

Creating the Future

Philanthropy Team: March 1, 2012

Present:

Alexandra, Dimitri, Erin, Gayle, Hildy, Sidney (had to leave early), Trae

Not Present:

Kim, Andrea, Ann

The purpose of this meeting, as described in the video <http://youtu.be/Mc2B7MzldBY> and the graphic attached as the last page of these meeting notes, was to move from theory to action.

- How will the Philanthropy Team demonstrate that co-supporting this effort by full participation of the team is possible and practical, modeling what it looks like and how to do it?
- How will the Philanthropy Team model that full participation / co-ownership to the rest of the Creating the Future community?
- And how will the Philanthropy Team encourage similar participation among other community members?

Towards that end, the discussion centered around the question, “What will bring this movement forward?” The focus was on the movement (vs the organization) because it’s not about creating a strong organization (i.e. Creating the Future as an organization), but successfully accomplishing the mission. And that will require a movement for global change.

For each response to the question of ***“What will bring this movement forward? What will enliven the movement?”*** the group then discussed favorable conditions - what needs to be in place for that result to happen? The chart on the following 2 pages covers that discussion. To provide more insight into the actions in Column 3 and to pave the way for further discussion, we have added in italics how that action is currently being addressed.

What will bring the movement forward / enliven this movement / keep it alive?	What will that take? (Favorable Conditions)	What actions will create those conditions? How will the philanthropy team model this to the greater Creating the Future community?
The Creating the Future community itself	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - technological infrastructure - listservs, Facebook groups, twitter chats, etc. - People & resources to create / maintain these systems 	<i>Currently Hildy and Dimitri maintain all of this.</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - human infrastructure to physically maintain technology, scheduling, maintaining the community dialogue - People & resources to create / maintain 	<i>Currently Hildy and Dimitri handle this</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Philosophical infrastructure - having the values be present 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Actively self governing within each team / group <i>When lines are crossed egregiously, Hildy is currently responsible for addressing that.</i>
A high level of engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ways to have regional convenings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - People who are currently invested putting energy into convening groups locally - Someone to develop support materials (<i>Hildy and Dimitri currently handling this</i>)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - awareness that it even exists - introducing others to the philosophy and practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creating the Future Blogs - write, publicize indiv posts and overall blogs / share via social media and email (<i>Hildy currently responsible for overseeing & doing much of the writing / publicizing</i>) - Newsletter - writing, publicizing / sharing (<i>Hildy & Dimitri currently handling this</i>) - Share / participate in existing materials - TED talk, Amazon reviews (<i>Many people currently doing this case by case. Organized / coordinated effort being handled by Hildy and Dimitri</i>) - Other people's rooms - blog / write / speak about the concepts at non-Creating-the-Future venues (<i>Many people currently doing this case by case. Organized / coordinated effort being handled by Hildy and Dimitri</i>)

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Create community among first ripple - people who are not grads, but engaged	- Identify who's in the ripples - immediate Creating the Future Community	Ongoing "inventory" of existing Creating the Future communities <i>(Hildy currently maintaining this)</i>
	- Facilitate / introduce conversation	Someone to observe / listen for opportunities to support / celebrate / encourage... modeling within existing communities <i>(Many people currently modeling this.)</i>
	- Systems / Actions for identifying who is NOT in immediate community	- Build profile, lists / 6 Degrees <i>(Hildy currently responsible for this)</i>
	- Systems for connecting with those individuals	- Individual community members bring others into Creating the Future conversations AND bring Creating the Future into conversations happening outside our immediate community - create linkages / break down the walls <i>(Many people currently doing this case by case. Organized / coordinated effort being handled by Hildy and Dimitri)</i>
Transition from Hildy and Dimitri as "Mom and Dad" to co-owned, first by the immediate community, then rippling out	- Community members co-owning not only the thinking but participating in the doing that maintains and energizes / enlivens / brings the movement forward - Moving from consumers (I paid tuition and took the class) to participants in a global movement AND in a community	- Buddy system for having more senior community members buddy with newer members - Tap on expertise to contribute to newsletter, do video <i>(2012 newsletters have moved in this direction. Coordination & assigning still Hildy's responsibility)</i> - Completeness of giving and receiving. Team members giving of both who they are & what they have - Discussion of what it means to be a consumer vs participant in this community <i>(Individual conversations are happening / nothing coordinated.)</i>
Create an identity beyond the values (e.g. 12 Step Program)	- Create an identity NOT related to H&D, but to "the clan." Identity that is not about the "brand" but about everyone (not "everyone" as in Creating the Future, but related to the world)	- Focus on belief systems - Power of the question outside the organization - as a true global movement for change

Time ran out as we focused on the last 2 items. Other thoughts that were discussed, that did not fit into the chart above:

Purpose of the team as it has evolved

- 1) Started out simply to talk about how to fund this effort
- 2) Began exploring how to support this effort by reaching for and modeling the highest potential of philanthropy
- 3) During this meeting, there was enthusiasm for proving that #2 is possible and practical by using Creating the Future as a case study
 - Demonstrate this by how the Philanthropy Team fully co-supports Creating the Future
 - Demonstrate this by what the immediate Creating the Future community does to fully co-support Creating the Future

Demonstration / Case Study as Microcosm of Communities

Stable communities co-support internally AND find support externally (financial and otherwise - complete / whole support)

- Example: Taxes to co-support education locally
 - Also seeking outside funding & support to accomplish what they cannot do on their own, that is in the best interests of BOTH the community and the broader world to which it is connected (Education grants from foundations / Federal and State governments / etc.)

But this is just financial - not full participation / honoring the whole of the participant.

Therefore, if organizations / efforts to improve community are a microcosm of how we want communities (and the systems that make those communities livable) to be supported, then EVERY area of an org / effort will

- co-support by full participation within that effort, and
- also seek outside support in ways that are aligned with those values / philosophies

Reflection

In closing, what stood out from our discussion?

Gayle: The completeness of giving and receiving. How can we ask ourselves and others to give of themselves in completeness?

Erin: Ditto! :-)

Alexandra: 1) The need for co-ownership
2) Movements that take hold / succeed are those that expand outward globally vs. maintaining a narrow community or organization

Trae: Personal reflection of how happy she is to just be in the conversation.

