

INFORMAL NOTES FROM MONTHLY UPDATING CALLS WITH CORNELIA

February 2019

Personnel

1. Les' transition from CERF+ -- officially his last day will be May 17th
 - Context for transition...
 - With lots of staff moving around the last couple of years, we had the opportunity to rethink our staffing needs in light of a new reality for CERF+.
 - With staff input, which include a SWOT analysis and discussion about the key skills we needed on our staff, we've reconfigured some positions (like admin director to deputy director), created a new position at CERF+ (director of development and communications) and completely changed up others
 - After the mega storms of 2017 and our experience in FY18, we realized that we needed an ER manager who could be more outward facing (then inward). Someone who could mobilize on behalf of artists after disaster -- in other words create the Artists Safety Net and then activate that safety net after disasters
 - So we have created a different emergency relief position at CERF+ and informed Les of this change last week
 - This has been very hard. Les has served this organization with great dedication for 15 years. He cares deeply about the work here and the artists that he's worked with. As you can imagine, he's been heartbroken about this news
 - He's also been very professional about it as well and has agreed to stay until May 17th OR until he finds a job (but if that's the case to give us two weeks' notice)
 - We have consulted with legal counsel...first with Casey way back when and now more recently with a VT attorney who's knowledgeable about VT labor laws.
 - We'll be working with this attorney to come up with a transition agreement for Les, which will include some kind of acknowledgement in light of his years of service and dedication.
 - We will ask Casey to review and advise on all of these matters.
 - This news is now public but the details are not
 - Once we finalize the position, we'll get the job description out to you and so that you can help us with outreach. We're definitely going to be looking at our contacts in the emergency management field and we have some great contacts at FEMA, Center for Disaster Philanthropy, Red Cross, and elsewhere

2. Dustin Byerly is wrapping up his job at Goddard College and will be starting at CERF+ on March 4th. I know that he'll want to individually connect with each of you as part of his orientation so look out for his call in the coming months. He won't be coming with us to PR but will be coming with us to NCECA to help with our silent auction there and to meet the many businesses and ngos there.

Programs

Mellon funded project

Hiring consultant Claudia Bach to help us build the arts responder network

Moving ahead on a contract with NFF -- Reed and James will be having a mtg with them in NYC in early March

Just did another round of Etsy emergency grants
10 artists, sellers received \$1,000 grant each

Now have FEMA support to do preparedness workshops this April/May in PR and USVI

March 4th Arts Advocacy

- CERF+ is a co-sponsor
- Craig Nutt will be there for us working on our FEMA regulatory change issue & our partnership with Americans for the Arts
- John Haworth will also be there

Whom we serve -- our thanks to Paul S and Carol Eckert for their work on reviewing our language that describes whom we serve and working with Les about our review process

Lowell Mills an artists' work space has raised the funds for us to do a Ready + Resilient this April in Huntsville, AL

Fundraising

We're ahead of the game this year with the annual fund -- yeah everyone!

We have submitted a concept paper to the Flamboyant Foundation to fund our phase 2 work in Puerto Rico (this is the foundation that's managing Lyn Manuel Miranda's fundraising efforts for the arts in PR)

Carrie, James, Nel and Pati Young are at ACC Baltimore right now doing our annual booth fee and outreach work at the show

We're deep into planning Dustin's orientation and can't wait to get him started!

Puerto Rico

You've received the itinerary -- any questions?

Anything missing that you were hoping for?