



Goal One – Lawrence Planning Team
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday February 4, 2015
12:00-1:00 PM
LRW 314

Team Members Present:

Donna Bertolino, Richard Brown, Maria Carles, Noemí Custodia-Lora, Elizabeth Donovan, , Analuz Garcia, David Gingerella, President Lane Glenn, Michael Hearn, Nancy Julin, Martha Leavitt.

Guests: Joshua Abreu, Tina Favara

Welcome

Noemi Custodia Lora began the meeting by welcoming the team and guests. She informed the group that GT1 meetings will be held in different Lawrence locations this semester.

MVRTA

At the request of Irene Chalek MVRTA Representatives Jesus Guillermo and Sara Watson came to visit GT1.

- Traveler Training Program- MVRTA offers passengers a one on one training to learn how to travel on the MVRTA to their destinations. This training is free and available to everyone in the community. For more information passengers can call the MVRTA main office and speak to Joe Constanzo. Brochures are in the process of being made
- MVRTA also mentioned that the NECC express shuttle is doing very well and they offer other routes, for example; bus service to Boston which is more economical than the rail service and shuttle service to Salisbury beach in the summer time.

Lawrence Photography Mural Project – Joshua Abreu

Joshua Abreu, Culture & Equity Committee proposed (see attached) a mural project for the Dimitry. Specifically high traffic areas that currently have bare walls on the 1st floor and 2nd floor. Joshua will work with Biff Ward (Photography) to select student photography. David Gingerella suggested Joshua research the prices of printing the art work with other resources available to NECC to get the best possible price. GT1 voted to approve the proposal. GT1 will need to review and approve artwork before it is mounted.

El Hefni Renovations-Tina Favara

Tina Favara, Interim Dean of Enrollment Services proposed making renovations to El Hefni Proposed changes are:

- Financial Aid moved out of CPAC and into the conference room adjacent to the CPAC.

- Converting computer lab from class room to space where students can complete their FAFSA. Currently students only have 3 computers that can be used to complete FAFSA
- Eliminating the Trauma shower and relocating the kitchen to the Trauma shower.
- Kitchen space would become Bursar office.
- Vending Machine room repurposed for Veteran Services

The intention of the changes is to have equitable services on both campuses. GT1 voted and approved the proposal.

Future Lawrence projects –Noemi

- Shipping and Receiving, Reprographics area in Dimitry are near completion.
- The previous bookstore space will be re constructed into office space and house the PK-12 Department. – Mike Hearn reminded the group that this space is adjacent to the library's quiet study and that any construction will be heard in the library, he asks to please keep this in mind especially during finals.
- L 253 will become a temporary office for the new Lawrence Partnership Executive Director.
- Please inform Noemi and David of painting and repairs needed on the Lawrence campus.

Next meeting will be on Wednesday March 4 2015 at 12:00 pm in room LA 101, the meeting will be dedicated to Dimitry renovations, and Perry Dean will be invited.

To Goal 1 Strategic Planning Team:

The Culture & Equity team (15 staff and faculty) has focused on initiatives that will contribute to the academic success of underserved students. Our goal has been to establish a set of practices that will enable students (first generation, low income, underrepresented) of diverse backgrounds to thrive in the academic community. The team has based its recommendations on NECC research, the research of Dr. Jorge Santiago and research articles citing practices that enable students to succeed. Our recommendations represent an approach that advocates fuller participation within the institution to bridge the academic gaps and lack of engagement that are experienced by many of our students. We are dedicated to make changes to directly engage the student-body and decided that “mural art” will be a tremendous opportunity to reflect the students and community that NECC serves.

OBJECTIVE

To engage NECC art students as we beautify the campus. To use the new Diversity/Cultural Inclusion statement as a foundation for photography murals that will be completed by NECC students in our photography classes. The artwork will be voted on and the top 2-3 artists will have their work displayed on walls at the Lawrence Dimitry building.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Community murals have been described as catalysts for empowering communities by helping to redefine common values and reevaluate the community’s history which too often is ignored (Imm, 2011). Murals, which are usually in urban spaces, give voice to socially marginalized groups. These groups come from diverse backgrounds, but are united with common themes. Historically, social activists have recognized the transformative power of art and have acknowledged the profound connections between the arts, education and social change (Imm 2011; Darts 200). It raises consciousness, nurtures multiculturalism, and fosters harmony towards a common goal. In the early 2000s, murals were used to promote ecological awareness of our own Mystic River in Somerville and other parts of Greater Boston. The ecological art provided canvases that incorporate multiple ideas, critical thinking, dialogue and ideas for action (Imm 2011). Due to murals being in common spaces, a variety of people are continuously exposed to the work and concepts imbedded in the artwork.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

1. Lance Hidy and Bryan Ward students (Photography courses) will have this opportunity as an assignment embedded in their syllabus.
2. Art students will incorporate the Diversity/Cultural Inclusion statement into the artwork.
3. The assignment will be in April, after a few weeks of scaffolding.
4. Voting will take place in April, in the Lawrence Atrium, where students, faculty, and staff will vote on their favorite artwork.
5. Murals can be completed by end of April.

BENEFITS & IMPLICATIONS

When mural is completed, it will represent NECC’s student-body and the communities served at the college. Along with the representation, it will affirm the college’s identity and foster individuality, goals of many muralists who have dedicated their lives to use art as a form to express culture, self-image and

communal harmony. The central location coupled by the mural's imbedded social and educational concepts will inspire conversation, engagement and an overall sense of pride.





