hispanic males are being targeted
- prison industrial complex making money off of people of color. (There are towns living off of prisons; would not exist without prison).
- America incarcerates more people than any other country in the World.
- There's a connection between the prison industrial complex and the gun industry.
- Abusing drugs in the suburbs = Sick and need to be treated. Abusing Drugs in the city = Criminalized.
- De-criminalizing Drugs in the city of Trenton.
- Main industry for people that are unemployed is the drug market.

2. What is your calling for action? (optional)

- "The police departments can say that they will no longer enforce marijuana laws."
- Contact Drug policy alliance to push ordinance to decriminalize marijuana.
- Ask Mayoral candidates how they feel about decriminalizing Marijuana.
- Engage surrounding communities about how they feel about the crime in Trenton.
- Educate our children at pre-k about the consequences that can lead to incarceration.
- How do we engage children in school: Projects, school districts can encourage children, scared straight.

Book: Mindsets (Mindset Shifts)

- Teacher and Professional Development
- Work programs try different careers

- Talk to Fran Atchinson and Kathleen Smallwood-Johnson.
- Community Education Centers (CEC) Money goes to a non-profit then gets funneled to a for profit.
- Provide career day for children in schools.
- Westminster has been educating churches about the New Jim Crow.
- Ban The Box: When you apply off a job you shouldn't have to check the box, but after you are hired they can then ask you. (Needs to widen the legislation to deal with funding sources from the state)
- Provide more transitional housing.
- Pen pal program being established.
- Grandpal programs - Seniors go into the school and read to the children.

Elementary Genocide - March 8th - 10:00am - Union Baptist Church

Convene a Creative Trenton event using Open Space format for those affected by mass incarceration - those incarcerated, reentry, families, women & children, parole officers, social workers.

- Collaborate with Repent Group and A Better Way, and other community orgs that focus on this population. to make this happen

Session Report #25: State Employees working AND living in Trenton

Convener: Knute Jensen

Participants: Nick Paleologos, Jacque Howard, Candice Frederick, Kathy Crotty, Kristin Gonzalez, Diana Rodgers, Marissa Davis

1. Highlights & key points from your discussion

Major Obstacles-

Schools (poor options, quality)

Safety- crime-fear

A wall between state employees and residents. Image of Trenton from media (and negative)

Ideas

focus on specific areas and audiences to market

fill real estate support gap (few have knowledge, prospect or advocate in Trenton)

leverage State Strategic Plan

Seek benefits for residents AND employees (they will reinforce)

Shift focus for state support and responsibility (Capitol of NJ NOT City of Trenton)

Ask state leaders to own their capitol

address parking lots as center of many issues with potential win/win/win

Seek private sector partnerships with citizens and government

Develop consensus of Trenton knowing who it is (like AC or Newark or Hoboken)

At only 84k people and 7 square miles we can cover a conversation with everyone

Ensure upcoming election includes an answer to who we are.

2. What is your calling for action? (optional)

Focus on current residents will also serve incentives for state employees

Getting state employees to live here is part of chicken/egg balance

about 30,000 state employees work in Trenton, getting 10% is not crazy and would have major effect

Session Report #26: Using Contemporary Arts to engage Youth

Convener: Bentrice Jusu

Participants: Brandon Ponzo, Ashley Alvarez, Tricia Fagan, Beth Plankey, Lynn Lemyre, Jacqui Ivey, Carolyn Stetson, Maureen Llort, Bruce Lindsay, Kimby Heil, Ann Marie Miller, Daraka Saunders

1. Highlights & key points from your discussion:

Youth Can be broken down into three sectors which distinctive character traits:

PreK-5th Grade: Risktakers

6th-8th Grade: Socialites

9-12: Stormers

Ultimately, each of these groups needs mentors to hone their interests and develop their skill

The Problems in youth engagement:

- Common Core Stifles Creativity
- Hard to get approval of Field Trips
- Paperwork to get into school is tedious and tough to get through
- Lack of awareness from Organizations (organizations not aware of other programs and/or information pertinent to their organization)
- Funding
- Convincing Local Officials/Politicians/ Leaders to advocate the Arts

Solutions

- Create a central location/Hub to get/access the information
 - Trenton Conservatory
 - Artworks
 - Website
 - Trenton Downtown Association (TDA)
 - Art Pride
 - City Arts
 - Trenton Cultural Resource Network
- Use contemporary means to reach younger crowd and engage parents
 - Youtube/commercials, Social Networking Sites
 - Use the younger crowd to distribute information
- Get parents involved with the Arts (with their child), make them equally a part of the child's development and creation
- Spread out throughout the town! Be on all sides of the city so youth can get their easily

- Go to Mayoral Elections and charge officials to address the issues on the Arts

2. **What is your calling for action? (optional)**

Our call to Action in to use the organizations that already to create an ARTS Council that will not only expand this conversation, but will serve as central hub for information for the arts for parents, organizations, and youth.

Session Report #27: Vocational Schools

Convener: Maria Spillmann

Participants: Jonette Smart, Jaime Parker, Simona Brickers, Dara Lewis, Samuel Frisby

1. Highlights & key points from your discussion:

- * G.E.D. Test is changing to include college-bound students
- * Need to know what skills are needed so as to know how to properly train people
- * Need to license/train foreign people already skilled in certain areas
- * Various institutions don't "share" their best-practices, ideas, methods, etc.

