CREATIVE PORTLAND ME

Connecting Immigrants to Portland's Creative Economy

Step-by-Step

CONVENE STAKEHOLDERS: More than one year out, the World Affairs Council of Maine convened many organizations (civic and religious) engaged in immigrant economic issues in Portland to seek input and buy-in for community dialogue series. Information gathered used for grant proposal.

FIND FUNDING: WAC eventually awarded grant for 5-part community forum series from local family foundation committed to civic dialogue.

COLLABORATE: Established partnership between Creative Portland and WAC to make "creative economy" one aspect of the overall WAC series. CP Executive Director and WAC Board President (also on CP Board) handle bulk of planning and management.

START PLANNING: We started planning in Sept 2014 for May 2015 forum by gathering ideas and suggestions from stakeholders in one-on-one meetings. It took several months to formulate a focused agenda.

REACH OUT: We held a few meetings with 8-14 people representing organizations that come into direct contact with the recent immigrant communities and in some cases invited recent immigrants who we met through the process. The goal was to establish communication routes and gather information on what immigrants in the creative economy would need. We invested months finding the right people to distribute the information.

INVITE: Designed invitation (email and flyer) and started disseminating as part of larger series 5 months in advance. More targeted outreach happened about a month in advance. (Should have been even earlier.)

RECRUIT: About two months in advance, invited speakers, presenters and volunteers to help with the forum. Met individually with each speaker and panelist a month in advance.

PRESENT: Held workshop and tour of the First Friday Art Walk on May 1, 2015 from 4:00 – 6:00 in the Portland Public Library.

FOLLOW UP: Submitted information gathered at the session to WAC of Maine as their final report summarizing findings from the community series and presenting possible next steps for the community.