

Colaborando Juntos Leadership Meeting

March 5, 2008

VHDA

601 South Belvidere Street

Richmond, VA 23220

Minutes

Members Present: McKenna Brown, Barbara Cornicello, Frank Curbeira, Tanya Gonzalez, Paz Ochs, Ileana Rivera (phone conference), Cecily Rodriguez, Luisa Soaterna, Peter von Der Lippe, Michell Zajur, Laura Sanchez del Solar.

Absent: My Lan Tran, Tim Loughran, Riguey King, Juan Santacoloma

Team Leader Updates:

Education- They had their initial meeting and spent time talking about the background of CJ for the benefit of new members. They will continue to focus their efforts on the Plaza Comunitaria. They will send out a questionnaire that asks the network what their education priorities might be.

Legal/Workforce- Team is working on being included in a Henrico based school project for age group 14-19 with workshops on career exploration to be held April 26. The team unanimously agrees that CJ will find ways to have a presence at the youth symposium. Project timeline will be developed throughout next two months via telephone calls with the school. The team decided that we will all make ourselves available on April 26th for half a day from 9:30 am until 1pm (the team will have lunch with the youth and event staff) to attend/exhibit at a table at this Youth Symposium, to be held at J Sergeant Parham Road Campus. The purpose of the Symposium is to help bring the youth to come and attend employability skills seminars and allowing them to visit with resource providers. The purpose of CJ participation at this event is to allow the CJ staff to use this field trip to learn about the youth needs and see how it can bring the experiences and observations gained from the field to apply it to CJ. My Lan will also contact a few selected (by Committee members) regular attendants who have attended last year Committee and invite these individuals to consider rejoining the committee this year. Their next meeting is to be determined –Will be in mid March.

Family Support- They have not had a meeting yet. They have been getting the names and contacts of team members to schedule one.

Business- No information submitted

Upcoming Conference Agenda and Discussion:

The date for the spring conference has been established for the 2nd of May, 2008. There is a meeting scheduled with Maria Silva for space availability in Virginia Union University. Barbara Ingberg has suggested for there to be an ESL student art show. Paz

would love to break down the conference into two pieces. One piece would be to showcase the artwork during the conference to the participants, and the other piece would be to showcase the work with the artists present, their families as well as community members. The ideal time for this would be in the evening, perhaps a show case for “First Fridays.”

It was also suggested that the conference participants evaluate the artwork and winners be rewarded. Artwork should also be displayed in conjunction with or on the resource tables set up during the conference.

Tanya’s suggestion for topic conference was “How to deal with the media?” The question that rose was how to tie this topic to the actual theme of the conference and the service providers?

No other topics were suggested, therefore, Paz will sent a “save the date” email and will request more suggestions of topics and themes through the list serve.

Tanya also suggested that a panel discussion be organized to review and/or educate conference participants on legislation that has passed in the 2008 session.

Non-profit Status Update:

McKenna handed an outline and informative packet of the 501© (3) status. He has been exchanging information with Jamie Sasser. Input is required from members about budget and recommendations/ suggestions from the packet. There are several lawyers that are willing to help establish the 501© (3) status as pro-bono work.

List serve posting protocol – Create one? Need one?

The consensus is that the list serve should be used to promote activities, and events not services. No attachments should be included and no calls to action or legislative advocacy e-mails. The list serve should only be used by non-profits. Tanya and Juan will work on something and send it to us for review.

CJ and the Chamber

Questions addressed: How can CJ and the chamber work together? Are there problems and what are they? The Chamber’s main function is to work with businesses and not necessarily serve as a service provider for the community. The Chamber holds three events in the year: Gala (Richmond, VA 04/15/2008); Que Pasa Festival and Feria de la Oportunidad.

The Chamber sponsors programs like the information and referral program, legal assistance, employment and the education program. They do not want to duplicate services. CJ leadership recommended that a calendar be generated to communicate

information about their events and that they share this information with others on a regular basis.

Although Michel and Laura addressed their limitations due to logistics and time, it was addressed by the members present that the Chamber should be looked as any other member of CJ. They should be involved with CJ through leadership and/or team involvement.

Keep dialogue going between Chamber and CJ. For the moment all of this information should be digested and discussed further during the next leadership meeting (after spring conference) in order to hold a positive dialogue.

Treasury

Our current balance reflects a purchase of \$25.28 to bring our total of \$1100.00

Announcements

VHDA will host a housing fair at the Richmond Convention Center on June 14, 2008. We need to have more attendance from Latinos, so please get the word out and invite the community to attend, your help will also be solicited. The focus of the fair will probably be on the current problems with the housing market.

Our next meeting's date and place are TBD.

Cecily should be commended on putting together the team protocol.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm