



Community Arts:

Imaging Change/Creating Dialogue

Kenora

i. Participants

Holly Friesen	Independent
Kim Ratuski	Independent
Don Kavanaugh	Northwest Angle #37 First Nation
Michelle Shephard	Independent
Len Mark	Lake of the Woods Concert Group
Waawaate Fobister	Independent

ii. Outline

Community Arts Ontario & Northwest Angle #37 First Nation presents

Community Art: Imagining Change/Creating Dialogue

What is Community Arts and why is it important to our communities?

Looking at common definitions and how that impacts on your own community

Activities/Discussions in the workshop can include:

- Uncovering the arts practice that exists in your community
- Art Showcase and Discussion: Aboriginal Art defies categorizing
- Defining the purpose and role of Community Arts within and across your community
- Exploring definitions of community, community arts and community development from diverse Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal perspectives
- Community Development: Art in strange places. How art can change lives...
- Art in Strange Places: Integrating artists into business, education, community



- Language of Art: Indigenous language, culture and representation

Questions

What resources are needed to develop a community arts project?

What partnerships are needed to make it happen?

What are the key community issues that need to be addressed?

How are projects structured?

What are the different roles artists employ working in community practices and engaging non art audiences?

Levels of entry: Community to artist
 Artist to community
 Community need—to artist—to community
 Funding opportunity

Who Should attend?

Representatives from: Arts community, Economic Development, Education,
Health

I can Share from my experience in the project so far:

- Share the thread project in Sioux lookout as an example of community engagement in the North—and the impact
- Share the Weenebeg Film Festival experience—film makers and going into the
- Share Thunder Bay experience

RESOURCES: Laurie McGauley Report
 Article from Zainab on community arts practice in aboriginal orgs
 20 steps for community development (from Alice Sabourin)



iii. Highlights

This workshop began with a discussion about the arts in Kenora and the surrounding area. It was agreed that the general community needed to see the value of the arts beyond tourism. There was a will to find ways of bringing communities together through the arts and to expand the audience—i.e. engaging the youth and producing cross disciplinary events. Partnerships were beginning to happen to encourage community involvement in the arts but isn't always sustained.

“What happens is that people go in then leave and the project ends—need to find a way to sustain the projects and use them as building blocks to build a longer term relationship—and ultimately a working community”

A question was raised from the floor about an event involving Tom Jackson. A producer was interested in understanding why he wasn't able to draw an Aboriginal audience to the event. This prompted a discussion about how Aboriginal artists/audiences exchange and interact.

Don Kavanaugh spoke about the projects he runs and the importance of relationship building over time. He spoke about how it is part of the process to have artists working with the community beyond the performances and that there was a long term commitment to building these relationships.

The idea about reaching into a community rather than reaching out to a community prompted a discussion about partnerships in community.

Some practical solutions for meaningful community building were:

- Get to know the communities
- Communicate with each other and don't cross over event dates



- Support each other's events
- Be aware of the events across communities

Some practical steps to take as a community:

- Become informed*
- Have more meetings and invite the politicians
- Start with a project i.e. artists/hospital/museum partnership in the Forms of Hope project

*For information on how to attend a Pow wow www.lowocc.ca
Gives the do's and don'ts and cultural protocols