2. What is your calling for action? (optional)

- * Investigate (inquire into) current training options and organizations who target both high school students and adults
- * Inquire into resources (buildings, funding, etc.) already existing that are not being utilized or applied
- * Inquire into preparing people to be trained and become viable apprentices (as opposed to those with whom professionals don't want to work because apprentices are not educated enough to be trained)

Session Report #28: Youth Civic Engagement & Education

Convener: Sam Fogelgaren

Participants: Amanda Roman, Beau Nelson, Courtney Brettle, Shirley Tyler, Elizabeth Casparian, Peggy Brown, Jeanette Grimes, June Ballinger, Aniela Brzoza, Pamela Sims-Jones, Larry Capo

1. Highlights & key points from your discussion

Discussion started on how organizations can “go” to existing institutions and communities, rather than creating a structure that youth “come” to. School community and out-of-school community were discussed. School community was said to be too limited, and to be effective this initiative needs to target something larger. Inclusion of existing organizations (Non-profits, Churches and CDC’s, etc.) are crucial to getting information publicized about youth civic engagement. The topic of information dispersal was discussed, and reaching out to church newsletters (through Concerned Pastors Council) and creating a consolidated database of community organizations and programs (through Trenton city website) were deemed important tasks.

2. What is your calling for action? (optional)

Idea came about to create a structure for the youth themselves to organize and run a “Creative Trenton” event, focusing on youth issues. Each present member was tasked with contacting 5 organizations in the city that work with youth as a call to action. Adult facilitators will organize various community groups, organizations, and non-profits to attract youth leaders throughout the city to form a Trenton Youth Commission, which will plan the specifics of the event. The idea is to empower youth throughout the process organizing the event. After the Creative Trenton Youth Summit, there will be a follow-up summit to detail a plan of action and follow through with the discussed plans. This summit will consist of youth and adults. The West Ward Alliance Youth Issues Group of Mercer Street Friends has taken on the responsibility of organizing this series of events. Another important goal is to reach out to the entire city, including all of the religious, cultural, and geographic areas of the city. Efforts will be made to market the event in all areas and in all appropriate languages. The target date for the Trenton Youth Commission to start planning is in late May/June, and the target date for the Creative Trenton Youth Summit is late/August/September.

Session Report #29: Adult Education for individuals re-entering from incarceration

Convener: Stephanie Hanzel Cohen

Participants: Dara Lewis, Jaime Parker, Diana McNeil, Kristin Gonzalez, Jonette Smart, Lynn Lemyre, Jeanette Grimes, Shirley Tyler

1. Highlights & key points from your discussion:

Educational Needs of individuals re-entering from incarceration

- literacy
- life skills
- creative expression
- workforce development
- supporting legislation: ban the box
- supporting mental health needs
- educating employers and community members about re-entry issues
- education for employers

Session Report #30: Discipline vs. Abuse

Convener: Doug Demeo

Participants: Doug Demeo, Marisol S. Weaver-Henderson; Paula Figueroa-Vega; Chelsea Naylor; John Loughton

1. Highlights & key points from your discussion:

Does abuse at home lead to street violence?
What is abuse? There are different definitions of abuse
We are all mandated reporter
Education is needed
We need to build communication skills - that is grounded in non-judgmental ways
How do we explore alternative forms of discipline?
How do we teach non-violence?
How do we teach communication?
How do we listen more carefully to root of problem?
How do we teach empathy/discovery?
Empathy can be taught
How can we educate victims that abuse is not ok / what qualifies as abuse
Abuse is never discussed/ it is a family secret
We have to first start with believing the person / validation
The schools can help with bringing this conversation to light
There is some increase awareness, ie - acceptance of gay students

2. What is your calling for action? (optional)

Get to know what is in the area as resource: Anchor House; Womanspace
Habitat for Humanity Trenton is offering partner families with educational workshops that include Family Psychotherapist that will discuss Healthy Family Life
How do we override fear which is causing people to be violent
How to teach skills to understand that abuse is not an end, but could be the beginning (getting help after an incident)
Healing begins with - bearing witness - and this can be done through art, counseling, building networks, poetry therapy, spoken word
To decrease abuse - for the victim - decrease isolation and increase safety; for perpetrators - hold them accountable - it may begin with a "that's not ok"
We need to find ways to talk about abuse in a way that victims/survivors are not feeling threatened
Create safe spaces for conversations
Provide opportunities for emotional growth

How do we teach Emotional Intelligence

Find spaces (within schools), after schools, before school, faith based organizations, social services agencies, libraries (create safe spaces, welcoming spaces, to have these conversations and be able to teach about these concepts)

Session Report #31: Export Local Art

Convener: Jim Gordon

Participants: Will “Kasso” Condry, Bentrice Jusu , Peggy Brown

1. Highlights & key points from your discussion:

Primary country of export was identified as China.

Keypoints included:

- fast-growing middle class

- website is medium of exposure; must be fast, colorful & allow for international currency payment

- marketing website is critically important

- establishing the desire for Trenton art is essential environment

- Prints & original art should be available; certificate of authenticity will accompany pieces

- Public Art projects are seen as a desirable for start-up marketing

- bi-lingual Customer Service would be comfortable for Chinese clients (art purchasers)

2. What is your calling for action? (optional)

Proceeds will support artists, attract talent & residents & assist to revitalize Trenton.

Through art openings, regional events & annual jams

Session Report #32: How Can War Memorial Bldg. be an Engine of Trenton Activity?

