

Arts and Culture, Meeting 3

August 30, 2021 4:00 PM | 2 hours

Documented by: Sonal Soni

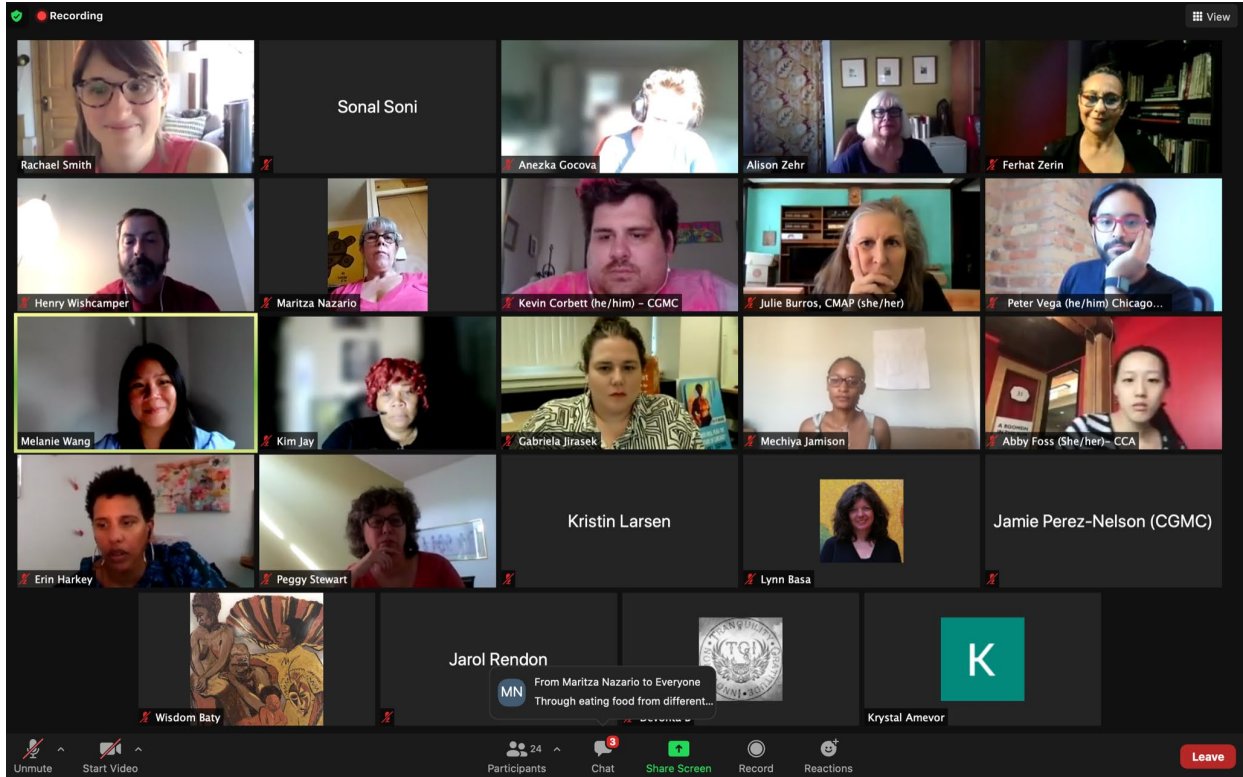
MEETING MATERIALS

[Agenda](#)

[Presentation](#)

ATTENDEES

- Rachael Smith
- Henry Wishcamp
- Melanie Wang
- Erin H Arkey
- Alison
- Zehr
- Julie
- Burros
- Mechiya Jamison
- Lynn Basa
- Sonal
- Soni
- Maritza Nazario
- Kim
- Jay
- Peggy Stewart
- Wisdom Baty
- Ferhat Zerín
- Peter Vega
- Abby Foss
- Anezka Gocova
- Kevin
- Corbett
- Gabriela Jirasek
- Kristin Larsen
- Jarol
- Rendon
- Jamie Perez-Nelson
- Krystal Amevor



