

Vista Partnership: Arts & Culture Work Group

Meeting IV

2/4/15

"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 Wednesday, February 4th, Vista staff and residents convened for the fourth Arts & Culture work group meeting. Here we discussed topics concerning: engaging the Galapagos art firm, updates about the Candi Chang visioning wall, and proposing a special artist's event at the St. Anthony's Church

Galapagos Updates

Conversations about creating a coalition of local artists for the purpose of engaging the newcomer Galapagos art firm are ongoing, and continue to be a popular idea that residents want to move forward with. Vista staff has attempted to contact Galapagos with no luck so far, but will continue this effort. Here are some comments below:

- Let's get on the front end to discuss in a positive opportunities and collaboration; there are already tons of artists here who are well established
- Vito: Galapagos has recently come into town to hold a forum; arts writer from Amsterdam wanted to write a story about what the impacts of the arts in Detroit from Galapagos; wanted Vito's opinion—concerned;
- How will the neighborhood be impacted if there are major performances? Possibly causing traffic concerns?
- Galapagos moved into Williamsburg, Brooklyn during a time of increased development in the Brooklyn neighborhood; is there a potential concern for gentrification?
- '08-'09, firm may have had potential financial troubles
- Why come to Detroit? And emerging, large artists market, low property acquisition and leasing rates
- Galapagos seems to be or could be very actively working with major financial institutions to move operations to Detroit
- There's a potential to take advantage of possible opportunities; there might be a way for Galapagos and locals to collaborate for the good of everyone
- There is a need to distinguish the uses between the Highland Park and Hubbard-Richard buildings—HR is a live/work space?
- Can the back of APAC be used for a community mural space?—a great way for Galapagos to build relationships and trust with local youth, artists, residents, etc.

Visioning Wall updates

The Arts & Culture work group has decided to move forward on creating a "visioning wall" within the Vista geography area. This wall will allow creative interaction between local residents, stakeholders, and outside visitors. With chalk paint as a backboard, the wall is intended to last from

Cinco de Mayo until Día de los Muertos. Passersby can contribute to the wall, expressing their ideas. We are hoping to construct a 2nd wall at another location if the project is successful.

- What will the prompt be for the wall to get users to interact? – “I wish this place...”
Allows users to creatively express their ideas around this concept based on their own perceptions
- Where: Building at 24th and Bagley—currently working on getting permission from the building/property owners to see if we can place the temporary art project on their buildings; UPDATE: we have located the owners, now a matter of getting ahold of them!
- When: Would like to start working on the project in March, and put up the wall when weather gets warm, no later than the end of April.
- Vito Valdez attended the meeting, is interested in the idea, is willing to consider helping with design and painting—asking for a submittal of budget and scope of work
- Use this wall as a pilot project to gain energy and momentum around future Arts & Culture projects with VP
- Can we have an electronic board, or kiosk, with a mini “visioning wall” for local events; can be mobile and temporary; a way to further engage residents and build momentum; can serve as a kickoff for other things, including artistic and intellectual history of area
- Livings Arts and Clark Park are good places to construct and frame the wall

Vista staff will continue to contact building owners to get permission and team up with residents to help build a scope of work to submit to Vito Valdez.

Artist’s Event at St. Anthony’s

The Executive Director of Community Engagement, Ozzie Rivera, would like the help of the Arts & Culture work group to help organize an effort to create an artist’s event at the newly renovated St. Anthony’s Church on Vernor and 25th street.

This will serve several purposes:

1. To introduce to the local arts community a new space that can potentially be used for local events, galleries, meetings, performances, etc.
2. To reunite and uplift the artists in the immediate neighborhood; a way for local artists to light heartedly engage one another and see what others are working on and the potential for collaboration amongst each other
3. To pay homage to the incredible talent and diversity of the arts in the community

Here are some of the comments and ideas from the work group:

- St. Anthony’s currently under renovations, hopefully finished by March;
- Significant arts history in community, let’s reunite and uplift!
- Gather artisans from the community to get together for a meet and greet
- Introduce the location as a space that artists can get involved and perform in, also a way to unite artists and help them get to know each other;
- Renovations have to be completed first;
- Currently compiling a list of artists who live in this neighborhood
- This is an opportunity to gather and celebrate the artists that are in the neighborhood; take a space that’s being transformed to envision ways to use and utilize it for the community and artist events:

- Entertainment/food/open mic/opportunity to have minimal exhibits of local artists
- Hoping to do something by late March
- Food trucks? Is there way to bring in food trucks to honor food and culture in the neighborhood?
- Don't forget about Pipeline gallery: small building in the back of Giovanni's bar— had a show about a year ago from a New York artist

Conclusion: Schedule Next Meeting

Wednesday, February 25th @ 5:30pm
1920 25th Street - Lithuanian Hall - Detroit