Convener: Susan Haig

Participants: Elise Mannella, Nick Paleologos, Jacque Howard, Maureen Llort, Peter Kasabach, Carol Cronheim Larry Capo, June Ballinger, Jacqui Ivey, Peggy Brown

1. Highlights & key points from your discussion:

Problems to address, creatively: Not enough programming

Surrounding space perceived as dead/empty

Lack of Staff and Structure

Lack of confidence - RFP in 2010-11 - bar too high, no takers

Perceived lack of parking - 'loss' of adjacent surface lot

Large space - 1800 seats a challenge to fill

Controlled by state - lack of presenting/producing experience

High rental costs - out of reach of community groups

Assets, potential to creatively leverage: Beautifully restored, architectural/historic gem

Many spaces/rooms: Ballroom, reception rooms, Delaware River Ballroom Room, meeting rooms, Woodrow Wilson Board Room, Conference Room, etc.

Good venue for Bucks County, North Philly, as well as Greater Trenton and Mercer Cty

Strong track record of community-based programming in past; Patriots Theatre

Potential for community concerts; activity on the steps; films on the green, etc.

Multi-use potential - forums, ceremonies, festivals, concerts, theatre, civic events, educational use

Signifier of Trenton; key historic space; affects perception of Trenton

Big audience for jazz; cabaret; using main stage as a stage with interior as backdrop

2. What is your calling for action? (optional)

1. Start a new conversation; Share past experience; booking relationships; Carol, Molly McD., Caren Franzini - Greater Trenton meeting.

2. Envision community-based civic uses with workable pricing structure for local groups

3. Revise expectation of TWM as money-maker to strategic community-building, economic dev., tourism development

4. Invite college and university programming use---Rider University arts admin program; Mercer County Community College; Thomas Edison State College; community groups; public schools; charter schools; Trenton 350

5. Make the case for program development; show benefit to whole community and state gov.
6. Develop civic partnerships for new programs; events
7. Invite outside consultation; guidance; management for programming development. Larry Goldman.
8. Integrate programming ideas into a) Trenton Master Plan (for 2015) and
 - b) Greater Trenton development plans
 - c) Sister City - citizen diplomacy

Session Report #33: How Can We Encourage and Implement One on One Mentoring Trenton Youth?

Convener: Beth Plankey

Participants: Beth Plankey, Cartier Patterson, Tricia Fagan, David Ponton, Karen Pinzolo, Kimberly Heil

1. Highlights & key points from your discussion

Place where kids can gather fun. Hold mentoring event where volunteers can oversee activities and mentor individuals.

Types of mentoring:

Natural | Result of event | Work or career

The youth has to WANT the relationship

To gain trust, just keep showing up.

Possible training: Mentors for Mentors

Problem: resources are only available at present for youths already in trouble.

Connect nonprofits to volunteers

Bonner Center TCNJ

A Better Way

Fathers for United Trenton

2. What is your calling for action? (optional)

Be aware of needs of youth around you

Be available

Be natural

CARE

Create, when possible, a pen pal relationship

Session Report #34: How To Bring More Tech/Digital Companies to Trenton

Convener: Katherine Kish

Participants: Tammy Duffy, Simona Brickens, Bruce Lindsay, Jim Young, Shakira Abdul-Ali, Gabriel Romen, Kathy Crotty, Anne Marie Miller, Dan Fatton, Tom Townes, Diana Rogers, Chris Ault, Wanda Austin, Heather Camp, Samuel Frisby, Ray Ingram, Ayo Johnson, Candice Frederick, Ida B. Malloy, Marino Posso, Kristin Gonzalez, F. Blanco, Sam Fogelgoren, Christian Martin

1. Highlights & key points from your discussion:

What are the strengths of Trenton?

Location (We are the center of The World Trade Zone on the east Coast)

There are 3 major airports

Diverse Population

Higher Education: MCCC, College of NJ, Thomas Edison,

Skilled Labor

Housing stock

Riverfront property

Stadium: Trenton Thunder

Affordable rents

Museum and art scene

Public art

Capital of NJ

Weaknesses

Not a 24 hour population, 5 hr population

High crime

Poor reputation of town

Public safety

Negative perception

State govt employees

Under-performing schools

Weak infrastructure

Fragmented landscape: walkability

40-50% of property is not taxable

No central place for citizens

Low Median income: \$30K

Low income cannot support

Businesses

Transportation in town

What is needed

- Only 5,000 people actually live and work in Trenton. The population of Trenton is 85,000
- _Need better govt leadership

How to get businesses back to Trenton?

- Move pieces of govt out of city
- Riverfront is valuable
- Dept of Corrections, Labor Building, and Dept of Ed..move these out of city
- Lending institutions do not want to lend to Trenton businesses
- Need a good marketing plan
- Realtors are driving people out of Trenton
- Businesses are moving out of city due to crime
- Trenton is one of the 5 most affordable places to live in the US
- Need to reduce the fear of safety
- _Increase non profit interactions with schools to drive positive behavior
- Raise the profile for the arts
- Focus on tourism
- Optimize what the media prints
- Look at the Philly Campus model to optimize collaborations between schools and the city

Session Report #35: Partnering with Trenton Public Schools

Convener: Karen Hernandez and Barbara Flythe

Participants: Ronnie Ragen, Jim Simon, James Day, Carolyn Stetson, Brandon Ponce, Ashley Alvarez, David Byers, Amanda Roman, Beau Nelson, Ellen Mushinski - TPEV, Michello Glaelaner, Michael Rosenberg, Lucy Guzman, Marissa Davis, Courtney Brettle

1. Highlights & key points from your discussion:

What are faith communities doing? Adopting schools and offering programs in their spaces to augment school learning

What is higher ed doing? Bonner Centers at TCNJ and Rider are partnering with schools (Hedgepeth-Williams, TCHS) and out-of-school mentoring programs (Living Hope “Out of school”); builds capacity of existing community programs

Non profits? Outdoor learning labs; spaces to exhibit art; after school academic development (TCC); in school augmentation (Young audiences); grant support and research.

