

Arts and Culture: Meeting #2

August 10, 2021, 2:00PM | 1:47 hours

Documented by: Izzy Stroobandt

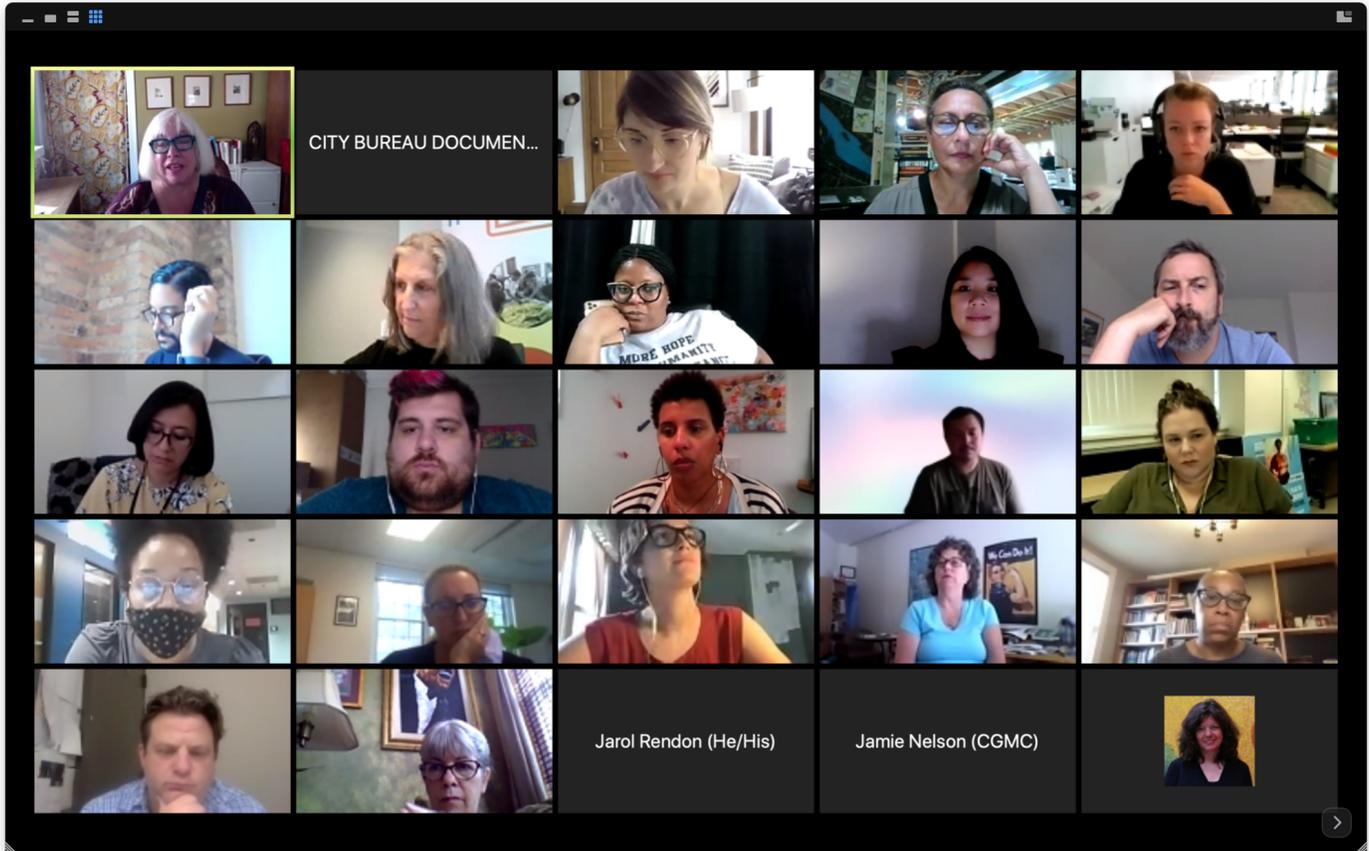
MEETING MATERIALS

[Agenda](#)

[Presentation](#)

ATTENDEES

- Erin Karkey
- Melanie Wang
- Aaliyah Christina
- Cathy Breitenback
- Clevan Tucker
- Max Grinnell
- Natasha Tarpley
- Rose Olea
- Gabriela Jirasek
- Dawn Posey
- Henry Wishcamper
- Jarol Rendon
- Jennifer Ligaya
- Lynn Basa
- Maritza Nazario
- Wisdom Baty
- Jeremy Dunn
- Julia de Bettencourt
- Julie Burros
- Kim Lewis Jay
- Kristin Larsen
- Krystal Amevor
- Peter Vega



MEETING GOAL

The primary objective of this meeting was to build team relationships and introduce the members to the priority topic areas that emerged from We Will Chicago's initial planning phase.

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** | Team-building is a major focus of this program; the majority of this meeting was spent laying out the strengths of each member and their opinions on how to be successful as a group.
- 2** | Overall, the group seemed to have an optimistic outlook on the process going forward and most people had similar outlooks on what makes a team successful or unsuccessful. Based on the feedback, the facilitators added being respectful of time, ensuring all voices are heard and allowing people to participate in the ways they feel comfortable to the list of "group norms" for future meetings.
- 3** | The process is flexible and may evolve further.. The following priority topic areas emerged from the discussion: (1) equal access and opportunity to the arts, (2) city-wide organizational assessment of facilities and needs, (3) funding for the arts. The next meetings will determine specifically how these priority topic areas are addressed.

CONVERSATION HIGHLIGHTS

"Tourists will say, 'Oh, I love Chicago—but they've only been to one side of the city. [...] I wanna show us to ourselves. Chicago is a city with global roots."

Krystal Amevor | Chicago Public Schools, Art Teacher

"I remember my family driving to the White Sox games and I was told that it wasn't a good area and there is nothing around there. I understand now that it was rooted in racism and classism."

Dawn Posey | Volunteer Team Member

"I've literally had people from New York ask me if we had a theater district and all that, it was really shocking to me that people who don't live around here don't know about all that Chicago has to offer. That is one thing that I think always seems to get missed when it comes to Chicago. You never really hear about all of the intricacies that make our city great. The world just doesn't really have an idea about what it's like around here, especially from the arts and culture perspective. It's all about politics and crime."

Dawn Posey | Volunteer Team Member

"It's important to recognize that a number of arts institutions are grappling with historical reckoning. I think, for our pillar in particular, it's going to be important to look at [the two streams of historical reckoning] separately as well as the ways that they're interconnected. And look at who is able to benefit from municipal money, from philanthropic money, from, you know—access."

Henry Wishcamper | Goodman Theater, Director

"We forget excellence, and beauty. Expression is your birthright. Artists have just given so much to this community and the cultural landscape. [...] Even through the muck and the meyer we persevere. I grew up in Lincoln Park and I always wanted to Live on the South Side. That's because I went to open mics in Kenwood(?). [...] For the most part, we live safe and we live really rich, cultivated existences—especially on the South and West Side. People will say 'Don't go to that neighborhood because of blah blah blah,' but 'go to that neighborhood because of blah blah'—it's the same place, just different gazes."

Wisdom Baty | Director of Development and Community Relations, COLAB

"I'd also like to add that historical planning processes have typically not included youth as key decision-makers and stakeholders. I know there are plans to include standing youth leadership groups in this process, but hope we can push ourselves to strongly center youth-led spaces and voices."

Julia deBettencourt | Chicago Public Schools, Art teacher

NOTES

Kickoff and Introductions

- The We Will Chicago [website](#) establishes a visioning framework as the following: “Arts typically involve visual, literary and performance-based works that reflect an impulse or vision of its creator. Culture is a set of shared attitudes, goals and practices that represent or are appreciated by multiple members of the same group. Arts and culture often intersect in ways that support or adorn entire industries, museums, performance venues, schools, and many other important physical and virtual spaces.”
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- Other attempts at similar city-wide programs: [Imagine Boston 2030](#), [OneNYC 2050](#) is centered on community engagement throughout its process. Like this plan, phase 2 of We Will Chicago will do the same with each step being purposeful.
- After each step, a presentation is submitted to the advisory committee. That presentation is the basis of a report at the end of the program.

Overview

- Rachael Smith asked the group to describe their most successful group meeting experiences; respondents answered in a variety of ways on the “Miro” board for the pillar. Overall, the responses centered on staying on task and timeliness, avoiding complicated jargon, and paying special attention to ensuring a diversity of voices are represented (especially marginalized communities). Some specific examples of responses are: “Clear roadmap of what we wanted to accomplish together. Some fun unexpected elements like a presentation or a group exercise”, “Avoiding arcane jargon—this can sometimes create barriers to participation”, “all voices heard” and “Being in person. Brings a different atmosphere.”
- Code word “Ketchup” – send it in the chat when any jargon or wording is confusing or you feel lost.
- Smith also asks the group the alternative, what made a group experience unsuccessful? Responses varied. “The meeting could’ve been an email”, “one loud person who overpowers others”, “being dismissive of various cultures and opinions in the room.”
- There were organizations that asked for clarification as to why WE WILL request that they have one representative. The response was that the rule isn’t to limit participation; rather they’re asking that there be one consistent person per organization that participates so that they have context from the past meetings when in the discussion.
- The Miro board is a website that the WE WILL team is using to allow remote collaboration. It includes norms

for the group, the “parking lot” where ideas that the group doesn’t have time to address in one meeting can live until they can return to it in future meetings, list of the strengths and weaknesses of each group member, they are still figuring out if this is the right platform for these meetings, could change down the line.

- At the end, Krystal Amevor raised issues with the meeting time. She wasn’t aware that when they agreed to the 2-4pm slot that it would be that way forever, rather than for just the first meeting. As a CPS art teacher, she’s unable to make the time work but wants to continue to be involved. The WE WILL response was that the meetings will be recorded, so she can be involved via email or other outside of meeting resources and that they will send out a form for people to vote on another meeting time that might work.
- Both Jamie Nelson (CGMC) and Kim Jay requested the pre-meeting packet. The We Will Chicago team said they will send all communication and updates to everyone who is signed-up to receive them via email.
- Currently, the priority topic areas for the Arts and Culture pillar are (1) equal access and opportunity to the arts, (2) city-wide organizational assessment of facilities and needs, (3) funding for the arts

Agenda

- Recording Consent + Reflective Prompt
- Meet the Co-chairs + Agenda Review + Examples of End Product
- Group Norms Activity
- Strengths and Working Styles Activity
- Historical Reckoning Framework Discussion
- Planning Process and Context Presentation
- Introduction to Phase 1 Priority Topic Areas
- Close-out and Homework

RESOURCES

Imagine Boston 2030

<https://www.boston.gov/civic-engagement/imagine-boston-2030>

ONENYC 2050

<http://onenyc.cityofnewyork.us/>

We Will Chicago Arts and Culture Pillar

<https://wewillchicago.com/arts-and-culture>

NEXT STEPS

- In a follow-up email, participants will receive links to the plans, a pre-meeting packet, a review of past plans and other details.
- (1) review shared resources and let the We Will Chicago team know if any plans are missing from their Pillar and (2) convey other plans that should be added to the "most critical," along with reasons why they should be included. This feedback will be used to shape their overall research and the past plan review in meeting 4.
- Priority topic area tasks: Think about what your priority topic area pillars would be and think about what definition of the pillar should be.
- Next meeting will focus on finalizing the list of Priority Topic Areas (add, remove, and refine) and workshopping those topic areas into "guiding questions" that will frame the rest of phase two.