

Topic	Building a Collective Voice Calgary Arts Coalition / Creative Calgary		
Date	September 29, 2020	Location	Calgary, AB Online Session - Zoom
Host(s)	Janet Bwititi, Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra		
Participants	Janet Bwititi, Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra Simon Mallett, The Rozsa Foundation Kate Monaghan, Creative Calgary Steve Schroeder, Calgary International Film Festival Jeff Popiel, Beakerhead Colleen Dickson, Arts Commons Allison Moore, Mass Culture (observer)		
Notetaker	Teresa Farstad		
Facilitator	Alexandra Hatcher		
Gathering Question	What are the key characteristics of a successful municipal arts coalition?		
Perspectives and thoughts	<p>Purpose – identify why the organization exists, and what it is working to achieve Determining the purpose is a necessary step. There is a need for a collective voice for arts in Calgary. There is a potential role to play in advocacy, as well as in placemaking and creating a sense of belonging. What will our relevance to the community be? Whose voices will we represent?</p> <p>Collaboration – work together towards a common goal The best collaborative experiences come when there is a common goal and excitement about the potential outcomes. Collaboration is about coming together for a common purpose, living by the notion that we are stronger together. There is also an acknowledgement that there is an effort required for collaboration; it is a greater investment, requiring greater sweat-equity.</p> <p>Capacity – determine what skills, knowledge, and competencies are required to achieve the organization’s purpose Having a paid person in an administrative and leadership role would be the best case scenario. Determining what are the expectations for that person is be key (see <i>Structure</i> below). Other ways to increase capacity is the decentralization of work, assigning specific roles with accountability.</p> <p>Barriers – identify challenges to success and developing mitigation strategies Some of the challenges at present are egos that tend to get in the way, as well as biases that can be seen from all angles in the arts community in Calgary. There is also a particularly challenging question to address the role of the individual artist in this organization.</p>		

	<p>Structure – clarify roles, responsibilities, and expectations to ensure effective and efficient communications, resource management, and decision making</p> <p>Some ideas for organizational structure are a hub and spoke model, or working in pods towards smaller goals that support the greater goal of the organization. Questions around how to engage individuals, how to have individuals invest in the organization through various means such as time and/or money; could there be a role for ambassadors? should there be a paid membership structure? what would that look like? who is a member of the community and/or a member of the organization?</p>
<p>What further research on the topic discussed would be useful?</p>	<p>Exploration of existing arts coalitions such as BC Alliance for Arts and Culture, Toronto Alliance of Performing Arts, Americans for the Arts, Arts Council England</p>
<p>Whose voices are missing around the table?</p>	<p>Someone from the community who is not involved in the arts (to add perception piece) audience goer, patron of the arts, champion of the arts Education community, perspective of next generation of artists Community based arts organizations</p>
<p>Resources & Links</p>	<p>BC Alliance for Arts and Culture www.allianceforarts.com Toronto Alliance for Performing Arts www.tapa.ca Americans for the Arts www.americansforthearts.org Arts Council England www.artscouncil.org.uk</p>
<p>What next steps were mentioned as a result of the Gathering?</p>	<p>Identify gaps in the current arts and culture ecosystem in Calgary – what is not being done? Can this organization fill those gaps, and question do we want to fill those gaps?</p> <p>Define our common purpose</p> <p>Explore the question who do we serve; community based – professional; organization – individual artist</p> <p>Explore potential governance models and organizational structures</p> <p>Consider the responses to the key question above in a Calgary context and identify stages of organizational development to establish an arts coalition in Calgary.</p>