

Summary of Focus June 27, 2007 Fine Arts Task Force Meeting

Based upon our conversations, there are three working groups starting to form and get going. When emailing any information re these groups, I suggest using the following headers:

I. FATF: MMSD (Jane Doughty Lead)

MMSD Arts Education -

educational and financial information about MMSD arts education curricular, co-curricular and extracurricular activities.

II. FATF: Interviews (??, Lead)

A) Community Interviews

data gathering from under-enrolled groups in arts education.

B) Other Interviews - arts leaders, former fine arts coordinators (Libby Burmaster, Mike George, Mariel Wozniak), city arts person, major donors, etc.

III. FATF: Surveys (Anne Katz Lead)

Parents, Traditional Arts Organizations, Teachers, Art Students, Sample of students (interested but not selecting arts students), Administrators, Board Members, etc.

Note: May want to use focus groups to help narrow questions for surveys.

The main focus of the 6/27 meeting of the task force will be on FATF: Interviews part A - community organizations/persons working in arts education with underrepresented K-12 age populations. From reviewing MMSD data we saw a major drop in participation of all students from elementary to middle to high schools. We also saw an underrepresentation of low-income students and students of color in arts education classes.

At our next meeting, I suggest we focus on the following: 1. What we want to learn from the interviews? 2. What questions need to be asked to get this information? 3. Who is the target population for the interviews?

I've attached a worksheet that suggests some of the items we need to address before interviews begin. Our focus needs to be on the above three questions. The items re. sampling plan will fall from addressing these three topics.

Prior to June 27 -

Please submit suggested names of organizations/centers and contact persons for these interviews to me. In this way we can compile a list for groups/individuals w/o duplication that will help us with information on low income and students of color studying various art forms for the interviews.

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I believe the organizations contacted for interview should have some sort of "formal" arts program otherwise it will be impossible to compare/contrast the different activities. I would suggest that one of the outputs for our June 27 meeting be a list of organizations/centers/contact person to interview with a couple of lines about why (eg Bayview community center: Hmong population, active dance program, target grades 3-6) and then the committee member who will conduct the interview and an approx. timeframe for having it done.

Also please submit/bring sample questions for review since the data from these interviews will be the hardest to compare/summarize for the report so we need to come up with a common "script" to follow. Julie, are the questions distributed at last meeting scanned and on the computer for folks to have a copy to reference?

Lastly, I would also hope that we will be able to narrow down the list of questions at our next meeting. I think it's important that no interview take place until the list of interviewees and questions are approved by the working group.