

Collaborating and Partnering for Better Youth Outcomes

Peer Networking Meeting Minutes

Tuesday March 23, 2010

5:30-7:30pm

Announcements

BuildaBridge's Annual Institute for Arts in Transformation. Learn how to integrate arts into your youth development programs through this 5 day institute. The event will include how to create a trauma-informed environment and a special session on arts & relief with a focus on their trip to Haiti. This program is available for certification, undergraduate and graduate credit. June 2-6, 2010 at Bryn Mawr College. Contact: Vivian Nix-Early, 215-842-0428, vnixearl@buildabridge.org.

BuildaBridge Artology Summer Camp. This program is for 4, 5, 7, and 8 grade students combines art, science, and youth development from July 26th-August 13th. Sliding scale based in income. Contact: Vivian Nix-Early, 215-842-0428, vnixearl@buildabridge.org.

Free Technical Assistance. The US Department of Health and Human Services awarded the Mayor's Executive Office a Strengthening Communities Fund to deliver free training, technical assistance and coaching to 24 small grass roots nonprofits serving West Philadelphia in zipcodes 19104, 19131, 19139, and 19151. Applications and announcements will be available mid-April. Contact: Malcolm Byrd, Vivian Nix-Early, 215-686-3958, Malcolm.byrd@phila.gov.

HEALING's Renaissance Initiative is looking to hire full-time youth development professionals with at least 1-2 years experience and reliable transportation to work in their school-based youth development programs that will start in September. Contact: Gregory Morgan, 610.745.8906, elder@godshouse-bamn.org.

HEALING Traveling Services. HEALING is a prevention education agency that will come teach life skills training to youth programs. Contact: Gregory Morgan, 610.745.8906, elder@godshouse-bamn.org.

Hope Community Learning Center Book Fair. March 24th Build-a-Book night (\$7/book) from 6-7:30pm.

Management and Environmental Technologies Adult Education. They provide GED or basic computer training and job coaching to adults in PHA. Contact: Brenda Mitchell, bkmiitch@aol.com.

Management and Environmental Technologies Needs Mentors. They need 100 adult mentors for 9th grade students at University City High School. Their goal is to increase school retention for older youth. The kickoff event will be May 6th.

Mural Arts Program Art Education Programs. MAP runs *free* afterschool and summer programs for youth age 10-21 at over 30 sites across Philadelphia. All programs are free of charge and open to any interested youth. They use art as a vehicle for larger social issues and life skills. Contact: Maneesha Sane, 215-685-0726, Maneesha.sane@muralarts.org.

Mural Arts Program Prep-U Monthly Workshops. These are specifically focused on college and career awareness. Workshops include panelists representing local art schools, professional working artists, and hands-on guidance in resume writing, college applications, etc. All high school students, recent graduates and their families are welcome to attend. These are held on the first Wednesday of every month, 6-8pm, at 1729 Mt. Vernon St. Contact: Maneesha Sane, 215-685-0726, Maneesha.sane@muralarts.org.

New Out-of-School Time Document Library. The OSTRC has launched this all-inclusive resource that includes all of our Newsletter Publications from the past two years. Check it out: <http://www.sp2.upenn.edu/ostrc/doclibrary/index.html> and send Katie, kder@sp2.upenn.edu, any current articles or documents you think would be useful for the OST community.

OIC of America's Healthy Relationship Program is having their annual youth event on May 14th, 3-8pm, for youth ages 14-18 at the Student Activities Center at Temple University (13th and Montgomery Ave). Free food! Giveaways! Student presentations! A Dance competition! Contact: L'Erinne Capers, 215-236-4500, lerinnemoore04@yahoo.com.

Omega Psi Phi College Tours. They do college tours at historically African-american institutions of higher education. Spots are still available for their Mar 30-Apr 1 college tour. Appropriate for 10-12 grade students. Contact: Zachary Rollins, 267-210-5730, zrollins@cvca-pa.org.

Youthadelphia Grants. The Philadelphia Foundation's youth grant making program, Youthadelphia, is releasing their grant making application process this week. College and career prep, community development, and risk prevention programs are especially encouraged to apply. Contact: Naomi Leapheart, Naomi@matchstickgroup.org.

Panel

Naomi Leapheart, The MatchStick Group

As Principal of The MatchStick Group, Naomi specializes in helping start-ups and nonprofit organizations build leadership capacity, training youth in areas such as leadership and college preparation, and coaching young professionals as they shape and manage their careers. Naomi is working on the forthcoming book, *Sojourner's Daughters: Young Black Women on Sex, Femininity, and Leadership* and regularly teaches a course for high school students called Write Change! She facilitates workshops on a variety of topics including cultural competency, social justice philanthropy, and next-generation nonprofit leadership. Naomi is currently the president of Philadelphia's Young Nonprofit Leaders, an organization that strengthens the region's nonprofit sector by responding to the needs of young nonprofit professionals.

