

The Rising Tide Series

2015

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT CULTURAL COALITION

The Rising Tide Series

A series of Cultural Conversations and Cultural Summits providing opportunities for:

Collaboration

Capacity Building

Information Sharing

Stakeholder Discussions

Development of Regional Initiatives

Addressing Common Challenges

In 2015, the Rising Tide Series produced:

- **16** Cultural Conversations and **4** Cultural Summits
- **414** total attendees representing **344** organizations and businesses (not unique users)

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT CULTURAL COALITION

Cultural Conversation for Galleries
January 20, 2015 at Charter Oak Federal Credit Union, Waterford

SUMMARY

Attendees:

Hygienic Gallery
Charles Gallery
Maple and Main Gallery
Gallery One CT

Discussion topics, highlights and notable areas of interest:

Each gallery representative provided an overview of facility, location, exhibits, programs, and management. Great diversity among the galleries from all volunteer or virtual co-op to bricks and mortar with staff. There was a noted range of audiences served and various uses of space for public exhibits, private dealer collections, co-op exhibits, etc.

Following the sharing portion of the meeting, the general discussion revolved around marketing, branding and audience awareness. As media options have changed tremendously over the years, the ability to reach target audiences has weakened. Marketing dollars spent range from traditional postcard mailings and magazine ads to social media and email marketing. In many cases, working artists are doing the marketing and utilize networks to reach audiences. Business classes for artists are becoming more popular and necessary. A one-page idea sheet from one gallery was reviewed with the group. The document shared ideas for the group to collaborate and increase branding and audience reach. The group was very interested in organizing and coordinating marketing.

Outcomes:

- The group will meet again and will invite fellow gallery owners/representatives to help increase group size

Metrics to Follow:

- Increase of attendance at future meetings

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT CULTURAL COALITION

**Cultural Conversation for Museum Directors
January 21, 2015 at Charter Oak Federal Credit Union, Waterford**

SUMMARY

Attending Organizations:

Children's Museum of SECT
Mashantucket Pequot Museum
Mystic Seaport
National Coast Guard Museum
Submarine Force Library and Museum

Discussion topics, highlights and notable areas of interest:

In general, this group utilizes the meeting for sharing news and updates with each other. There are numerous major changes at these organizations from executive staff changes to building renovations and expansions. Updates often lead to discussion and sharing of best practices about a range of broad topics, including education, programs, board development, marketing, and facility management. There is a great sense of camaraderie in this group demonstrated by willingness to support and provide resources to help each other.

The group has touched upon a few topics to potentially discuss in greater detail at a future meeting. Discussion of job sharing was of particular interest. Other topics include board development best practices, working with educational institutions, youth audience engagement and transportation.

Outcomes:

- Group will continue to meet and keep to a general sharing format with openness to additional deeper discussion and collaborative projects

Metrics to Follow:

- Relationships and communication between meetings resulting in tangible positive outcomes

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT CULTURAL COALITION

**Cultural Conversation for Historical Society and Historic Site Representatives
February 10, 2015 at Charter Oak Federal Credit Union, Waterford**

SUMMARY

Attending Organizations:

New London Landmarks
Norwich Historical Society
Avery Memorial Association
CT League of History Organizations
Stonington Historical Society
CT Humanities
Colchester Historical Society
Lebanon Historical Society Museum
Hempstead Houses
New London Maritime Society
Avery Copp Museum
Leffingwell Museum
Mystic Seaport

Discussion topics, highlights and notable areas of interest:

Group participated in a lengthy sharing time. At the end of the meeting, it was agreed that the sharing portion of the meeting must be shortened or eliminated. Following the sharing portion of meeting, the group discussed shared interests, common denominators and potential collaborative projects.

Tours became the most identifiable commonality amongst participating organizations. The group liked the idea of a workshop for sharing of best practices, specifically walking tours. Coalition, CTH, and CLHO agreed to help organize. An outcome of the workshop would be a collaborative initiative to coordinate and market tours around the region (walking, biking, hiking, Segway, boat, etc.)

Outcomes:

- Coalition will work with CTH and CLHO to organize and plan a May 'Tours and Best Practices' workshop

Metrics to Follow:

- Participation in workshop
- Participation in initiative to coordinate tours around region

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT CULTURAL COALITION

**Cultural Summit on Coordinated Marketing and Tourism
February 25, 2015 at Charter Oak Federal Credit Union, Waterford**

SUMMARY

Panelists:

Randy Fiveash, State of Connecticut, Office of Tourism
Tony Sheridan, Greater Mystic Visitors Bureau
Janice Putnam, Eastern Connecticut Tourism District
Bence Strickland, Custom Publications, The Day

Attendance:

73 people registered to attend representing 60 organizations and businesses

Discussion topics, highlights and notable areas of interest:

- Overview of each organization and their services, benefits and programs, including the specific focus of each entity's marketing, i.e. events, places, etc.
- Discussion of the value and importance of collaborative packaging for consumers' benefit
- All panelists agreed that the role and influence of digital media has greatly increased, but that print media and bricks and mortar visitor centers retain an important place in the marketing mix
- Challenges to marketing the region and tourism are the relative lack of geographic knowledge on the part of visitors and even residents, the perceived boundaries of rivers, and the multiple marketing opportunities/platforms for tourism operators and providers
- Discussion of the current proposed state budget, which would eliminate tourism districts and reduce amount of state marketing

Outcomes:

- Survey sent out following summit to all attendees registered and walk-ins
- 20 responses received indicating
 - 1 Extremely Productive
 - 10 Very Productive
 - 6 Somewhat Productive
 - 3 Not that Productive
- Attendees who are novices in the tourism industry (small to medium orgs that would like to draw more tourists) found the summit very helpful in understanding who does what and the opportunities available
- Attendees who are seasoned professionals in the tourism industry were frustrated by the missed opportunity to discuss real changes in how agencies work together, the impact of the state budget cuts, and the potential to have used the summit as a call to action

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT CULTURAL COALITION

Cultural Conversation for Arts Center
March 24, 2015 at Charter Oak Federal Credit Union, Waterford

SUMMARY

Attending Organizations:

I-Park Foundation
Lyme Arts Association
Norwich Arts Center
Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts
Garde Arts Center
Mystic Arts Center

Unable to attend, have attend in past, and/or will participate in future meetings:

La Grua Center
Hygienic Arts
Eugene O'Neill Theater Center
Goodspeed Opera House
Griffis Arts Center

Discussion topics, highlights and notable areas of interest:

Following a brief update of new organizations joining and overview of each, the discussion quickly turned to collaborative efforts to cross promote, work together and unify messaging to public. In general, this group did not have a specific idea of how best to collaborate, i.e. a project to work on, but they expressed a desire to cross promote each other as a way to increase visibility of each other's orgs. With the consumer at the center, cross promotion caters to the arts and cultural lovers. The group discussed future potential projects including collaborative marketing, packaging of arts events, and shared calendars.

Outcomes:

- Group will continue to meet quarterly
- Individual organizations were encouraged to 'like' each other's social media pages
- Individual organizations were encouraged to cross promote each other on e-blasts, websites and marketing materials

Metrics to Follow:

- Monitor website, e-blast and social media analytics for increased click-throughs and traffic

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT CULTURAL COALITION

**Cultural Conversation for Healing Arts Organizations
March 31, 2015 at Charter Oak Federal Credit Union, Waterford**

SUMMARY

Attending Organizations:

Our Piece of the Pie
ArtReach
Mystic YMCA
Fairview Odd Fellows
Reliance House

Unable to attend and will participate in future meetings:

Stonington Community Center

Discussion topics, highlights and notable areas of interest:

The group shared general information about their organization and the people served by each. There is great diversity in scale and communities served ranging from adults with developmental disabilities to elderly nursing care and youth development program providers. The group discussed professional development opportunities and the connection for youth development programs and youth development managers. There are other opportunities for these groups to come together potentially to collaborate on issues such as social accountability and also perhaps speaking series or touring series with colleges in collaboration together.

