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-pager 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