*Collaboration is an expectation for effective partnerships

How can “we” help (we=individuals, organizations)?

Acknowledge the good work already being done; understand some programs not only help students but also train teachers to lead the programs themselves (TCMS Music Together)

Challenges:

Accessibility often requires programs be free; how do continue to find adequate funding sources to sustain successful programs?

Ensuring program schedules work for families--requires good paths of communication with the community
Adequately identifying the greatest needs and most appropriate ways to meet them--requires collaboration

2. What is your calling for action? (optional)

Establish a marketplace event pairing school systems and non-profits

Respect the demand on the time required for a program in the school day

Collaborate with schools to select the best ideas

Work with school boards to develop a system of themed “months” to systematize programming

Coordinate and establish mutually agreeable timelines; calendaring happens a year in advance

Align programs with the common core

- Remember: we are working to help schools meet their goals.

Session Report #36: Teen Pregnancy Prevention/Adult

Convener: Leonora Tapia & Aniela Brzoza

Participants: Elizabeth Casparian, Alysia Souder, Aniela Brzoza, Nicole Pflaumer, Kristin Gonzalez, Kathy Smallwood Johnson, Julie Gause

1. Highlights & key points from your discussion:

Issues:

- What does the health curriculum look like in High School? On website supervisor of Health & PE
- Cultural & Religion prohibits conversations about sex
- Teens think everyone is having sex
- Sex education from porn
- kjohnson@trenton.k12.nj.us for information concerning programs
- Body Image - self-esteem
- hygiene (includes parents)

2. What is your calling for action? (optional)

- Action to lower numbers:
- Work with PTA/PTO
- Educate Parents
- work with family and community engagement
- Why they want to get pregnant?
- Older partners
- Pregnancy Romanticism
- Birth control failure - a. not using condoms correctly

DAY TWO

Session Report #37: Corporate Real Estate Development (and Residential) in Trenton

Convener: Sab Russo and June Ballinger

Participants: Carol Cronheim; Marte King; Tom Townes; Phyllis Holly-Ward; Bryan Smith; John Chavis; Christian Martin; Jon Gordon; David Byers; Ayo Johnson; Jim Simon; Leonor Tapia; Stephanie Hanzel Cohen; Jesse Elliott; Marissa Davis; Kathy Crotty

1. Highlights & key points from your discussion:

- Identify all developers in city and coordinate a meeting between them and Creative Trenton stakeholders
 - Trenton Makes, HHG/Trenton Ferry/Roebling Complex Cracker Factory Ferry Street, Mercer Oak/Vista Center (Sab Russo), Rockefeller Group/urban investors, Rosemont, Lee Wood, Penn Rose, City Works/Rush Crossing Project, Isles/Mill-One

Concern: Getting stuck on past instead of looking into future

Concern: Businesses have to be ready for media - Identify those that are ready for show and work with those who aren't

Concern: When we bring in corporate tenants can we get it written in a contractual agreement that they were brought in to hire locally for certain level jobs?

Concern: How do we identify which businesses will do well here? ie environment, arts, legal, etc.

- All interested Developers/tenants should come to June 22nd (Sunday), 350-year anniversary celebration of Trenton history
- We know the following corporations in NJ: Terracycle, NJM, Hutchinson Engineering Firm, Trentonian
 - Brandon Ponzo at Rider knows more: NJ Business and Industry Association, Carfaro Inc., Trane Residential Systems, Morgan Clarke Consulting, Alicea Tax Services
- Bus tours DO WORK
- We have to work with who we have
- Why isn't Trenton a main street program?
- State incentives for state workers to live here - that needs to come from developers. This is crucial: incentives and amenities.

2. What is your calling for action? (optional)

- Sab will organize meeting with other developers to share what they are doing and invite them to Creative Trenton
- Look at hiddentrenton.com - a guide to the positive aspects of Trenton, ie current businesses, recreation, and culture with reviews
- Media Tour - organize one to see, not review (yesterday's marketing group discussion)
- Buy full page in newspaper of all restaurants. Each pay \$20 or so to place small ads on this page.
- Add mailings (posters and postcards) to arts schools

Session Report #38: Creating Focus: How Do We Move Forward Together?

Convener: Tricia Fagan

Participants: Lynn Lemyre; Knute Jensen; Larry Capo; Jeff Passe; Samuel Frisby; Heather Camp; Ellen Mushinski; Jacque Howard; Stephanie Anderson; Lucy Guzman

1. Highlights & key points from your discussion:

- We have a huge opportunity w/mayoral election coming up to identify a CORE (4-5) common themes, key questions to push them on
- Advocacy will be most successful if we can “drill down” to a few priorities for now
- With a common focus, it will be easier to empower community members to engage towards this/these common goals on their own
- It may be easiest to create a “Common Picture” of where we want Trenton to be (rather than ‘voting’ on key topics)
- Some priorities in ‘moving forward together’: Need for great education system for all Trenton citizens; valuing of arts, heritage and cultural resources; helping existing orgs in Trenton to Coordinate and Work Together; identify ways to connect citizens to existing resources; what needs to be done to help restore and sustain the middle class in Trenton; getting gov’t to see us as ‘support’ not adversary; identify a Central Theme that is *essential to Trenton’s REAL identity - more than hype!*