Outcomes:

- Group will continue to meet on a quarterly basis
- Increased knowledge of like-minded programs and missions
- Group would like to expand to include more organizations, including similar social/human service organizations and senior centers

Metrics to follow:

- None at this time

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT CULTURAL COALITION

**Cultural Conversation for Performing Arts Organizations
April 21, 2015 at Charter Oak Federal Credit Union, Waterford**

SUMMARY

Attendees:

New London Music Festivals
New London Community Orchestra
Writer's Block Ink
Salt Marsh Opera
United Theatre
Connecticut College- OnStage
East Lyme Puppetry Project
U.S. Coast Guard Band
Synthetic Cinemas International
Emerson Theater Collaborative
Mystic River Chorale

Discussion topics, highlights and notable areas of interest:

As an initial meeting of this group, the meeting was used primarily to share information about their organizations, programs and history. A few of the representatives knew each other, but in general, it was a learning and networking opportunity. Of noted interest was the diversity in scale, management, reach and scope of attending organizations.

Outcomes:

- The group will meet again and expressed interest and desire for specific topics for each future meeting.

Metrics to Follow:

- Multiple requests for attending organizations contact information. Follow relationships that develop from introductions.

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT CULTURAL COALITION

**Cultural Summit on The Business of Art
May 21, 2015 at Charter Oak Federal Credit Union, Waterford**

SUMMARY

Panelists:

Matt Nemeth, Business Advisor, Small Business Development Center

Marcia Marien, CPA, O'Connor Davies

Gigi Liverant, Artist, Lecturer

Barbara Richardson Crouch, Director of Development, Hygienic Arts

Kia Baird, Employment Specialist, Musician and Small Business Owner

Attendance:

24 people attended representing 22 organizations and businesses

Discussion topics, highlights and notable areas of interest:

- Overview of each organization/business/individual, benefits, and services, including programs and activities.
- Challenges for businesses trying to grow their creative businesses are more psychological than real. Biggest challenge is for artists to not just create art, but to market it, promote it and treat their art like a business.
- Resources are available, many of them free, to small businesses, nonprofits, and entrepreneurs.
- Networking and marketing is critical to success. A successful full-time artist can spend 70% of time marketing and 30% creating.
- Reaching youth in today's world requires connecting in platforms and language they use (social media)
- Challenge for arts sector is to help foster an appreciation for art, including buying.

Outcomes:

- Smaller attendance than previous summits
- One panelist contacted by 6 attendees
- Panelists made connections with each other (formally on Linked IN and professionally via email)
- Article in The Day
- TBD- results/outcomes to panelist organizations (program participants, follow up meetings, connections, etc.)

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT CULTURAL COALITION

**Cultural Conversation for Historical Society and Historic Site Representatives
June 4, 2015 at Charter Oak Federal Credit Union, Waterford
Tours Workshop**

SUMMARY

Attending Organizations:

New London Landmarks
Preston Historical Society
Stonington Historical Society
Norwich Historical Society
Colchester Historical Society
Wheeling City Tours
Hempsted Houses
East Haddam Tourism
City of Groton/Summer in the City
Norwich Community Development Corporation/WalkNorwich
CT Humanities
CT League of History Organizations

Discussion topics, highlights and notable areas of interest:

- Tours Content (handout provided)
- Walking Tours Best Practices (handout provided)
- Norwich's WalkNorwich Initiative
- Mobile/Digital Tours Data
- Marketing
- Evaluation and Experience
- Best Practices

Outcomes:

- 13 participating organizations in collaborative tours initiative
- Survey of tour providers completed (handout provided with overview)
- Consensus to proceed with initiative
- Desire to connect with and utilize interns to develop tours initiative
- Fall meeting to re-convene group, grow group, develop plan and utilize interns
- Post-workshop attendee survey completed: 10 responses with 2 indicating workshop was extremely productive, 7 indicating workshop was very productive, and 1 indicating workshop was somewhat productive.