The image shows a Zoom meeting interface with a grid of 20 participants. The participants are arranged in a 4x5 grid. The names of the participants are: Rachael Smith, Sonal Soni, Anezka Gocova, Alison Zehr, Ferhat Zerir, Henry Wishcamper, Maritza Nazario, Kevin Corbett (he/him) - CGMC, Julie Burros, CMAP (she/her), Peter Vega (he/him) Chicago..., Melanie Wang, Kim Jay, Gabriela Jirasek, Mechiya Jamison, Abby Foss (She/her) - CCA, Erin Harkey, Peggy Stewart, Kristin Larsen, Lynn Basa, Jamie Perez-Nelson (CGMC), Wisdom Baty, Jarol Rendon, and Krystal Amevor. A chat window is open over Jarol Rendon's video, showing a message from Maritza Nazario: "From Maritza Nazario to Everyone Through eating food from different...". The bottom of the screen shows the Zoom control bar with icons for Unmute, Start Video, Participants (24), Chat, Share Screen, Record, Reactions, and a Leave button.

MEETING GOAL

Today's meeting will refine the priority topics developed in the previous phase one, and will begin to form guiding questions for the rest of the process. The guiding questions will help inform data metrics, identify trends, analyze the best practices and develop the project's final objectives.

WHERE WE ARE

Step 1

We Are*Setting the Stage*

Step 2

We Have and Need*Develop A Policy Toolkit*

Step 3

We Will*Set Policy Framework***KEY TAKEAWAYS****1**

The community engagement phase is underway as arts and culture team members canvas numerous neighborhoods across the city to collect various community perspectives and needs. Engagement activities like partner events are also currently being planned to get additional community feedback and promote engagement. The arts and culture pillar also engages with the public virtually by providing a place for community members to provide feedback online as the pillar makes progress.

2

The arts and culture pillar planning process includes a health and race equity impact assessment (HREIA) to align with We Will's core principles of equity and resilience. Under this lens, today's meeting refined the priority topics developed in the previous phase one.

3

The guiding questions developed in this meeting will be further revised and voted on by team members in meeting four. These questions are not set in stone and will be subject to change as the pillar progresses.

CONVERSATION HIGHLIGHTS

“During today's meeting, we will build on what we learned from phase one and our historical reckoning work to develop a set of guiding questions. We'll be starting as a group refining and adding to the priority topic areas and then breaking into smaller groups to design guiding questions, which will serve as the framework for objectives.”

Rachael Smith | All Together, Principal

“That equal access issue might need further definition, the organizational assessment for our facilities might be something that is better in phase three and funding for the arts might be too narrow, but it's going to be up to all of you talking about these things.”

Alison Zehr | Business of the Arts, Principal

“We Will’s arts and culture pillar is intended to provide a planning framework that celebrates and enhances a broad array of businesses, individual artists, events, and other formal and informal means of creative expression. Arts and culture comprises our common heritage, avenues of expression, our fundamental character and aspirations.”

Alison Zehr | Business of the Arts, Principal

“We did some analysis and planning coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic, so the art 77 recovery plan actually has identified [topic areas] and strategies. One of them is access. The second one is prioritization and support for [the] creative workforce. And then the third is a funding, policy, research and evaluation category.”

Erin Harkey | Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events at City of Chicago, First Deputy Commissioner

“[The creative workforce] is a big part of what we're thinking of investing in, in terms of where the city's resources are currently going... especially coming out of the pandemic, in which we saw such drastic unemployment,

what do creative workers, as gig workers, need?” (i.e. access to affordable housing, transit, affordable work space, other specific needs) “I definitely think that should be an area of elevated focus, just because those supports and resources aren't currently existing at the level that they need to.”

Rachael Smith | All Together, Principal

NOTES

Kickoff and Introductions

- Arts and Culture is one of seven pillars of We Will Chicago. These pillars were defined in the pre planning phase. The next phase in the We Will process includes establishing teams to examine each of these pillars.
- The Arts and Culture pillar provides a framework that celebrates Chicago’s vibrant creativity and appreciates a range of local artists.
- We Will Chicago notes that arts and culture intersect, thus the pillar aims to support industries including museums, performance venues, schools and other spaces both physical and virtual.
- Investment and participation in arts and culture is essential to the city, which acts as a hub for creatives. Ultimately this pillar encourages the various narratives that reflect and engage Chicago residents.
- Under the arts and culture pillar, community engagement teams led by artists will interact with stakeholders to express concerns, identify goals and bring fresh perspectives to the city. These initiatives may include performance art, music, paintings or other mediums that engage Chicagoans and provide opportunities to get involved with the We Will plan.
- The arts and culture pillar also involves conversations about public policy and budget recommendations. This process will help expand Chicago’s community engagement as connected participants take part in a shared urban environment.
- Main areas of focus:
 - Equal access and opportunity for creating and displaying art
 - A citywide assessment of cultural facilities to help understand and address neighborhood inequities
 - Public and private funding to support artists and promote diversity

Overview

- Agenda items include: Artist-organizer engagement update, Process and decision making overview, Topic area refinement, Guiding questions development, and Plans and data needs

Artist Engagement Update

- Artist engagement is underway as arts and culture team members are canvassing various communities across the city to record public perspectives and needs
- There are also 50 community partner events and other engagement activities that are currently being planned to get targeted feedback from constituencies across the city on developing initiatives
- The public can also engage in the We Will Chicago planning process online

Process and decision making overview

- The overall planning process includes a health and race equity impact assessment (HREIA), which is directly related to We Will's two core principles of equity and resilience
- HREIA has been used in recent plans by the City Department of Housing, and the Department of Health.
- HREIA is a community engagement process and aims to achieve three things:
 - Assess positive and negative health impacts that could result from a proposed plan, policy or project
 - Understand potential equity impacts, benefits and burdens for communities most affected by decisions
 - Develop recommendations that will make the policy or project racially equitable, maximize benefits and mitigate threats or burdens
- Today's meeting will refine the priority topics developed in the previous phase, and will begin to form guiding questions for the rest of the process. The guiding questions will help inform data metrics, identify trends, analyze the best practices and develop the project's final objectives.
- In upcoming meetings, final objectives will be determined to form the basis of the pillar's policy recommendations. The arts and culture pillar will provide a comprehensive report which will be added to an overarching analysis from all of We Will Chicago's pillars.
- We Will Chicago's Advisory Committee and a plan commission will provide feedback at key points in the pillar's process.
 - The most immediate feedback opportunity is the upcoming advisory committee meeting on September 14, where arts and culture co chairs Melanie Wang and Erin Harkey will report the guiding questions developed later on in this meeting

- After today's meeting, the guiding questions will be refined into a condensed set for team members to vote on and select the top three to five.
- In meeting four, the research team will take the priority guiding questions and provide resources for arts and culture team members including ideas, examples and solutions to these guiding questions. From there, team members can identify the top objectives for this pillar.
- In meetings five and six, team members will identify and select a set of objectives that answer the guiding questions using the data and trends discussed in meeting four.
- Meetings seven through nine will be dedicated to designing a series of specific policy recommendations to achieve each chosen objective. Team members will create and refine the final set of recommendations, which will form the basis of the pillar report. These reports will help Chicago and all of its partners to achieve these goals.
- Arts and culture team members in attendance:
 - Experts in youth engagement and arts education: Krystal Amevor
 - Storytelling: Henry Wishcamper
 - Note takers: Jarol Rendon, Maritza Nazario, Kevin Corbett and Gabriela Jirasek.
 - Creative ideators: Peter Vega
 - Consensus and team builders: Melanie Wang, Peggy Stewart and Jamie Perez-Nelson
 - Policy and organizing: Erin Harkey and Kristin Larson