2. What is your calling for action? (optional)

- * Create a MAP that visually maps existing groups in Trenton, their key issues and key programs at this time to help us drill down to the current FOCUS in the city – Identifying what’s actually happening while also identifying connections & common themes
- * Revitalize and expand the “I Am Trenton” initiative as coordinating vehicle for both Advocacy and Positive Media. Work through them to identify 5 main themes a year to focus on collectively
- * Visit and explore regional initiatives - like those in Newark and Paterson - to identify models that could work for Trenton
- * Develop a “Passport to Trenton” program to engage Trenton families/children/youth, newcomers to Trenton, and visitors and introduce them to all the great places, history, organizations in the city

Session Report #39: How Can We As volunteers be better Assistants to your Cause

Convener: Tangela Wright (Pro Wright On Time of Black Gurlz Who Rock SC)

Participants: Jaime Parker, Emma Avish, Chelsea Naylor, Kristin Gonzalez, Peggy Brown, Lynn Lemyre, Cheri Durst, Marte King, Jesse Elliot, Brea Heidelberg, Jeanette Grimes, Samuel Frisby

1. Highlights & key points from your discussion:

The key points of this discussion was having the group tell me what they would like and how to connect with the Social Clubs within the Trenton Area. As well, as to dispel the rumors about our organizations. I spoke with the group about what would be a better way for information to be provided to us to get out into the community about their causes so that we could better help and volunteer in better numbers. Some of the organizations do not have information to contact us and did know that they could call on us to provide help to the community.

2. What is your calling for action? (optional)

The call to action plan would be that organizations would be able to contact me and I would provide them with other social club information that would be able to assist them with their cause. We will also be planning a action meeting panel in which different organizations will be called upon to present their organizations information and the social clubs will be invited to hear this information and Q & A for themselves that will help to bridge the gap between us(Social Clubs) & Organizations/Programs that need volunteer help.

Session Report #40: How can we change the "stigma" of mental illness in economically depressed communities?

Convener: Carter Patterson

Participants: Graham Apgas, Beth Plankey, Diana C. McNeil, Princess Jenkins, Dara Lewis, Rev. Karen Hernandez-Granzen

Changing the "Stigma" of mental illness.

Who is taking the Lead?

Carter Patterson- Isles

Who are the Collaborators?

Collaborators would be a sponsor in community programs helping on a one to one basis/mentor program. Organizations who deal with mental illness can help other organizations and schools understand what mental illness is.

1. Credo of support
2. N.A.M.I
3. T.P.H
4. G.T.B.H
5. Catholic Charities (lunch and learn with collaborators)
6. W.R.A.P = Wellness Recovery Action Plan

Session Report #41: Trenton BOE Youth Summit March 15

Convener:

Participants: Tanya Wright, Sam Fogelgaren, Elizabeth Caspardian, Lucy Guzman, Stacy Denton, Maureen Llort, Kimby Heil, Candice Frederick, Ida B. Malloy, Nicole Pflaumer, Wanda Austin, Shirley Tyler, Beau Nelson, Ronnie Ragen, Pamela Sims Jones, Aniela Brzoza, Maria Spillman, Anastasia Mann, David Ponton, Paula Figuero-Vega

Topic Title/Initiative (describe in a few words): The Trenton Board of Education is planning a Youth Summit for March 15th under the auspice of the Safe and Healthy Schools Grant.

Key- want to fully engage youth, hear their voices, allow them to lead in planning and direction,

Kathy Smallwood Johnson

Who is taking the Lead?

Who are the Collaborators? See list below,

Who else do we want to invite?

1. Trenton Teen Leader Corp
2. Tolerance Center- Kids Bridge
3. Boyd
4. Scouts
5. Trenton Peers at Mill Hill

Immediate Actions/Next Steps:

1. Create opportunities for students ie mini job fair/internships
2. Have an exhibit hall for groups to share information and opportunities
3. Date of March 15th- would Board consider a week day?
4. The College of NJ will to donate space- will have to pay for food and transportation
5. MCC- upward bound willing to do flyers. workshops. Transportation (2 buses)
6. Create Partnerships with health care providers and other groups to sponsor ie Henry Austin, St. Francis,
7. Include a session to Domestic Violence and dating/
8. Ensure Youth Voices in planning
9. Activities Fair- what's available for students
10. Partnerships development will be led by Pam Sims Jones

11. Teen oriented media
12. Film organization to document what happens- link up with High School film and media class.
13. Contact Ventieice Juza from Both Hands- 609-474-4645
14. YouTube good for marketing
15. Donations from Barbershops and business for students

Commitments for next steps:

1. Pamela Sims [contact info removed for privacy] Planning Committee
2. Elizabeth Caspariah - Hi Tops- [contact info removed for privacy] health issues; peer leaders; health care providers; condoms- accessing HIV testing
3. Stacey Denton [contact info removed for privacy] - Planning/transportation/flyers/students (350 students and parents involved in different programs)
4. Shirley Tyler [contact info removed for privacy] - Planning
5. Nicole Pflaumer [contact info removed for privacy] Planning Committee
Sexual and reproductive health issues. free condoms- access to care- STD hiv testing
6. Wanda Austin [contact info removed for privacy] - logistics/registration/incentives- hourly raffles/donations
7. Ida B. Malloy- Rescue Mission of [contact info removed for privacy] - community service, college placement, standardized testing [contact info removed for privacy]
8. Courtney Brettle [contact info removed for privacy] - registration, planning
9. Michael Rosenberg [contact info removed for privacy]; bring students

Next Meeting: To be scheduled within next two weeks by Kathleen Smallwood Johnson

Session Report #42: Wisdom Council / Civic Engagement (combined)

Convener: Maureen Heffernan; Shakira A. Ali

Participants: Amanda Roman, Ana Berdecia, Calvin Thomas, Rev. Karen Hernandez-Granger; James Day, Pam Mount, Chelsea Naylor, Marino Posso, Chris Ault, Bruce Lindsey, John Laughton, Michael Rosenberg, Jim Gordon

Topic Title/Initiative (describe in a few words):

Civic Engagement Education - Integrated with a Wisdom Council, for purpose of creating informed, educated residents across generations and cultural groups

Who is taking the Lead?

