

Planning Group 2

Meeting Notes: Orientation and Organization Session
Jan. 27, 2007

Co-Chair Kathy Jolly
Co-Chair: Everett Bennett
Facilitator: Bailey Mitchell
Jane O'Gorman - Information gatherer
Jill Hobson - Information gatherer
Joanne DeHaven - Citizen reader
Jess Grogan - Citizen reader

“Creating a community of lifelong learning” is the focus for planning group 2. Our goal is to show how the Cumming-Forsyth County community can become a community of lifelong learning through a variety of means, including arts and education.

As we discussed the two areas tied to this goal, we shared that: “Learning is Art ...Art is Learning”

Key areas to focus on for the 1st meeting/orientation:

- ✓ Identifying the gaps
- ✓ Communication Structure
- ✓ Informing the community

Goals for the remaining meetings:

- ✓ For each strategic objective, list the 3-10 major “action steps” that the planning group feels must or should be taken in order to achieve the initiative.
- ✓ If possible, suggest a measurement or set of measurements for judging progress toward achieving the initiative. (“We will know we’re making progress by looking at ...”) Statistical measurements – that is, things that can be counted objectively – are better, but may not always be possible.
- ✓ Offer general advice for accomplishing this initiative, such as critical interests that should be involved, approaches that might work, etc.

Our initial discussion focused on the Arts in Forsyth County, we brainstormed what kind of information would be needed for our group and who would be good contacts to determine the current state of events in the community around this issue:

ARTS

Information on what resources and programs are currently available *and* needed from the following areas:

Former Sawnee Center and current Arts Alliance organization

Contact: Lynn Jackson – the Arts Alliance strategic plan as an information source for the planning group.

Jim DeSana (group member) - agreed to bring some background info on the Arts Alliance work to our next meeting

Programs offered in schools now (enrollments)
Contact: Marie Pattie, Forsyth County Schools
Contact: Sue Dersion, Student Information Services

Private offerings, ballet instruction, etc.

The City of Cumming's Playhouse:
<http://www.playhousecumming.com>
Contact: Danny Faulkner and Linda Heard, City of Cumming

Medallion Performing Arts Association
Contact: Pam Sessions and Everett Bennett

Columbus, GA's private-public efforts:
Contact: Mike Gaymon

Springer Opera House:
<http://www.springeroperahouse.org>

River Center for the Performing Arts
<http://www.rivercenter.org>

Columbus Symphony Orchestra
<http://www.csoga.org/welcome.htm>

Rankin Arts Center
<http://rankinarts.colstate.edu>

Columbus Museum:
<http://www.columbusmuseum.com>

Local Church Organization Efforts
Contact: Kathy Jolly – co-chair

Higher Education's influence on the Arts
Jane O'Gorman (group member)

EDUCATION

Information on education and lifelong learning is needed in the following areas:

Performance data for FCS on a national level
Contact: Lissa Pijanowski, Director of Assessment and Accountability, Forsyth County Schools

Metro Atlanta Guide for Schools

<http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/gen/schoolguide/index.html>

4 Year College in Forsyth – current offerings by North Georgia College

- Do strategic plans for a campus in Forsyth exist?

North Georgia College and State University:

<http://www.ngcsu.edu>

Contact: Jane O'Garmen, North GA College

Contact: Donna (last name?), North GA College

Workforce Development – Current offerings of Lanier Tech

- What expansion plans are on the horizon? Long term goals for workforce development?

Lanier Technical College

<http://www.laniertech.edu>

Contact: JoAnn Tolleson, Lanier Technical College

Continuing Education Programs

Other areas discussed:

What is posted on community websites regarding education and what is available in schools?

Contact: Jennifer Caracciolo, Public Information Officer, Forsyth County Schools

Forsyth County School's website:

<http://www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/12941061621320903/site/default.asp>

Georgia Department of Education:

<http://www.doe.k12.ga.us>

Governors Office of Student Achievement

<http://www.gaosa.org>

School Matters web site (A place for parents, educators and leaders to research information about public schools):

<http://www.schoolmatters.com>

Other stakeholders who should be included in the group's study process?

Private schools