Naomi's points:

- Discussed collaborations using the metaphor of relationships.
- What makes/breaks relationships?
 - First, ideology—what is focus of program.
 - When two organizations come together they must first identify individual ideologies and if they can coexist.

- Relationships make/break if you know who is in charge and who is steering boat.
- Power—what is the power distributed and how is it exchanged in relationship; be clear on how each will work together with different power dynamic.
- Consider history and context—what does each bring to the relationship and how it will influence the relationship
- Competition: you need to consider how competitiveness influences on relationship, find something to agree;
- Resources: if collaborating, who is bringing what? Decide how resources distributed and allocated
- Four agreements partners must have:
 - 1: Be transparent about self-interest in relationship and what want from partnership;
 - 2: Acknowledge and owning power dynamics of relationships;
 - 3: Clarify expectations in relationship, should happen ongoing between organizations; clear and upfront about expectations;
 - 4: Culture eats strategy for lunch, be honest about culture of organization and how it may influence partnership

Matan Barnea, JEVS Human Services

Before coming to JEVS Human Services as Educational Consultant, Matan Barnea worked for a private sector test preparation company as a tutor and instructor. Equally comfortable teaching groups and individuals, Matan has helped hundreds of students improve their scores on the SAT and ACT. In addition to test preparation, he has been an education director and a drama teacher. Matan received his Bachelor of Arts *magna cum laude* from the Honors College of the University of Washington, where he studied Geography and Jewish Studies.

Matan's points:

Rewards from Partnerships:

- They're hot with funders right now: more bang for your buck, more clients served for the same cost
- Can increase exposure & publicity, can serve new and/or different clients, another opportunity for the organization to do what it loves
- Everyone brings their own values, ways of thinking about money
- Communication is Key
- Honesty (regarding expectations of self, partnership, clients) is the best policy
- Plan ahead with a "prenup," and have a "household budget"
- Make sure you schedule time for just the partners
- Bringing food to a meeting can make a difference, be sure to share positive feedback with your partner(s)
- Remember why you partnered in the first place
- Some partnerships don't work out. In that case, reflect alone and together about what happened and what could have gone differently
- JEVS partners with Cadence Cycling Foundation
- Cadence Cycling Foundation's nonprofit brings cycling to youth and was looking to add an education component.
- The partnership addresses issues in part with data and conversation about things like attendance.

Mark Wolfe, Free Library of Philadelphia

After completing a MLIS from the University of Pittsburgh in 2003, Mark worked for the New York Department of Corrections as Senior Librarian in a maximum-security facility located in northern NY state. Mark moved to Philadelphia to accept a position as Children's Librarian in the fall of 2006 and was promoted to Library Supervisor to take over the LEAP afterschool program in 2008. LEAP is a city-wide program found in 53 Free Library locations in all neighborhoods throughout Philadelphia.

Mark's points:

- Was the sole civilian in the prison library where he worked and only saw other prison librarians a few times a year.
- The Library's LEAP program is in all the library branches and acts as guests in all of the locations. LEAP Staff have little clout in the libraries where they are based as they're there infrequently.
- Their programs have a lot of inherited partners and partnerships with long histories. It's hard to work with partnerships you cannot dissolve. It's important to get buy-in from inherited partners:
 - Remind all involved to focus on the common goal
 - They employ local people to work at the community libraries
- The goals of the program have changed on paper but they have a legacy in the network that has been set up citywide.
- New & potential partners need to clearly identify the goal of the partnership.
- Don't ask for things you know they can't give.
- Don't offer more than you know you're able to give.
- Tread lightly with inherited partners (the ones you don't want)

Group Discussion

Comment: I attended a Rally your Resources Training: "you network so that you have a bounty of resources to give to the kids you work with."

Q: What do you do when you have a plan but one of the partners disregards it?

- Document your attempts to address the process. Appeal to anyone you can to help resolve the situation or get the wayward partner back on track.
- Guidelines only work if both partners have something to lose by not following them. Clearly delineated roles & tasks are fantastic but hard to do if one person dropping the ball means the other partner can't complete their tasks.
- You have to think about what's driving the partner group to deviate from the plan.
- Sometimes just asking a partner, "What's your agenda?" can help open the dialogue.

Q: In my administration of school-based, after-school teen programs, How do I get teachers on board without making their principal do it?

- You could try the "block captain route" and go to the most senior teacher and get them on board with the help of the principal.
- A lot of times what teachers and after-school program coordinators have in common is *the students*. You could have the students invite the teachers to an after-school program event.

Speed Networking

Upcoming Meeting - "Preparing Youth for Summer Employment," April 27th, 11:30-1:30