

East 40 Advisory Committee

3 November 2023

Zoom Link: <https://northampton-edu.zoom.us/j/93484556298>

October Minutes

Participants: Kelly Allen, Cindy Vojnovic, Robin Cunconan-Lahr, Alex Zuniga, Rachael Gorchov, Josh Holloway, Abigail Michelini, Gina Turner, Adam DePaul, Rodney Weems, Kegan Hilaire, Carol Burns, Holly O'Connor, Daven Baffour

Kelly shared that Catarina's husband has passed away; he will share info about how folks can support their family.

Agenda:

- East 40 Classroom Update
 - Visioning Meetings

Gone through two visioning sessions; one three-hour in-person session, and a shorter online session. The sharing reaffirmed the work we are doing. Good representation from all sectors of the East 40. One thing that resonated with many was the desire to closely work/honor the Lenape Nation. If you have not participated: <https://forms.office.com/r/GQyky78Yix> (please submit as soon as possible). Kelly and Bill Smith to attend a high level meeting with architects next week.
 - Communicating with neighbors

Especially the housing development to the east. Still need to go before Bethlehem Township; support from neighbors is vital. Gina – may have colleagues who live there (James Wyler, Gary Guidetti, Vertel Martin, Deven Briggs, Alex Briggs). Alex Brands lives off Hecktown Road. Rodney

– connect with Moravian Academy. Also, a lot of neighbors walk their dogs on the property. Sign to alert them of plans/engage in conversation?

- Blackbird Farm Update – update from Kegan
Ground has been tilled, now shaping beds. Cover with leaves – plant garlic next week. Contact Kegan if interested in knowing more/seeing the space. Every Thursday afternoon a good group of volunteers.
- Volunteers!
An official word of thanks to our volunteers (Josh, Alex, Devan) – work together really well, getting a lot done. Kelly getting Good Growers together.
- Residency RFP
Kelly needs to confirm – we may have funding for three spots. Possibly release info in January. Rachael to lead the process; Carol and Kelly will provide timeline/materials from last year. Perhaps Abby and Amanda have input into the process/promoting it.
- Lenape Conference
Proposing a one-day event in the summer 2024. Start planning in December – Kelly and Adam. Gina, CCLI staff, Alex, Josh, Carol, Brian Alnutt, Elizabeth Bugaighis – Humanities Endowment (pay for keynote?).
- East 40 Educational Resources
 - Stuff from last month
Ideas for learning materials: audio for walking tours, monthly tours through CTLT, creating intake form – in December let’s plan/prioritize/get students involved (education, graphic design)
 - Revised Mission Statement?
Take a step back – what does “Place-based Learning” mean and how it impacts our mission
 - Place-based Learning Infographic
Best way to communicate it: one page, graphic novel type document.
Adam – possible artist (<https://www.lenape-nation.org/events> – Second Crow event); Alex and Rodney may have more contacts.

(NEED INFO: Earth Walk – Loeb Lounge, walkable map of the East Coast, half hour show to view, bird migration, topographical map)

- East 40 Math Team

Catarina would like to bring her math students to East 40 to utilize resources (Robin, Rodney, Deanna – Catarina’s office mate) – tabling for now
 - East 40 Grant Team (NCC employees and community stakeholders)

Put together small grants team. Kelly attended Lehigh University conference about arts in the community – session on grants. “Building bridges between us and the community.” Could be for “East 40-like work” out in the community. Propagate beyond our physical space. Kegan to help – USDA money for ag/educational side. Holly and Kelly to connect on options; some may be new sources for NCC and there’s a need to get familiar with requirements.
 - Community Created Benchmarks for Success as a Community Partner/Resource
 - How can this be a living document

NCC is currently being evaluated by Middle States. East 40 has never created an assessment model. Return on investment – typically through a monetary investment; NCC admin is OK with ROI that is not tied to money. Teaching / learning / knowledge-making outcomes. Idea: meet with folks who are likely to be the most impacted – describe desired outcomes – for each year (maybe 2-3 years). Students/faculty/staff/community. How to create this document – a living document? Holly – important to have benchmarks – incredibly valuable; referenced Gina’s work with DEI strategic plan. Kelly shared a session he attended at LU (Rachel / The Writers Room at Drexel - <https://www.writersroomdrexel.org/>) – went out into the community to get input. Developed benchmarks/strategic plan. Holly – how East 40’s work with community can dovetail with college’s strategic plan.
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Questions: Cindy – how are the kilns going? She has ESU students who are interested in wood-fired kiln/gas-fired kiln (she's contacted Dave Graham, kiln manager, directly). Kelly and Dave meeting on Tuesday to get gas-fired kiln up and running. Chester Springs Studio has a new kiln that Kelly and Dave are going to see / get strategies for running ours; Cindy is interested – going Nov. 11-12. Kegan interested in coordinating – ash from kilns is important for soil.

Winter Solstice – Thursday, Dec. 21 from 4-6 pm; Re:Vision will be on hand to show concepts for classroom building.

East 40 Disc Golf Cup – event for students/faculty/staff/community – for fun. Also East 40 Autumn Olympics – disc golf, horseshoes, etc.

Rachael – Monday at 11 – master embroiderer who does work for federal government; will be recorded – get link from Rachael. Event info:
<https://news.northampton.edu/event/community-building-through-traditional-needlework-duwenvue-sante-johnson/>

Take aways:

Decisions made: