



Bridging and Building:

A Community Development Workshop

Windsor

Planning Team: Leslie McCurdy, Nancy Allen, Laura Gould, Mary Baruth

Co-facilitator: Leslie McCurdy

i. Participants

Nancy Allen	Northstar Community Centre
Annette Middleton	Northstar Community Centre
Salma Sultana	Student
Sandy Curtis	University of Windsor School of Music
Dennis Smith	LaSalle, Fine Artist
Susan Washington	Women's Enterprise Skills Training & Fine Artist
Laura Gould	Arts Council Windsor & Region
Leslie McCurdy	Playwright/performance artist
Lana E. Talbot	Artist/Tour Operator/Curator
Inderjit Grewal	Diversity Coordinator, The Race and Ethnocultural Relations Committee of the City of Windsor
Melinda Munro	Diversity and Accessibility Officer, City of Windsor
Anne Marie Bizier	Windsor wood Carving Museum
Mary E. Baruth	Mgr. Cultural Affairs, City of Windsor
Kathie Thomas	Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County
Barb Bjarneson	
Ghislaine Brodeur	Regional Advisory Ontario Ministry of Culture
Prerna Chandak	Co-chair of Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee & Chair of the Youth Arts Council, City of Windsor
Taylor Hutchinson	Youth Arts Council, City of Windsor
Mahen Quadrini	Youth Arts Council, City of Windsor
Tarini Chandak	Youth Arts Council, City of Windsor



Employment Assistance Program, Windsor Women
Working With Immigrant Women

ii. Workshop Outline

Community Arts Ontario and Windsor Arts Council

Present:

Bridging & Building Through the Arts
Tuesday May 29th, 2006
Northstar Cultural Community Centre
647 Ouellette (use Pelissier St. Entrance)
1-6 pm Windsor, Ontario

“An organisation that has a good relationship with its community, is comprised of diverse community members and is responsive to the needs and aspirations of that community, will always be recognized and valued”

Zainab Amadahy, Leading Community Arts into the Future Report

Goals:

- name the barriers and strategize solutions to address the challenges of building and bridging community spaces (exploring power dynamics, colonisation and historical exclusion)
- promote a culture of exchange rather than a culture of competition among cultural organizations
- identify the positive reflections in the community—mapping the successful partnerships & community development initiatives



- expand & promote concrete ways of bridging community spaces
- articulate a potent & inclusive community vision statement about the importance of arts and culture in Windsor

Questions to Consider:

- How do you define your community? Who is included and who is excluded?
- What is your ideal vision of a thriving community?
- What are the prevailing issues that hinder development within your community?
- How can we further youth involvement in the arts thereby continuing our legacy?
- What strategies have been used in your organization to bridge community spaces?
- How is your community gaining or losing ground? What strategies can be developed to continue the upward movement or prevent further loss?
- What actions obstruct access and inclusive participation in your organization/community? How has does that affect the community's sense of itself?

Workshop Plan

Opening Address

Call to welcome led by Aboriginal Artist and Elder

Arrival ceremony led by "newcomer" artist/community member

Common Understandings

Unpacking the Context and Meaning of Diversity

Participatory exercise and discussion that addresses the roots of the term diversity

Led by Diane Roberts

Who are we and what brings us into this room?



Defining Shared Community Values & Needs (intergenerational, cross cultural)

How Art Transforms Community

Discussion or activity led by a few representatives in the community can speak to community arts practice (intergenerational and intercultural representation)
Could be mixed with arts practice

Bridging Community Spaces:

Stories that speak to successful partnering within and across communities and disciplines (presentations/discussions)

Skills to take away

- i.e. Youth engagement and the need for accessible cultural spaces
- Brainstorming ways to engage diverse aboriginal and non-aboriginal youth in mainstream organizations
- Learn the skill of needs assessment
- Valuing our community spaces
- How do we maintain our cultural spaces?

Evaluation and Next Steps

Resources: Quotes and examples of Community Arts
Creative Cities Cultural Planning or Cultural Mapping toolkit

iii. Highlights

In this workshop the question put forward in the opening presentation: Can some form of critical/transformed multiculturalism provide Canadians with a new vision of collective



identity?" opened a lively discussion about diversity, multiculturalism and the role of power.

The afternoon session, which included a very dedicated group of young people from the newly formed Youth Arts Council, was more of a practical discussion around key issues. In the end a manifesto about culture in Windsor was developed.

Culture is vital to the well rounded/holistic growth and development in Windsor because:

- Promotes inclusivity, intercultural relationships
- [Creates] jobs
- Promotes healthy living through sensory stimulation and therefore "happy healthy workforce"
- [Promotes] economic viability, despite poor management in the past
- Helps youth explore new avenues for employment/expression, communication, self esteem
- [Engenders] pride—civic and individual
- [Facilitates] unity and loyalty among citizenry

Through a healthy arts community we can/will harness the natural and people resources of Windsor, such as:

- Industry (auto)
- Youth energy and focus
- Architecture (historic and modern)
- Farming art
- Strong Historic legacy
- Unique geography
- 3rd most diverse community in Canada



Need:

- articulate/evaluate why The Capital Theatre folded in a non-confrontational way
- nurture local talent intergenerationally
- promote local and place-based cultural productions
- create safe environments for youth to grow and share their talent
- Capital and operational funding
- Structured arts—community?
- Professional
- Community based
- Business plan
- Resource Sharing

Plan/structure—who is the voice of the arts?