



Ridgway Creative District Creative Advocacy Team • (RCD CAT)



Retreat Notes

750 Chipeta Drive

November 19, 2019

C.A.T. Members in attendance: Betsy Baier, Joan Chismire, Brenda Ratcliff, Julia Reid, Ninah Hunter, Sue Lake, Diane Thompson, Amanda Gabrielson, Staff: Diedra Silbert, Karen Christian (Notes); Guest Facilitator: Christi Strickland

The Creative Advocacy Team met at Sue Lake's home for the 2019 annual retreat. The purpose of the retreat was to reflect on the accomplishments for the year, outline group intentions for 2020 and revitalize the Team. As the retreat began and each person checked in, Julia announced to the group that she is moving to Montrose. (Paula Marlatt recently resigned, and Sue will resign when their house sells and she is ready to leave town.)

Facilitator Christi Strickland led the Team in reflecting over the past year and discussing future expectations, while instilling the "P.A.R. theme" (Prepare----Act-----Reflect). Attendees' hopes for the retreat were to:

- ✓ Feel the synergy,
- ✓ Get clear on what we want to accomplish and timelines,
- ✓ Feel energized,
- ✓ Result in accurate notes,
- ✓ Have fun,
- ✓ Feel more connected, have more clarity, and leave with smiles,
- ✓ Be open, kind, and creative,
- ✓ Ask for what you need.

Reflection on 2019 Accomplishments:

- 2018 Noel Night participation (CATs in Diane's truck)
- Colorado Creative Industries (CCI) Project and Technical Assistance Grant application and award
- Artwork installation and event, activating Space to Create lot (funded by CCI Grant)
- Film Fest
- CAT hats by Amanda for those who participated in Weehawken's Rally through the Alley
- Ridgway Old West Fest Art Show (and involvement with ROWF generally)
- Old West Fest Native Speaker
- Flute Circle
- First Fridays
- Local Business Tours & Contact
- CAT Liaison process
- New members integrated
- Improved awareness of CAT roles
- CAT Prowl (record of CAT members involvement in community events)
- CAT Name Tags and Calling Cards
- Better awareness of CAT in the Community
- *Creativity and Entrepreneurship in Ridgway, Co.* brochure
- *Tour the Colorado Creative Corridor* brochure

- Strong marketing
- Subcommittees (Film Fest, First Fridays, CCI grant, Creative Corridor, ROWF)
- Productive meetings
- Improved communication
- Improved teamwork & leadership
- Improved support & team work
- Supported/advocated for Creatives
- 7 Events!
- More people (6) sent to the Creative District Convening and CCI Summit
- Better music integration into events
- Tree House gallery openings

Christi led the group in a personality style activity which helped each C.A.T. identify her own personality style (Buffalo, Eagle, Prairie Dog, or Beaver), discuss that style with others, and present a skit about that style as it relates to the C.A.T.

Who do CATs need?

- People with: Qualities/traits to compliment the Team--more quiet, observant, contemplative, systematic, methodical (B-1 Beaver traits from personality style activity)
- Creative enthusiasts
- Connection to schools, families, youth – maybe
- Men, since the group is currently all-female (not by intent)
- Trained volunteers used better (skill-specific, event-specific, etc.)
- Involve the community better (Liaisons)
- Use our Spheres of Influence to find interested folks
- People probably want to be asked to become CATs – need to reach out personally
- People who can help with specific tasks
- Resource List of our own skills and skills others could bring

Where do CATs find energy?

- Who can step in and bring strength for projects? It's who you know.
- Support for succession planning
- Growing internally

Thriving CATs

- Need strong, clear communication
- Do not need to do things/events, etc. just because done before
- Feedback: How is communication with the community happening? Who are we reaching?
- Share your strengths that helped you get the job done. Can you build on this while seeking more balance/wholeness?

2020 Event Priorities

- Film Fest
- First Fridays at the Treehouse
- Space to Create (S2C)

Parking Lot (prior to Retreat)

1. Activating Spaces in the Community (outside eyes tour)
2. Adding existing public art placements into the local Creative Corridor brochure/map
3. Bear paw representation to honor native heritage
4. Healing Arts Moon Walk
5. Outdoor Murals
6. Story Plaques
7. C.A.T. Schwag

Additions to Parking Lot resulting from Retreat:

8. "Welcome wagon" concept for new residents
9. Capture/document CAT stories
10. Resource List for liaisons
11. Ambassador to connect with schools
12. Families/young adult recruitment

1-2 Month Goals

- Christie - provide Success List
- Continue prioritizing
- Revisit current Liaison List
- Review 2020 Work Plan at January meeting, based on Town Master Plan
- Gather community letters of support for S2C

**Each person explore what they are involved in, and have energy for!*

3-6 Month Goals

- Where are we going with First Fridays?
- Clarify Liaison role, intent and process
- Continue to prioritize tasks and link to 2020 Work Plan
- Recruitment progress

6 Month Goals

- Reach out to spheres of connection
- How to recruit more Creatives

1 Year Goals

- Website Update
- Directory Update
- Cohesion of accomplishments
- Recruit 2-3 new CAT members
- Balance each person (Cared for? Appreciated? Gave their gifts?)