Trenton Citizens Campaign and Leadership Trenton

Who are the Collaborators?

Sustainable New Jersey; Mercer Co. Govt, TCNJ School of Arts and Communication, Trenton Green Team, Thomas Edison College, Mercer County Government (partner?), Jacques Howard - radio host

Who else do we want to invite?

Civic Associations from each ward; Senior Citizen organizations - especially from faith-based and ethnic organizations

Immediate Actions/Next Steps:

Convene meeting of the lead organizations (eg trained Citizen Campaign residents and those seeking to be trained) to discuss priority issues for next mayoral election

Connect & collaborate with TCNJ students on research about mayoral election

Reaching out to Green Team to identify their priorities and strategies

Organize a cohort of trained Citizen Campaign volunteers to attend mayoral debates & post online summaries

Bridging the ethnic divide - elders can influence younger generations (re: quality of life issues)

Using events to bring together disparate communities - community calendar?

Make sure citizens understand the impact of the cost of duplicated resources

Create a steering committee to organize information training sessions

Attend Civic Organization to gather information about the issues

Communication between each civic association (through a blog or website that posts Actionable problems)

Vehicle for sharing should be very user friendly - simple (2-3 questions)

Mobile app?

Session Report #43: Arts District

Convener: Jonathan Gordon

Participants: Peter Abrams, Carter W. Patterson, Bruce Linduims, Marisol Weaver Henderson, Carolyn Stetson, Jim Gordon, Graham Apgar, Jim Simon, David Byers, Dan Fatton

1. Highlights & key points from your discussion:

We have great spaces to create 2-d work we need more space for 3-d
work with state city and county to use their spaces to accomplish projects
if people in the community won't go to you go to them... it works..

2. What is your calling for action? (optional)

Mobile units for education and evolvment
-bike carts
-mobile bread ovens

NJN Building

Stockton Street Arts Corridor

Use what we have and build what is needed... and make it better

Session Report #44: Charter & Public Schools - Perfect Together?

Convener: Michael Rosenberg and Maria Spillmann

Participants: Rev. Karen Hernandez-Granzen (?), Elizabeth Casparion (?), Courtney Brettle, Beau Nelson, Benjamin Jenkins, Jeff Passe, Ronnie Ragen, Maureen Heffernan, Jim Gordon, Wanda Austin, Jacqui Ivey, Larry Capo, Pam Mount

1. Highlights & key points from your discussion:

- Failing public schools a call to action. Are charter schools the solution?
- Charter school positives:
 - Note: charter schools are very diverse, and it is easy to overgeneralize
 - Higher parent involvement - parent support inherent to charter students
 - incubators for experimentation in education
 - More flexibility and autonomy makes room for school innovation and improvement
- Charter school tension:
 - Skimming - charter schools take the best and brightest from public schools, a luxury that leaves public schools with an even greater challenge. Is it fair to compare charter and public schools?
 - How to deal with troubled children without harming the education of higher achieving children? Consuming resources and energy.
 - Are they pulling money from public schools? (charter schools receive 70% public funding)
 - Are they essentially publicly funded private schools?
 - No unions in charter schools (anti-union activism related to charter school movement)
- Challenges for public schools
 - bureaucracy
 - challenging environment
 - tracking and differentiated learning
 - massive and inflexible school districts
 - non-comparable curriculum and expectations across zip codes
- Key question: how to learn from charter school successes? How to improve public education via the charter school movement? How to promote inclusive collaboration between schools, charter and traditional public?

2. What is your calling for action? (optional)

- Facilitate dialogue between charter school principals and TBOE (Board of Ed members - not administration)

- Fill holes in instruction with community partnerships
- Create a model neighborhood public school w/ TCNJ partnership
 - already underway w/ traction

Session Report #45: Community Development Corporations: Should we adopt this as a model?

Convener: Elise Mannella

Participants: Darren Green, Ayo Johnson, Jim Golden, Sam Folgelgaren, Sam Frisby, Frances Blanco, Rev Karen Hernandez Granzen

1. Highlights & key points from your discussion:

Roles of CDCs as:

- Rehab of abandoned residential properties for middle class
- Small business/corridor development
- Neighborhood beautification
- What else is happening/who is doing what?

Who is doing what?

- Shiloh, other churches, Isles, LHEC - mostly low-income housing, beautification, human capital development
- CCRC - large scale development

How do you form a CDC? What is it? How does it impact?

- Could TCCA support formation in each ward?
- Many definitions, some models are based on specific block needs within an designated community
 - Some do programming for seniors or afterschool
 - One model matches empty storefront with amenities community needs and develops streetscapes/small businesses

Resources:

- njplanning.org, apa.org - offer workshops/resident perception survey
- neighborhood america website/nw.org
- changes .org

Funding is limited now

- may need central organization to leverage funds and build capacity
- need to partner with private sector
- small CDCs don't have resources; overshadowed by larger non-profits
- Consider colleges as a resources to partner with students and in-kind services

Is there another model that leverages system resources?

- Build on existing ones
- Build donor-advised fund
- Use I Am Trenton as vehicle

- Use executives on loan/staff re-position

How do we connect and collaborate?

- Current groups need support as they are collaborating

- Who are the 800 lb gorillas in the room?