Topic Area Refinement

- Three priority topic areas developed in phase one community conversations
 - equal access and opportunity to the arts
 - city wide organizational assessment of facilities and needs
 - funding for the arts
- In this meeting, after developing additional priority topic areas, participants will then develop three to five guiding questions
- 15 minutes of group wide conversation refining and adding to preexisting priority topics
 - Utilize resources like existing buildings to revitalize neighborhoods
 - Supporting a creative workforce in a way that includes their housing needs, transit needs and everything that is encapsulated in the idea of access
 - Marketing the arts: What are the good things that have been done? How can we learn from them and reapply them in different places? Market what's happening in different neighborhoods to encourage people to explore their own city
 - Bridging gaps between neighborhoods
 - According to Jennifer Lee Gaya, the dramaturg of the arts and culture pillar, previous city plans were assessed and reviewed. There are five core issues based on those findings

- Raising community awareness of the scope of the arts such as neighborhood events
- Assessing different living wages in relation to sustainable careers in the arts
- Highlighting the importance of values of like funding, arts, education and artists' development
- Establish more sustainable programming and support for working artists including arts education, supporting independent artists growth and development
- Bridging different neighborhoods and finding ways for different practices to carry over across different settings

Guiding questions development

- The guiding questions should embody the two principles of equity and resiliency and the themes of We Will Chicago. They should also align with the arts and culture pillar definition.
- Consider the context the guiding question operates within. It can be described as reflecting on past actions and outcomes, reclaiming the present or reimagining the future.
- Questions must be deliberate and have the right balance of addressing a critical concern without being too general or too specific.
- Questions should identify a specific need, but it's open ended enough to invite opportunities for further discussion.
- Questions can be solved from multiple potential objectives and policy recommendations.
- In breakout rooms, participants will collectively come up with three to five guiding questions that best captures the themes discussed in this meeting
 - Group 1: access, marketing, sustainability and bridging communities together are the most important objectives
 - Group 2: Once we've funded, supported and created facilities, what is the larger goal? Can arts and culture really be a way to unite the city to create a catalyst for healing?
 - Group 3: When talking about funding, how does the city play a role as a funder? What are the long term impacts of funding outside of just receiving dollars? How can racial and historical reckoning be more explicit in these guiding questions?
 - Group 4: How can we incorporate arts and culture in underutilized spaces? How can we meet communities where they are? How can we push against conceptions of artistic excellence and highlight the range of reflective artists through the city? How can we ensure intergenerational involvement to create a sustainable culture of arts in Chicago?

Plans and data needs

- In preparation for upcoming meetings four and five, team members should start to think about the data, process and trends to further look into as the arts and culture pillar progresses in this process.
- Moving forward, team members will consider what research is already present or what is needed regarding the chosen guiding questions. If more data is needed, what sources should be used?
- Ongoing work with the past plan review is going to support the chosen set of guiding questions.
- Team members should reassess the past plan review in accordance with the topics discussed in today's meeting

RESOURCES

Pre planning phase

A [list of questions and answers](#) received by We Will staff at the kickoff conversation hosted virtually on Thursday, April 29.

Arts and culture pillar

The pillar's [homepage](#) on the We Will Chicago website. The page describes what the pillar stands for and upcoming scheduled events.

Community conversations

[Website page](#) for community members to submit feedback on pillar process.

NEXT STEPS

- The guiding questions created in this meeting will be refined into a condensed set for team members to vote on and select the top three to five. The research team will take the priority guiding questions and provide resources for arts and culture team members including ideas, examples and solutions to these guiding questions. From there, team members can identify the top objectives for this pillar.
- In the more immediate next stages, the guiding questions will be used to help inform the research and analysis conducted in meetings four and five by determining which trends should be analyzed and which city and neighborhood level assets will be identified.
- Meetings seven through nine will be dedicated to designing a series of specific policy recommendations to achieve each objective. Team members will create and refine the final set of recommendations, which will form the basis of the pillar report. These reports will help Chicago, the city and all of its partners to achieve these objectives.