

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