 - funders/investors

 - PACF: did Trenton assessment and has connections

 - Greater Trenton group is doing \$100,000 study on economic development of Trenton

2. **What is your calling for action? (optional)**

ACTION STEPS

- Bring EDs of different CDCs to table; what is disposition?

 - Leverage different relationships and bargaining chips

 - How do we do this and promote collaboration?

- Convene meeting of stakeholders

- Find non-partisan person to set guidelines and collaboration (Overarching presence)

Session Report #46: Connection, Empowerment through Technology

Convener: Chris Ault

Participants: Knute Jensen, Gabriel Romeu, Ellen Mushinski, Dara Lewis, Amanda Roman, Marino Posso, Beth Plankey, Peggy Brown, Lynn Lemyre

1. Highlights & key points from your discussion:

Described efforts at TCNJ to develop technology projects to support Trenton businesses, organizations. Described downtown tech design studio in space provided by TDA. In addition to developing projects, TCNJ students and faculty will also teach a range of tech skills to local school kids, residents, businesses.

Goal is to encourage Trentonians -- kids and adults -- to view technology as a means for empowerment and creativity, not just consumption.

Create public image of Trenton as a center for new technology. Trenton Makes for the 21st century.

Lots of shared interest in the potential for technology in Trenton. One goal is to use the web to map out these organizations, interests and issues to foster connections and share resources. Develop a database of interested organizations and people. Develop a "digital commons." Centralize information.

In addition to TCNJ students interning for the downtown studio and teaching in the downtown location, students can intern directly with other community organizations to develop tech projects and teach technology.

2. What is your calling for action? (optional)

Create a Google group/Google docs to share existing tech initiatives, case studies from other cities, future ideas, resources, funding opportunities. Keep the conversation going and pool resources. This collective intelligence will eventually feed into the public-facing "digital commons."

Invite session participants to Feb. 6 TCNJ class to share ideas, needs with Interactive Multimedia students who can develop projects in response. (AIMM Building Room 202, from 9am-12)

Schedule programming in existing downtown space (classes, workshops, supervised drop-in time)

Develop curriculum for tech training, in downtown space and elsewhere.

Consider possibility of bussing kids and other interested people *to* TCNJ for tech workshops, classes.

Identify other possible tech/maker spaces. Pursue corporate support?

Investigate existing models for city-wide public wifi.

Identify and approach a public patron/spokesperson for our efforts. (Former Obama Chief Technology Officer is from Trenton? Also Jon Stewart?)

Session Report #47: Developing Leadership

Convener: Elise Mannella

Participants: Jim Young, Jim Golden, Carolyn Stetson, Benjamin Jenkins, Sonia Elliott, Anastasia Mann

1. Highlights & key points from your discussion:

Perspectives and Leadership Domains:

--Business, Government, Community and Faith-Based, Education

--How do we “measure” success?

--Vision

--Best, Most successful accomplishments

--Develop succession line/plan

ON LEADERSHIP

--Leadership brings people together, brings them in

--Leaders have vision and are open to the ideas of others

--Leaders don't need to take credit

--Many unsung heroes

--Leaders serve as examples

--Leaders need to be able to communicate vision

--Leaders need to care and take people seriously

--Leaders know his/her limitations and knows how to attract others to complement him/her skills

--Leaders are responsible/accountable

--Leaders inspire people

--Leaders know how to put people in right “lane” and manage them

--Leaders step back and know how to let others flourish

--Leaders provide inspiration thru their vision

--Leaders need to provide a plan to enact vision and communicate message/vision

--Leaders move towards convergent conversations and directions

--Leaders take risks; identify where shared goals can be integrated...common ground

2. What is your calling for action? (optional)

--Citizens need to take back City and provide leadership

--Citizens need to hold leaders accountable; review goals and hold accountable

--Know your leadership style/temperament

--Promote mentoring/coaching; develop more formal avenues

--Implement succession planning in the various domains; feeder system

--Develop partnerships

- Continue/provide professional development opportunities and continuing education
- Look for opportunities for growth from current situation
- Research best practices and models
- Promote cross-functional collaboration; learn from each other
- Break down barriers; share info

NEXT STEPS

- Identify conveners to bring together
- Be prepared to implement next steps
- Use Leadership Trenton to guide participants into service areas
- Colleges and universities can partner to develop specific skills for leadership training
- Seek corporation/foundation support to fund program
- Incentivize people to go into public service
- Use military training as model for system of discipline and team training
- Develop rubric to evaluate people running for office (see earlier comments)
- Share rubric with media

Session Report #48: Incubator Development for Local & Ex-offender Entrepreneurs

Convener: Shakira Abdul-Ali

Participants: Jeanette Grimes, Jacqui Ivey, Ray Ingram, Marino Posso, Kimby Heil, David Ponton, Calvin Thomas, Bryant Williams, Marte' King, Jim Gordon, John Chavis; also Beth Plankey and Jim Simon

