

APA NYM Urban Design Committee and Arts & Culture Subcommittee

Monthly Committee Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: 7/18/2017, 6:00 PM @ Hudson River Collaborative (12 Vestry Street)

Attendees

- Chris Rhie, Co-Chair
- Sarah Bassett
- Alice Shay (phone)
- Ali Sutherland-Brown
- Jyothi Grama
- Alexander Adams
- Renee Schoonbeek
- Alexis Wheeler
- Vanessa Smith
- Mary Miltimore
- Victoria Hallas (phone)
- Ryan Lovett (phone)
- Greg Haley (phone)

Regrets

- Cristina Ungureanu, Co-Chair
- Sreoshy Banerjea
- Caroline Bauer
- Naomi Hersson-Ringskog

Agenda:

1. **Approve Meeting Notes from June** (see attached)
2. **Updates**
 - a. Arts and Culture Subcommittee updates
 - b. Priorities from 1-pager the committee would like to take on
 - c. Event brainstorming for the year, that aligns with our 2 focus areas
3. **Social Media Strategy**
 - a. APA Metro Chapter newsletter
 - b. Voices of Urban Design Blog Post Signup
 - c. New Communications Lead and Secretary beginning in September
4. **Upcoming Events**
 - a. Fall Chapter Conference

Meeting Notes:

- **Approve Meeting Notes from June**

- Send in comments on previous meeting notes within 48 hours
- Meeting minutes **approved**
- **Updates**
 - Arts and Culture Subcommittee updates (Vanessa)
 - 100 Gates Project: Attend & share tete-a-tete event on Tuesday, August 8. Discussion about whether security gates could be transparent and whether that impedes public safety.
 - Looking to host an event going to Bannerman Island in October
 - Feedback on previous tete-a-tete event: PPS and artist that does social justice work – how used creative placemaking to activate people around certain issues; 15 people attended
 - APA NY preparing conference in fall, group of people discussing content; one topic is autonomous vehicles
 - Renee went to tech meet up at NYU dedicated to a Blank Space competition (in partnership with City of New York) about autonomous transit options
 - Team that won included Sam Schwartz Engineering and FX Fowle; proposal was about what to do with space in city that frees up after you get rid of cars
 - Other ideas were interesting/provocative also; check the website and watch short videos of other ideas
 - Jury was comprised of public officials, including Marisa Lago
 - Update on New Agency Leadership roundtable
 - Alice is a support person for APA
 - Greg Haley is point person for AIA Planning & Urban Design Committee
 - Looking for new date in September
 - Center for Architecture not available
 1. Idea proposed to make it a part of the fall conference (since potential dates are now close to conference time)
- **Priorities from 1-page the committee would like to take on**
 - Finding semi-permanent space
 - Get a developer to give us 3 month lease on vacant ground floor space; not a one-day pop up
 - Precedents:
 1. Van Alen has bookstore space – some kind of planning-related community oriented spot
 2. MAS used to have bookstore space similar to above
 3. Made in the Lower East Side (miLES) storefront
 - Field trips (project site tours)
 - Field trip to simultaneously build information on best practices for the eventual Toolkit
 - Partner with universities, who have built in audiences
 - Like Studio X did (Columbia GSAPP)
 - Pratt, Columbia, NYU, New School, Cornell, etc. – we can conduct outreach via the student committee
 - Promote cross pollination between schools on urban design initiatives
 - Toolkit
 - Precedents to be useful for practitioners

- Copyright issues for those?
 - Pick something short term and feasible
 - Blog
 - Precedents
 - Field trips
 - Challenge us to go further – use the short term actions to build towards long term change
 - Urban Design @ DCP just convened a group of all urban design groups across city agencies
 - Can we do this in a public forum?
 - Roundtable series convening agencies on different topics
 - Goal 2 - #8 walk tours: easy, fun, and can generate a crowd
 - Community Design Collaborative from Philly
 - Offers free design services to communities
 - Have them on a panel and explore why this doesn't work in New York; how to adapt so it could
 - Use this model for our volunteer work?
 - Expand webinars
- Event brainstorming for the year, that aligns with our 2 focus areas
- Facilities Explorer Demo (Chris)
 - 24 people registered
 - Recording of the webinar, Chris will append to blog post
- Fine Arts Federation
 - Member group that represents interest of all arts/design/civic organizations, primary function to recommend appointees to Urban Design Commission
 - As representative of APA, Renee is a member of FAF. Meet bimonthly and discuss what concerns member organizations.
 - Last week meeting: trying to come up with collective statement to electeds re: Fearless Girl; all had been installed disobeying rules that decide public art; was going to take letter to APA board, but FAF could not reach consensus
- Social Media Strategy
 - APA Metro Chapter newsletter
 - Voices of Urban Design Blog Post Signup
 - New Communications Lead and Secretary beginning in September
- Upcoming Events
 - Fall Chapter Conference
 - Discussed at Arts/Culture, make some interactive booths so that people have something to do