

Cultural Resources Branch – Lee County Recovery Task Force

Meeting Minutes

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM | JUNE 14, 2023 | COLLABORATORY | 2031 JACKSON STREET,
SUITE 100, FORT MYERS, FL 33901 | PUBLIC MEETING

Call to Order

At 8:34 AM on June 14, 2023, Jon Romine, facilitator, convened the Cultural Resources Branch meeting. The following members were present:

- Dr. Selynto Anderson
- Michael Flanders
- Janel Trull
- Marco Villalobos
- Lydia Antunes Black

Facilitators and Branch Support:

- Jon Romine, Collaboratory
- Ilani Fernandes, Hagerty Consulting
- Robbie Heere, Hagerty Consulting

Introductions

Jon Romine provided a review of the work of the Recovery Task Force (RTF) and Branches. Mr. Romine reviewed the timeline for the RTF, emphasizing the move to Phase Two of the Recovery and Resilience Plan (the Plan).

He noted the purpose of the meeting:

- Review Workshop session and key outcomes;
- Review and validate potential Initiatives; and
- Discuss what Initiatives require a Technical Brief.

Recovery Task Force (RTF) Updates

Mr. Romine reviewed the outcomes from the past RTF meeting, including an update on Neighborhood Master Plans, Community Engagement, and the Project Intake Form.

Workshop Feedback

Mr. Romine provided an overview of the Workshops and Initiatives that were identified in the sessions. He summarized the key solutions identified in the Workshops specific to arts and cultural resources.

Initiatives Feedback

Ms. Black stated that cultural and arts leaders may not have felt comfortable discussing arts and culture next to the same issues as health and housing that some may view as critical. She stated that convening the arts community would be the first step to hearing the needs to provide solutions.

Mr. Romine suggested a meeting of a focus group or working session to walk through the needs of the arts and culture community without thinking of it as a grant opportunity. He stated this is the opportunity to leverage this time. He suggested a meeting before the end of June to convene the community.

Ms. Trull stated that the other Branches include governmental entities, but the Cultural Resources Branch includes mostly outside organizations. Ms. Black stated there is a lack of County-related Initiatives to bring the arts community up to the highest level and planning. She stated that the organizations that gave capital funds to arts and culture previously, no longer exist. There is no longer a funding mechanism for capital improvement.

Ms. Black stated that every other for-profit facility has a contract for use in emergencies, but nonprofits do not.

Branch Technical Briefs

Mr. Romine explained the development of Technical Briefs, Branch Action Plans, and Initiatives in the development of the Plan. He asked Branch Members to provide examples of communities that have brought the arts and culture organizations to the forefront or created funding opportunities elsewhere.

Questions and Next Steps

The next Branch meeting is scheduled for July 12, 2023, from 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM.

Mr. Villalobos expressed his gratitude to the arts community and faith-based community for incorporating creativity into this process. Mr. Romine asked members to share examples of experiences elsewhere to consider as Initiatives. Ms. Trull thanked the Branch Members for collaborating at the regional level and for the conversations that have occurred in this process.

Public Comment

Sam Ankerson, from the Shell Museum in Sanibel, thanked Branch Members for their work. He supported thinking about collection-holding organizations in the County, to protect artwork, collections, and exhibits.

Teresa Riska-Hall, from the Sanibel Community House, asked the Branch to consider the preservation of historical places and consider such places as a part of arts and culture.

Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Mr. Romine thanked the members for attending and then adjourned the meeting at 9:27 AM.