

Vista Partnership: Arts & Culture – Meeting II

12.15.14

“Accelerating the revitalization of a 20-block area in Southwest Detroit with a focus on economic opportunity, social equity, and most importantly—resident planning and partnership.”

Overview

On Monday, December 15th, 2014—Vista staff and residents convened for the second meeting of the Arts & Culture work group. We discussed several topics such as: Some recent developments in the neighborhood including the arrival of a new major art firm and some proposed projects including signage, a visioning wall, and resource mapping.

Recent Developments

In the beginning of the meeting, residents and staff discussed some recent developments that have occurred regarding Arts & Culture in the Hubbard-Richard neighborhood.

- Galapagos, an art firm from New York, has purchased the APAC building, turning it into a possible art gallery/living space
 - Newspaper published an article claiming the building was in Corktown, actually is in Hubbard-Richard.
 - We should engage Galapagos right away – what are their plans? Can we work together?
 - One of the residents knows about Galapagos previously
 - Vista may have information that Galapagos may want in order to benefit each other
 - Invite residents to engage Galapagos in proposing a commitment to investing in local artists; can SWSol play a role in advocating for local artists as leverage to new, incoming artists?
 - Try to get a date and time set up for meeting with Galapagos; No Thursday mornings, no Tuesday nights; invite a group of 4-6 people for a “welcoming”
 - Galapagos has a for-profit business model; will most likely attract younger crowd, will it be beneficial for local, current residents?
- There has been some confusion lately about what the name of Hubbard-Richard community is, and where the boundaries are. Some people have mistaken Hubbard-Richard for Corktown or Corktown Shores...
- Residents feel very strongly about their culture and identity within their community. Respecting the history and heritage of neighborhoods is very important to the success of inclusive development—and one that Vista staff will continuously consider when moving forward with proposed projects.

Proposed projects

Signage

Building off of the last meeting, the work group decided to explore the idea of creating signage within the Vista development area. This could potentially help in promoting the Hubbard-Richard neighborhood as well as local businesses and attractions by using resident creativity.

- Signage for local businesses
- Signage to promote the boundaries and heritage of Hubbard-Richard
- Signage to promote expressions of creativity from residents

Visioning Wall

The work group will help to set up a visioning wall. The visioning wall idea was originally created by a woman named Candi Chang, who started the first one on the side of an abandoned building in New Orleans. It will be constructed using wooden boards and chalkboard paint, and will be securely fastened to the side of a building.

The wall is designed to:

- Allow people to openly and anonymously express their ideas about a specific theme that the wall is centered around. (Ex. "Before I die...", I remember when..., I would like to see..., etc.)
- Provides a visual appealing addition to an area that receives foot traffic
- Creates a space where local residents and outside visitors can interact with the neighborhood
- Serves as a piece of art added to the neighborhood
- Also have a space where people can create drawings
- balancing art in area with not creating a "spectacle" maintaining a neighborhood feeling; (ex. clouds painted on abandoned houses and viaducts are appealing)
- link to Candi Chang visioning wall:
http://www.ted.com/talks/candy_chang_before_i_die_i_want_to?language=en

Possible wall locations:

- Service Tire
- La Colmena
- St. Anne's Church
- Bagley and 24th street
- Hubbard Richard CDC building (St. Anne's & Bagley St.)

Materials needed:

- Visioning Wall Toolkit
- Plywood Boards
- 2x6's
- Chalk Paint & Chalk
- Spray Paint

Mapping Local Resources

Residents came up with an interesting idea that could have real benefits for the area—creating a local resource map that can promote and balance usage and interactions in the community. This map could highlight local attractions such as: restaurants, bars, theatre, art gallery, Mercado, shops, welcome center, etc.) This effort can benefit businesses and incoming visitors from outside areas including Canada.

Are there any other resource/attraction maps we can draw ideas from?

- Eastern Market
- Downtown Detroit
- Campus Martius
- Ann Arbor

To Do List for Next Meeting

- Materials and toolkit for visioning wall
- Photographing different sites for visioning wall
- Start gathering a welcoming committee for Galapagos meeting
- Set up a meeting with Galapagos
- Involve more local artists
- Find other resource/attraction maps as examples

Scheduling

The next Arts & Culture meeting will be on Wednesday, January 14th, 2015 at 5:30 pm at 1920 25th Street, Lithuanian Hall.