

Kindle Arts Society

Kindle Arts Society & Victoria RC

Town Hall Meeting Minutes

October 28th, 2014

Time: 7pm

Where: Sunset Room, Victoria B.C

In attendance: Kindle Arts Society Board of Directors, Victoria Regional Contacts and Community members.

Agenda:

This agenda is a guideline and is meant to be flexible in recognition of what sort of flow the community dictates. The facilitator is a guide in this process.

- Introduction to KindleArts Board Members & Burning Man Regional Contacts
- Review of KindleArts' Mission Statement & definition of a Regional Contact
- Review of questions asked in the online survey
- **Activity** - Vote on the themes that are most relevant for you and want to discuss
- Review ground rules
 - Everyone is welcome and encouraged to speak
 - If you see an opportunity for improvement, be prepared to pitch a solution
 - Speakers will have a 2 minute limit
 - Be respectful of speakers
 - Do not speak out of turn, give everyone a chance to be heard
 - We may not come to a solution or direction in one evening and that's ok
 - If a opinion or option has been thoroughly discussed the facilitator may interject for the sake of flow and efficient use of time
- Open the floor to discuss any other topics that have not been covered yet

Meeting Opened:

Facilitator – Review of Kindle Society purpose, regional coordinators, survey questions that were sent out, survey responses and common theme (see slideshow slides, attached to minutes)

Common themes from online survey results:

1. community engagement
2. creating more art
3. harm reduction
4. structure of events
5. minors at events.

Facilitator explained the topics.

Voted on themes. Three votes per attendee.

Creating more art received the most vote. Community engagement second, followed by harm reduction.

Create More Art

Facilitator went over the slide.

Community members like the idea of mandatory art.

Facilitator explained – example portraits in fur, we have to make art.

Community member (**CM**)- need an understanding of what art means. Not just visual art. She does Costco art and visual art. We can participate in ways that are not visual art.

Director– Event called Alfa where everyone who goes is involved in an art project. You don't have to be the artist.

CM – Can be anything, any art form. Poetry, performance.

CM– if you say mandatory, that implies someone is policing. How can we support people who feel left out by that statement. Identifying as an artist is not easy for everyone.

Director– all events should have art at them, but that doesn't mean everyone has to bring something, just that the event has an art element to it.

Director– proposed the question, how should we make more art, what do you want us to do?

CM– don't we have a mandate for art education.

RC – we tried a Kindle academy. It fizzled out.

Director– we try not to run everything as the board. Just need a volunteer to take things on for projects they want to see happen.

RC– create a database of people wanting to run workshops and what do they want to teach. People could look at the database if they want to learn something and contact the person with the knowledge.

CM– does kindle have resources to support these types of things?

CM– likes the idea of having a data base.

CM– Issues – venues are expensive and the cost of the workshop was too high and people didn't sign up.

CM- maybe when people buy tickets to events they get a voucher for a kindle workshop.

CM – Would have volunteered her studio for free.

Director– we throw money at events all the time. It doesn't have to be expensive. Living rooms, free at Solstice.

Director– Kindle has money that belongs to its members. We don't have to make money. If there is interest we can fund it.

CM– might have space through work at Victoria Mental Health. People have to clean after.

RC– add spaces to the database base.

CM– could have burner night at Makerhouse. Often there are different things going on in those spaces.

CM– not everyone is willing to share skills for free, but should give people the option to be paid.

CM– would be valuable to get feedback on what worked etc. on past projects.

CM – explained Interplya. Take over Victoria park and provide a completely free burner style event. Only portapotties will be provided. Public will be encouraged to bring things to this event. This will be in May.

Community Engagement

CM– a gratitude project for each event. A wall or a mailbox with pens and paper so that positive feedback will happen with immediacy.

Director– on non-burner events there is usually 10-12 volunteers and you throw a party, but for us most are volunteers. Wary of getting into the mode of picking out volunteers to appreciate. At Otherworld most team leads who have a large group of volunteers have a budget.

CM– throw an open invitation appreciation night at Solstice, etc.

CM – leads should have their own parties for their volunteers.

CM– doesn't know how much work people put in and is surprised when she finds out. Doesn't need a thank you. Questions why a thank you is necessary. Volunteering is the reward.

