

Vista Partnership Arts & Culture – meeting III

1.14.15

“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, January 14, 2014—Vista staff and residents convened for the third meeting of the Arts & Culture work group. We continued our discussion about creating a visioning wall in the Hubbard-Richard neighborhood, and focused in on detailing methods, procedures, locations and materials. We also confirmed the interests of creating a small coalition of local Arts & Culture representatives to start an engagement effort towards Galapagos, a new, for-profit art firm that will be coming to the Hubbard-Richard neighborhood.

Visioning Wall/Chalk Paint Wall

Locations

Vista staff visited and took photographs of several potential sites in the community to start a visioning wall. Here are the sites that were on the possibility list and as can be seen following, only the vacant building outdoor sites were deemed best for this initiative.

- Buildings at 24th and Bagley
- Roberto Clemente recreation center
- Honeybee Market
- Our Vodka distillery
- La Jaliscience tortilla factory
- Service Tire
- Café con Leche
- Mexicantown Mercado – Ford Resource Center
- Mexicantown International Welcome Center

Residents decided that two locations (one indoor, one outdoor) for a visioning wall would be a good start to the interactive art project. For now, focusing on the outdoor locations seemed to be the most important and popular thus far. The vacant buildings at 24th and Bagley seemed to be the most popular, as that area receives a lot of local and outside foot traffic, and are visible within a cultural area of the Hubbard-Richard neighborhood.

The Prompt

Instead of replicating the original wall from Candi Chang which prompts participants, “Before I die...” Our walls will have unique prompts catered to the wishes of residents involved in the project. The outside wall will be, “I wish this place...”, while the other will state—“In my neighborhood, I...” These are designed to stimulate the participants’ brainstorming about their answers, and should encourage diverse responses based on their perceptions and interpretations of the prompt.

Design

Material cost for the visioning board shouldn’t be over \$200. The group decided commissioning a local artist to help with designing the prompt/logo would be better than using a pre-bought stencil. Vito Valdez was the first suggested name that came to mind, and if he is unable to do so, we can try reaching out to other local artists.

- Chalk with Chalk Holders
- Spray paint (white)
- Chalkboard paint (black)
- Disposable gloves
- Tarp or Trash Bags
- Paint trays
- Paint rollers
- Sponge brush/paint brush
- Hammer and nails
- Measuring tape
- Plywood
- 2 x 4 studs
- Duct tape
- Bucket
- Oil Paint

Timeline

The group decided that as soon as the weather can reach consistently above 40 degrees, the project should be ready to go and started. We figured this would probably be sometime in late March of 2015. We’re hoping the owner of the site will allow for the Visioning Wall to be up from spring until Día de los Muertos (November 2nd).

Outreach and Engagement with Galapagos

The work group decided to continue the idea of creating a small coalition of local artists to start outreach and engage with Galapagos, a major art firm from Brooklyn, NY who has recently about a large building on 18th street in Hubbard-Richard.

This can be a meet-and-greet style event, hoping to open dialogue and build relationships with the newcomers to the area.

Scheduling

The next Arts & Culture work group meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 4th at 5:30 pm at Lithuanian Hall, 1920 25th Street.