



Creative New Jersey's CREATIVE TRENTON: Call to Collaboration

January 23 & 24, 2014

Hosted by the Living Hope Empowerment Center, Trenton, NJ

Overwhelming interest in Creative Trenton resulted in our largest convening to date, with over 150 people registered and 127 in attendance – the morning after a major snow storm. Attendees ranged from high-ranking Department of State officials, to former prison inmates, to college students, local media, small business, non-profits, City of Trenton Economic Development, real estate developers, to representatives from a local community foundation and statewide philanthropic leaders. Our participants were a culturally, ethnically, and socioeconomically diverse group of people, who demonstrated a verve and commitment to improving conditions in Trenton that was palpable and overwhelmingly inspiring.

Creative Trenton Host Team

Co-Chairs: Dan Fatton, I Am Trenton Community Foundation; Maureen Heffernan, Young Audiences of NJ and Eastern PA; Ayo Johnson, Westminster Community Life Center; Christian Martin, Trenton Downtown Association

June Ballinger, Passage Theatre Company

Darren Freedom Green, Trenton Council of Civic Associations

Sam Frisby, Trenton YMCA

Kristin Gonzalez, Thomas Edison State College

Princess Jenkins, I Am Trenton Community Foundation

Peter Kasabach, NJ Future

Elissa Horan, CARE Trenton

Jacque Howard, Trenton365

Lynn Lemyre, Artworks Trenton

Diana Rogers, City of Trenton, Department of Economic Development

Creative New Jersey's Team in Trenton:

Maureen Heffernan, Young Audiences of NJ and Eastern PA; Larry Capo, Young Audiences of NJ and Eastern PA; Susan Haig, NJ Arts News; Katherine Kish, Einstein's Alley; Wendy Liscow, Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation; Alysia Souder, Institute of Music; and CNJ staff: Elizabeth Murphy, Kacy O'Brien, Julie Gause

Who Participated?

Creative Trenton's creativity convening was attended by 127 people representing a wide array of sectors and interests.

The convening welcomed individuals of all ages and ethnicities from:

Education: The College of New Jersey, Rider University – Arts Administration Program, Thomas Edison State College, Teaching Excellence Associates, Mercer County Community College, Foundation Collegiate Academy, The College of New Jersey Bonner Center for Civic & Community Engagement, Rutgers/CUNY, Educational Testing Service, Trenton Public Education Foundation, The College of New Jersey – Asian Arts Initiative, Trenton Board of Ed

Community Organizations: Living Hope Empowerment Center, Trenton Downtown Association, Citizens Campaign, Trenton NAACP, Impact Trenton, Trenton 365/WIMG 1300, Trenton Council of Civic Associations, Trenton YMCA, CARE Trenton, Top Ladies of Distinction, Trenton African American Pride Festival, HiTOPS, LifeTies, Inc., Patterson Alliance, Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey, Campaign to End Jim Crow Trenton, Black Gurlz Who Rock Social Club, National Junior Tennis & Learning of Trenton, ContentTrenton, Living Hope Church, People & Stories/Gente y Cuentos, Volunteers of America, Westminster Community Life Center, Einstein’s Alley, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Millhill Child & Family Development, Isles, Inc. - Youth Institute & Family Center, Dawn of Hope, West Ward Alliance, Healthfirst, Trenton Area Stakeholders, Dress for Success Mercer County, Vast Center

Arts & Culture: Passage Theatre, Artworks Trenton, Conservatory Mansion, NJ State Council on the Arts, S.A.G.E Coalition, NJ State Museum, NJ Arts News, Integral Sculpture Works, Trenton Children’s Chorus, ArtPride NJ Foundation, Trenton Community Music School

Local Business & Industry: Alchemy Enterprises, Hamilton Washery, Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce, Both Hands the Artlet, LLC, Capital Health Systems, Terhune Orchards, Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC, Championship Bar, Advertise IT, Studio Furniture, Mobile Minds of NJ, Van Note Harvey Associates

Social Service: Rescue Mission of Trenton, The Children’s Home Society, NJ Partnership of Health Kids – Trenton, PEI Kids, American Diabetes Association NJ, UIH Family Partners, Crisis Ministry of Mercer County, Habitat for Humanity, Trenton Area Soup Kitchen, Planned Parenthood Association of the Mercer Area, Anchor House, Inc.

Sustainability: NJ Future, Trenton Green Team

Philanthropy: I Am Trenton Foundation, Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation

Government: City of Trenton – Department of Economic Development, City Planning Board, The Commission MC South Jersey, NJ Department of State, Mercer County Division of Culture & Heritage, Trenton City Council, NJ Department of Environmental Protection, NJ Commission/Office of Volunteerism

Local Sponsors & Partners:

I Am Trenton Foundation
Rider University – Arts Administration Program
Living Hope Empowerment Center
Trenton Downtown Association
The College of New Jersey
Trenton Social

Cafe Ole
Citizens Campaign/Impact Trenton
Dunkin Donuts – Hamilton Ave.

The Issues and Ideas

Creative New Jersey’s creativity convenings in communities throughout the state utilize Open Space Technology—a highly-scalable and adaptable meeting format which creates unique opportunities for intentional, action-oriented discussions among diverse groups of people to explore areas of collaboration, and to share resources and information. The community-building power of this process comes from participants creating the agenda together, and subsequently self-organizing to lead group discussions about creative solutions to a central community question. It unleashes the leadership of every participant who is passionate about the issue at hand and wants to take action.

More than 50 different breakout sessions were held during Creative Trenton’s convening and topics included:

- Transportation for after school activities
- Trenton Greenways
- Good Governance/accountability with Citywide internet & libraries
- Mass Incarceration: The New Jim Crow
- Using Contemporary Arts to Engage Youth
- How can the War Memorial building be an Engine for Trenton?
- Trenton Board of Education Youth Summit March 15th Action planning
- Wisdom Council & Civic Engagement
- Radio and Television to Promote Your Organization
- Incubator program for Local & Ex-Offender Entrepreneurs

For more detailed information on these topics, including a full list of all ideas discussed and the names of the individuals involved in those discussions, please visit <http://www.creativenj.org/trenton/trenton-ideation-the-complete-notes/>

It’s not too late to join Creative Trenton!

Didn’t attend the convening, but want to connect and join with these creative and innovative minds in the City of Orange? Please click the [Get Involved](#) link on the website for more information on how you can join the creativity movement!

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. Launched as a statewide initiative by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, Creative NJ’s work in communities gathers people “at the intersection” of seemingly disparate disciplines, allowing for a host of diverse ideas to combine with others, thereby encouraging an explosion of potentially groundbreaking, new ideas.

Creative New Jersey gratefully acknowledges the leadership support of The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation. Additional funding has been provided by the New Jersey Recovery Fund in support of community engagement activities in Sandy-impacted communities.