CM– have a wall. Team leads could write why they are grateful. Share that appreciation. "Why you do what you do" project.

Director – as DPW I get to appreciate people and give them a beer and tell them they are doing a great job.

CM– Seattle after Seacom and Critical they have a dinner. They have a criteria about who is invited to that. They also send out little thank you cards.

CM – team leads don't need more things to do, somebody to step up as volunteer coordinator.
GRATITUDE LEAD.

RC - Rewarding versus appreciation, Finding out what other regions are doing

Director– how to we better market the 10 principles to people coming to our events.

CM– online quiz before tickets can be purchased.

Director– at burner and beers events that we have games that are 10 principles based or stand up on soapbox and go over one or two principle and start conversations.

CM– pick one in particular to focus on at each event.

CM – 10 principles corner at events. Or have events where we focus on them.

CM– send people to the teachers office.

CM– do we send survival guide.

CM– online newsletter. Write an article, something funny.

CM– burn vic website? We have a Kindle Arts website.

CM– not everyone is on Facebook and they miss events.

CM– Stream line listservs?

CM– could be good to have websites that aren't always having new posts like FB does.

Director– What do people think of team leads getting discounts on tickets? When do we step up on the appreciation and do more?

CM – taking on greater volunteer roles where you have to give more and more of your time, but not everyone can afford to take those nights off work. Only some people have the funds and the time to volunteer.

Director – good topic for a forum.

CM – put team lead hours expectations.

Director– Portraits in fur, already over 100 hours.

Director – doesn't want to know in advance. Will be overwhelming.

CM – loves the idea of a calendar. Does not usually come to Vic events. I don't know where I can volunteer. Does not know where to engage or where she can volunteer.

Director – typically it happens at organizational meetings. So if someone doesn't show up they may not volunteer.

CM – cautions about letting people sign up for volunteer leads online if they don't show up at the meeting and haven't reached out to express interest.

CM– reduce site to nothing but location of next event meeting.

RC– more clear job descriptions, clear calendar of events, making people aware of our needs, easy to find on website

Director– more involvement of community during decision making. Decision making is voted on. Majority rules.

Director – often times one of us will have had discussions with someone in the community. There is a lot of discussion about policies etc before voting.

Facilitator– Anything lacking? Want to see more of?

CM – harm reduction. How we can rely on the board of directors ...couldn't hear.

Director– we look to mandate. When there is a big policy like harm reduction we talk about it. That's why we are here today.

Director – we have written up a policy on sound guidelines. We send it out and ask for feedback.

CM – people feel like the board is making decisions without community participation.

Facilitator – when is something too big for the board to decide on?

Director– we expect the community to trust us to self-govern. When something like harm reduction comes along, we obviously need help. Sound policy we may experiment. We don't feel like it is changing the way our event is happening in a major way. Smaller we expect to be trusted.

CM– too much input and the process becomes unmanageable. We have chosen people we trust to lead the group. The intent is to have... If someone is unhappy then lobby and try to get a seat.

Director – we are 5 now, but planning on opening up to 7. The board without any consultation in the community. Participation grants at otherworld do not cover food or booze because it is illegal.

Facilitator– voting, big things get sent up to community, a level of trust that we vote in with the volunteers.

CM– an open door policy might help when people want to talk.

Director– people are usually allowed to go to the meetings if someone wants to go.

CM – What is the 5 year plan of the board?

Director– we talked about 5 and 10 year plans and where we want to go with this. We do not talk about it much at any given meeting.

CM– likes the idea of moving towards owning our own land and then renting it out. Not feasible in the short term, but maybe he is wrong.

Director– personal goal. To give \$1,000 to someone from away to come here with art. We have more money to bring larger art to our events.

Add to forum – What does the community want to see in the next 5 to 10 years.

CM– Really loves the travelling art grant.

RC– last year Los Angeles adopted South Korea as a sister community. We have paired up with Austin.

Director- was invited to Flipside, but couldn't go. Amara and I are hoping to go this year to see how it is run.

CM– get a group of people to go?

RC – anyone who wants to go can. Will do a sister city announcement and invite people to go to flipside.

Harm Reduction: Separate meeting and date to be announced by board asap.

Next meeting: to be announced asap.

Adjournment