Metrics to Follow:

- Participation in tours initiative
- Survey data changes
- Interns gained (scope of work completed)
- Visitorship of tours
- Cross promotion of participating tour providers
- Feedback from tour providers in future to determine best practices learned that were incorporated into tours

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT CULTURAL COALITION

**Cultural Conversation for Galleries
June 8, 2015 at Charter Oak Federal Credit Union, Waterford**

SUMMARY

Attendees:

Gallery One CT

Discussion topics, highlights and notable areas of interest:

Demand for future meetings

Coalition's value proposition to individual artists

Understanding needs of artists, artisans, and those employed as an artist/artisan

Due to the low turnout at meeting, the time was spent discussing potential obstacles to establishing a roundtable of galleries for region. If there is no desire for a regular meeting of gallery representatives, the Coalition will not spend time coordinating meetings. The small group decided that the ED would send a survey out to all invited participants to determine if the meeting date/time was inconvenient or if there is no interest in coming together overall.

The group discussed a few topics in general:

- Marketing venues vs. exposure venues
- Role of arts centers for artists and galleries
- Regional and state models of programs and services to support artists and galleries
- Discussion of Coalition's role: to help individual artists with access to venues, branding and promotion, live/work spaces, facilities, innovative ways to promote art and artist, making our region a destination for art lovers
- Discussion of engaging Hispanic communities and Hispanic artists
- Discussion of different needs for artists, hobbyists, artisans (employed as an artist) and how best to engage different groups of artists based on those needs

Outcomes:

- Survey to 20 gallery partners to gauge interest in continuing future meetings and or best date/time
- Consider merging this group with another roundtable (ex. Creative businesses)

Metrics to Follow:

- 3 Survey results indicated the meeting was not held at a convenient time/day of week
- 1 Survey result indicated gallery had closed
- Survey results indicated a handful of galleries desire to have meetings, but not much demand overall

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT CULTURAL COALITION

**Cultural Conversation for Museum Directors
June 10, 2015 at Lyman Allyn Art Museum, New London**

SUMMARY

Attending Organizations:

Mashantucket Pequot Museum
Mystic Aquarium
Submarine Force Library and Museum
Florence Griswold Museum
Lyman Allyn Museum
William Benton Museum of Art (UCONN)
Guest: Deputy for Museum System Operations, USN

Discussion topics, highlights and notable areas of interest:

Priority areas for this roundtable: tourism, cultural landscape, facilities management, job sharing, and professional development exchanges.

Other topics include board development best practices, working with educational institutions, youth audience engagement and transportation.

Outcomes:

- The Coalition will explore hosting a Cultural Projects/Initiatives Exchange and/or Conference (potentially for 2016 or 2017), which would highlight regional projects, provide trade training/professional development opportunities, and further connect our partners. (NEMA, NEFA, Sector)
- The Coalition is exploring the options for a regional cultural facilities report
- The Coalition will be hosting a future summit on facilities management (best practices) this fall/winter
- Based on feedback and support, the Coalition will research applying for a grant to develop a museum teen summit program modeled after New York City's [Museum Teen Summit](#) with this group as participating partners.

Metrics to Follow:

- Meeting attendance
- Number of collaborative initiatives developed
- Number of participating partners in collaborative initiatives

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT CULTURAL COALITION

**Cultural Conversation for Healing Arts Organizations
September 8, 2015 at Charter Oak Federal Credit Union, Waterford**

SUMMARY

Attending Organizations:

United Community and Family Service
Artreach
Hospice SECT
Lighthouse Voc-Ed
Amy Barry, Educator
Horses Healing Humans
Reliance House

Unable to attend and will participate in future meetings:

Stonington Community Center
Stonington Natural Health Center
Fairview Odd Fellows
Ocean Community YMCA

Discussion topics, highlights and notable areas of interest:

New and returning group members shared general information about their organization and the people served by each. There is great diversity in scale and communities served ranging from adults with developmental disabilities to elderly nursing care and youth development program providers. In general, the group raised awareness of programs and resources available to residents, schools, and communities. Sharing information with each other and, by extension, to the community can help educate the public of existing resources. The group discussed professional development, collaborative opportunities, and shared challenges from basic needs like art supplies to larger issues like transportation. Group also discussed shared program participants, including veterans.