1. Highlights & key points from your discussion:

- There is an existing program! R.E.P.E.N.T. = Recidivism Prevention Through Entrepreneurship Training
 - Comprised of formerly incarcerated males, aged 18 - 29
 - Training conducted at Donnelly Homes
 - Classes held 5 days/week in the summer; training schedule is being re-designed
 - Includes jobs / skills training
 - Several businesses have been organized from this effort, including:
 - Green Team Clean, LLC - successfully acquired cleaning contract (w/ Housing Authority?)
 - Currently working with a group of trainees to build a small multi-media company
 - Now starting to train a second cohort of entrepreneurs; group is smaller, more committed
- Also - there is another successful entrepreneurship training initiative (19 yrs old!)
 - M.O.B. = Minding Our Business
 - MOB trains Ryder College Business students to serve as mentors and instructors for youth in 6th - 8th grade to develop business plans
 - They are moving to work with H.S. students
 - The business plans and small businesses are exhibited in an Annual Business Fair
- There is a need for entry-level, "first job" openings for 16 yo's to get job skills training and to earn an income to prevent them from looking for illegal ways to earn money
- Major problem for ex-offenders who do learn business development skills while still incarcerated: they have no resources when they leave prison, with which to start their life and their business
- Vision: create a facility that would include:
 - Commercial space to grow small businesses
 - Residential space to house those in need of transitional housing, once released from prison
 - (ADD ON) Training space for continued learning and personal development training
-

2. What is your calling for action? (optional)

- Convene meeting to discuss current needs for REPENT & MOB collaborative programming
- MOB - convene meeting with ED re their pursuit of funds, as a 501c3, to acquire a suitable facility
 - Call on interested philanthropist as appropriate
- Introduce REPENT grads to MOB students for mentorship / role modeling

- Think of best ways to use funding attached to parolees in support of incubator facility development
- Work with the City to identify a suitable building an incubator facility
- First Meeting - FEBRUARY 2015 in Donnelly Homes!!

Session Report #49: Radio and Television to Promote Your Organization

Convener: Jacque Howard

Participants: Stephanie Anderson, Phyllis Holly-Ward, Shirley Tyler, Diana McNeil, Ida B. Malloy, Sam Fogelgaren

1. Highlights & key points from your discussion:

Jacque discussed ways of promoting organizations, community interests, the arts and other items that might be of interest to Trenton residents and members of the larger New Jersey Metropolitan community.

WIMG is a the oldest AM radio station in New Jersey. It offers radio timeslots through the show “Trenton 365” which airs on Monday, 8:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. the show is live. Television on Tuesday, 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Airing Thursday and then again on the following Thursday.

The shows are scripted, which offers participants an opportunity to message what is important and vital to the mission of the organization.

The session focused on the best way to reach out to members of the Trenton community as well as any member of the larger New Jersey community. The advantages of using television and radio are:

- No cost/Low cost
- Scripted show
- Low cost for on the scene taping
- Access to a global community
- An opportunity to show Trenton in a positive light and to share events and other points of interest

Key ways of advertising: Twitter, email, Facebook, Blogs, fliers, word of mouth, Trenton Downtown Association and networking through other community partners.

Tentative appointments made today:

Phyllis Holly-Ward: February 17th...radio 8:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Phyllis Holly-Ward: February 25th...television 6:00 to 6:30 p.m.

2. What is your calling for action? (optional)

To continue to dialogue, connect and stay engaged.

Session Report #50: Trenton Area College Coalition - or the Gang of 6

Convener: Carol Cronheim

Participants: Stacy Denton, Diana Rogers, Marissa Davis, Cheri Durst, James Day, Chelsea Naylor, Lucy Guzman, Brea Heidelberg

1. Highlights & key points from your discussion:

TCNJ, TESC, Rider, Princeton, MCCC, and the Princeton Theological Seminary should come together in a coalition to work on issues that would benefit Trenton (and themselves and their students). The Goal: THINK TRENTON!

The Bonner Foundation through Bobby Hackett has already pulled together Rider, TCNJ, Princeton Univ., and the PTS. This idea would broaden that effort to include TESC and MCCC or if necessary be a separate effort. They already have a web site that is a policy clearinghouse called policy options.

These were the main issues identified:

Need for an internship clearinghouse -- not enough advanced notice when students are available, can't get them.

Breaking down barriers for students to intern -- transportation, paid internships or college credit -- are career centers doing this already at some of the institutions? Are they communicating with each other?

Making these interns part of the community -- idea -- housing program in Trenton for new grads

Need for graduate students for paid positions -- help non-profits find them.

Student Advisory Board for the Gang of 6 -- issues: help with applications, enrollment, retention, financial assistance, national models?

Habitat for Humanity has a low-cost store perfect for new grads. They also take furniture, etc. End of year program for abandoned university student furniture, etc.

Staff/Faculty Clearinghouse?

Trenton problem solving projects as part of the curriculum -- model in Eugene, OR is called the Sustainable City Year Project. One example -- a positive messaging project

Are Universities purchasing departments buying in Trenton? Could that be facilitated?

Could Trenton facilities be incorporated into the 6 curriculums? ie. The State Museum be used as part of the arts, history and science curriculums? War Memorial used as a lecture/concert hall or classroom space?

Could we centralize our grant messaging to all of the Grants and Research Offices?

Tip: Don't push the colleges too hard at first.

Summer sophomore program in the city. Model: University of Illinois/Chicago

Create a Taste of Trenton program in each college's student center to encourage interest/visits to the city.

Training for non-profits on how to host an intern.

2. What is your calling for action? (optional)

Not in any particular order:

Find out which classes at these colleges have required community service.

Reach out to each career center to determine what they are already doing

Reach out to Bobby Hackett at the Bonner Foundation to discuss what he is already doing and their interest in this concept.

Identify who and how to create a one-stop shopping internship clearinghouse for both interns and intern-seekers.

Speak to the head of the New Jersey Association of Colleges and Universities about this idea and national models. (Carol Cronheim will do.)

Speak to Volunteer Connect or the Non-Profit Finance Fund about holding workshops on how to host interns.

For the cultural community, Carol Cronheim will work with the state agencies to add intern hosting workshops to one of their regular workshops for the arts and history.