Outcomes:

- Group would like to meet on monthly basis
- Coalition will coordinate and facilitate meetings through end of 2015
- Future meetings may rotate to member locations
- Collaborative grant applications/programs

Metrics to follow:

- Outcome of collaborative grant application

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT CULTURAL COALITION

**Cultural Conversation for Performing and Visual Arts Organizations
September 22, 2015 at Charter Oak Federal Credit Union, Waterford**

SUMMARY

Attendees:

Eastern CT Symphony
New London Community Orchestra
Mystic Arts Center
Nightshade Productions
Writer's Block Ink
CT Storytelling
Laughworks
Mystic Paper Beasts

Discussion topics, highlights and notable areas of interest:

This was the first meeting combining the performing and visual arts organizations. Discussion centered on brainstorming a concept, program, and/or resource for the group to develop. Ideas ranged from a symposium with clinics, workshops, and performers to communications resources and coordinated marketing. Other ideas included an open house day, audience exchange, and a donation day. Ultimately, the group supported the idea of an "Unlikely Bedfellows" event theme. The concept would partner organizations (by drawing of names from a hat) and challenge pairs to create a program or event together, cross-promote, and build a day/weekend/month around the theme.

Outcomes:

- The group will meet again in winter to develop further

Metrics to Follow:

- Meeting participation
- "Unlikely Bedfellows" participation

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT CULTURAL COALITION

**Cultural Conversation for Museum Directors
September 23, 2014 at Charter Oak Federal Credit Union, Waterford**

SUMMARY

Attending Organizations and Representatives:

Slater Memorial Museum, Norwich
Mystic Seaport, Mystic
Southeastern CT Children's Museum, Niantic
Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center, Mashantucket
Florence Griswold Museum, Old Lyme
Lyman Allyn Museum of Art, New London
Submarine Force Library and Museum, Groton
Mystic Aquarium, Mystic

Discussion topics, highlights and notable areas of interest:

This meeting was intended to bring together directors of regional museums that are open year-round and/or have a year-round staff. These museums represent the largest in the region in terms of visitorship, employment and scale. Directors shared upcoming events, exhibitions and/or internal plans, including capital improvements and strategic planning. There is an opportunity to increase awareness of each other's activities when appropriate.

Most museums had either just had or were planning for major gala events (fundraisers) at this time. Current priorities of the museums ranged widely and included the following: working internally on revitalization of membership and staff turnover, conservation and maintenance of facilities, strategic planning/visioning for future needs, and expansion of current facilities and programs.

The group identified a few areas of shared challenges, including targeting and reaching younger audiences, (specifically the millennials) and working with the schools as educational pathways. All museums expressed the desire for increased relationships with schools for internships, professional development and curriculum inclusion/support.

Outcomes:

- Group would like to meet again in a few months and is interested in potentially having regular meetings

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT CULTURAL COALITION

Cultural Summit: Tapping Into the Creative Economy
September 29, 2015 at Charter Oak Federal Credit Union, Waterford

SUMMARY

Panelists:

Michael Blair, 38 Green Street Studios
Morgan King, Poor Morgan, Velvet Mill
Aaren Simoncini, Beer'd Brewery, Velvet Mill
Matt Beaudoin, Mystic Knotwork
Jason Vincent, Norwich Heritage Group/NCDC
Mayor Deberey Hinchey, Norwich Creates

Attendance:

27 people attended representing 25 organizations and businesses

Discussion topics, highlights and notable areas of interest:

- Overview of each business/group demonstrated diversity of scale, audience/customer reach
- Identification of common challenges and collaborative opportunities
- Challenges for businesses include physical space needs/flexibility, zoning regulations, desire for collaborative environment and networking, marketing
- Creative economy businesses as a resource to region
- Cluster approach for region is relatively untapped for the creative sector
- Creative businesses have unique and often enormous audience reach via social media
- Collaborative peer conversation could be fostered in region for increased impact to both businesses and region

Outcomes:

- Diverse audience attendance ranged from commercial and residential realtors to economic development professionals
- Discussion among attendees and panelists about potential future "Property Fair" to bring available space owners/representatives together with entrepreneurs looking for a new or different space
- Article in The Day

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT CULTURAL COALITION

Cultural Conversation for Communications Arts
October 20, 2015 at Charter Oak Federal Credit Union, Waterford

SUMMARY

Attendees:

Elissa Bass
Pyramid Marketing Design & Technology
Love + Pop
Lindberg Marketing + Media LLC
Literae/Lindberg Marketing + Media LLC
Write Transformation LLC

Discussion topics, highlights and notable areas of interest:

Through discussion, the group inventoried marketing and media services available collectively, including: website development, branding/image, advertising and print media, mobile sites and app development, video, event and event materials marketing, graphics, animation, programming, social media, strategic planning, etc.

Collectively, this group serves nonprofit and for-profit, as well as, local, regional, state, national and international clients. Great diversity in clients served.

Challenges for this group include small business taxes (ex. tax on web development and property taxes on equipment), which is deemed a "hostile business environment."

The group was interested in marketing and branding the region as a quasi "Madison Avenue midway between NYC and Boston." Coalition could create a resource list of all communication arts partners, especially for new businesses to region.

Outcomes:

- The group will meet again and would like to increase group size. Discussion centered on marketing the region as a communication arts hub b/w NYC and BOS and a great place to have a business.

Metrics to Follow:

- Increase of attendance at future meetings

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT CULTURAL COALITION

**Cultural Conversation for Healing Arts Organizations
October 22, 2015 at Charter Oak Federal Credit Union, Waterford**

SUMMARY

Attending Organizations:

Stonington Natural Health Center
United Community and Family Service
Hospice SECT
Lighthouse
Horses Healing Humans
Reliance House
Our Piece of the Pie

Discussion topics, highlights and notable areas of interest:

This group is now meeting monthly as requested. Great value is found in the time together discussing common challenges, sharing information and identifying collaborative opportunities. Discussion centered on identifying topics for future meetings, which included:

- Board management
- Collaborative grant opportunities (art supplies, youth, transportation, etc.)
- Peer to Peer Networking
- Transportation
- Inventory of services
- Marketing & branding
- Data points for region
- Leadership Academy model (Reliance House)
- Turning collaborations into partnerships

Outcomes:

- Group to continue meeting monthly
- Coalition will coordinate and facilitate meetings through end of 2015
- Future meetings may rotate to member locations
- Collaborative grant applications/programs

Metrics to follow:

- Outcomes of collaborative grant applications
- New collaborations
- Use of information learned at meetings

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT CULTURAL COALITION

Cultural Summit- Cultural Facilities: The Impact of Investment
November 10, 2015 at Charter Oak Federal Credit Union, Waterford

SUMMARY

Panelists:

Kristina Newman-Scott, Director of Culture, Department of Economic & Community Development, State of CT
CDR Jeffrey Barta, USN, Deputy for Museum System Operations, Naval History and Heritage Command
Ken Wilson, Director of Facilities, Mystic Seaport Museum
Charles Mueller, Senior Director, Centerbrook Architects & Planners

Attendance:

49 people attended representing 43 organizations and businesses

Discussion topics, highlights and notable areas of interest:

- Overview of each organization's facilities including process and procedure for management
- Development and attention to a facilities care plan is vital
- Deferred maintenance should be addressed with a long-term and comprehensive lens, i.e. sometimes an innovative approach can fix high priority, immediate need when wrapped in a larger, cost effective plan with other needs
- Financial investment in facilities is a challenge for all orgs, large and small
- Establishing the return on investment for funders/donors is essential
- Facilities standards used by Navy include written instructions to maintain standards
- Regional investment in cultural facilities is difficult with few funding opportunities available
- Model: Cultural Facilities Fund in MA (job creation/stimulus program to maintain high quality cultural facilities for tourism, provide jobs to contractors, and sustain/grow cultural sector)
- For organizations without facilities plan, begin with a basic assessment of facilities needs, priority list, and cost
- Organizations should consider adding a facilities management professional or contractor to board
- Innovative ways of incorporating art and creativity into facilities (public art)

Outcomes:

- Navy Cultural Facilities Standards handbook emailed and made available to participants
- Links to cultural facilities grant funds made available to participants
- Cultural Facilities webpage added to Coalition website for resources
- Cultural Facilities regional assessment report in pipeline for Coalition

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT CULTURAL COALITION

**Cultural Conversation for Healing Arts Organizations
November 19, 2015 at Charter Oak Federal Credit Union, Waterford**

SUMMARY

Attending Organizations:

United Community and Family Service
Hospice SECT
Lighthouse
Reliance House

Discussion topics, highlights and notable areas of interest:

Discussion centered on transportation and its challenges and impact on providing services efficiently.

Current sources of transportation for clients include:

- Private transportation/car
- Public transportation/SEAT bus/CTrides (rideshare)/taxis
- Organization owned minivans (accessible)

Challenges:

- Not enough public transportation
- Liability issues prevent ride/transportation sharing among orgs
- Map of transportation resources (inventory) not streamlined
- Lack of education about how to use public transportation (SEAT)
- Cost (use of vouchers, Logisticare, Medicaid does help)

Opportunities:

- Inventory of transportation needs and current resources
- Map overlays with public transportation, resources and locations of service providers
- Is a 211 for transportation possible? Uber model?

Outcomes:

- Coalition will send current SEAT bus study and plan
- Group would like to inventory transportation needs/current resources
- Potential for travel training (Kennedy Center's Mobility Services)

Metrics to follow:

- Inventory of transportation needs/resources
- Follow up with "211" model for transportation
- Follow up with Travel Training

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT CULTURAL COALITION

**Cultural Conversation for Healing Arts Organizations
December 1, 2015 at Charter Oak Federal Credit Union, Waterford**

SUMMARY

Attending Organizations:

United Community and Family Service
Lighthouse
Reliance House
Horses Healing Humans

Discussion topics, highlights and notable areas of interest:

Discussion centered on potential collaborative grant opportunity for art supplies. Each organization spends thousands of dollars (between \$1,800 and \$5,000) annually on basic art supplies for their healing, therapy and expressive arts programs. State contractors receive special rate for purchasing. Not all participants are state contractors. Current sources: Walmart, A.C. Moore, Michael's and major retailers

Supplies include:

- Canvases
- Markers, paints, crayons
- Paper, drawing paper, rolls of newsprint
- Easels
- 3D models
- Glue, scissors, etc.

Potential collaborative purchasers: Lyme Academy College, Norwich Free Academy, Mystic Museum of Art

Opportunity:

- Collaborative grant application for 10 organizations
- Largest purchasers of arts supplies and active roundtable participants
- Participants must be willing to help write/develop grant (financials, narrative, outcomes, compile data)
- Define regional metrics for art-based therapy programs
- Potential to apply for a planning grant to establish metrics and goals

Outcomes:

- Coalition to put out email to roundtable participants re: collaborative grant
- Calendar for 2016 meetings, on 3rd Thursdays at 9am:
 - January 21st at Horses Healing Humans Topic: Board Development
 - February 18th at Reliance House Topic: Leadership Academy model
 - March 17th location TBD Topic: Art Supplies Grant update
 - April 21st location TBD Topic: Transportation (second meeting)

Metrics to follow:

- Participants in collaborative grant, development of regional metrics, grant request approval