

MAP INFORMATION WORKING GROUP MEETING
MINUTES - Friday November 30, at MOSAIC in Vancouver

Present:

Carlo Campodonico – Qmunity
Katherine Griffin – MOSAIC
Richard Belcham – inasmuch
Sara Lopez - VAST
Bahar Taheri – BC Refugee Hub
Azadeh Tamjeedi – UNHCR
Jenny Moss – MAP

- Apologies: Farah Kotadia, Thanh Lam
Guest: Leila Shifteh - invited by Azadeh
-

Chair: Katherine Griffin (MOSAIC)

- Katherine welcomed everyone and asked for introductions as we had a guest.
Leila introduced herself as active in legal-related refugee work, as well as film making on refugee related issues. She has been working with Azadeh at UNHCR on film.
- The Agenda was approved with the note that the Terms of Reference needed to be updated, as prompted in the Minutes of the last meeting.

AGREED by consensus that the Terms of Reference will be updated to read:

d) STRUCTURE:

The Information Working Group will be comprised of Co-chairs, a notetaker, and members as listed

- The Minutes from November 16th meeting were approved

1. Website planning from here in - to do jobs for December

Richard reported that the communication to the general MAP group at the Nov 22nd meeting went very well
LOGO: Everyone liked the logo – the only one issue was the tagline. One person wanted to withdraw ‘for’ from ‘Working together for RC’s’.

Discussion followed and we will leave it as is for now and revisit later if there are more comments.

WEBSITE: Very positive comments with a few simple edits:

Substitute ‘Who..’ instead of ‘What is a refugee?’

There were questions about the 4 sections and we will re-word some of them.

- a) We need to choose a website template: Richard pulled up top 21 themes for non-profits:
We looked at some and liked the following:
Grassroots: <https://demo.organizedthemes.com/grassroots/>
Rara: <https://raratheme.com/previews/?theme=benevolent>

Richard (and others) mentioned he prefers Squarespace as a platform:

<https://www.squarespace.com/templates/community-non-profit>

However, Patrick (our designer) works in WordPress

➤ **ACTIONS:**

- Everyone to check out the templates above, as well as Squarespace and comment in a shared email on preferences.
- Richard to contact Patrick to discuss WordPress vs Squarespace

b) **Decisions as to edited categories, and what to include first – or later**

It was agreed that for now we can leave out:

- Latest news
- Get Social
- Employment/Medical/Legal
- Member Forum

Change wording:-

- Under RESOURCES 'Individuals' to be changed to 'For Communities'
- Issues or Challenges to be reworded as: **Did you know?**

c) **Writers**

Jenny mentioned that the timing wasn't very good for applying for an intern to do the website writing (e.g. BCIT Communications & Marketing only place interns in March)

Azadeh mentioned that she had been approached about a UBC possibility through Dan Hiebert (UBC Geography) He has a student who speaks English, French, Spanish and Mandarin and has experience writing.

Richard also offered to do the writing though it could be a lot

The work involved will include a mixture of interviewing, gathering, writing, editing.

Perhaps the UBC student could collaborate with Richard and divide up the work involved?

We will need a standard survey form for how to gather service provider information too.

➤ **ACTION:**

- **Azadeh to approach Dan/student** and ask her to submit samples of her writing to see if she is able to write for a website which has its own style.
- **Jenny and Azadeh to work on a possible posting for an intern.** We need to decide what kind of stipend could be paid.
- **Richard and Carl@** will design and send out a survey to partners to get service provider info (**Jenny can assist with member agency names and emails**)

2. **Event planning: what exactly we will do and steps towards it.**

We need to organize a public education event before the end of March.

Should it be the TED Talk idea or something like 'On the Table'?

All agreed that a bigger event like a TED talk would be easier to organize and coordinate now. (*The 'On the Table'-type event(s) are tabled for discussion later when we have more time.*)

Possible title: **'Starting Over'** – theme that can appeal to values of compassion and altruism

The event will discuss general values but will be connected to claimants via speakers.

WE NEED:

- 4/5 speakers from diff backgrounds:

RC, sponsors, service providers, headline speakers (+ possibly service providers: challenges)

Perhaps we could place RC behind a screen - to emphasize the 'hidden' lives of RC's before they gain PR.

SPEAKER CONTACTS TO PURSUE:

- **Richard** gave the example of the *Shoe story* – Richard's has a contact who he will talk to
- **Azadeh** suggested:
 - a) a Vietnamese speaker – a former judge. She will follow up or Jenny can ask her Citizenship/IRCC contact
 - b) Sharmarke Dubow – councillor in Victoria
- Aunt of Alan Kurdy? Good speaker – who has a connection?

There were many more suggestions and members are each asked to follow up with their contacts.

Finding **speakers and a venue** are the priorities.

Suggested program:

- Emcee
- Food – cooked by RC group if possible
- Opening Act:
 - Leila suggested the President of WUSC who is Rwandan, and an amazing dancer – she will ask
- Speakers
- Forum of all speakers – interactive with public
 - Silent Auction with art from RC's (as at World Refugee Day) and profits to the artists

VENUES:

It was discussed to hold the event in Abbotsford – or in another Fraser Valley location to:

- a) provide public education in an atypical area
- b) perhaps attract more people because the idea would be new and there wouldn't be as much event competition

SUGGESTIONS from **Richard:**

Kwantlen

City of Surrey Atrium

Surrey Library

Possible date: Thursday 28 March

To do:

- **Bahar** will contact the original Toronto organizers for more information
- Concept note – **Jenny**
Short powerful inspiring stories that show the impact of starting over...
- **Everyone** PITCH this to speakers and **Leila** to dancer
- **Richard** – venues
- Silent Auction – **Carl@** will arrange (later)
- Children's Art – healing through art.- **Sara** to talk to Mathias at VAST
- Flavors of Hope catering – **Sara**. We need to ask if they will work so far out, or bring out prepared food.

3. OTHER BUSINESS:

- a) **Stats Can** request to partner up at World Refugee Day

Jenny explained that Emily (VPL Events) had let her know that Stats Canada would like a table at WRD at the Marketplace to demo statistics they have collected that would be of interest to RC's and service providers. Jenny said this might be an important link for the Asset Mapping project too. Stats Can also offered to do a workshop at the event on statistic gathering and RC's. However the group wondered if the workshop was relevant to WRD and wouldn't be better at another time? Jenny to follow up.

b) Canadian Heritage forms for Event funding received

Jenny has received the forms from Amy at Heritage Canada to apply for EVENTS funds. There was no time to discuss but Jenny will attach the forms to these Minutes for members to read through. If time allows Jenny will draft the application during December.

TABLED ITEMS:

- Provincial Multiculturalism Grant \$5,000 available
- Podcasting

3:00 - Closing – next meeting will be on Friday January 11th – meeting place TBD.

Summary of December Action Items – please let Jenny know when you have any news:

Website:

- **Everyone** to check out the templates above, as well as Squarespace and comment in a shared email
- **Richard** to contact Patrick to discuss WordPress vs Squarespace
- **Azadeh to approach Dan/student** and ask her to submit samples of her writing to see if she is able to write for a website which has its own style.
- **Jenny and Azadeh to work on a possible posting for an intern.** We need to decide what kind of stipend could be paid.
- **Richard and Carl@** will design and send out a survey to partners to get service provider info (**Jenny can assist with member agency names and emails**)

Event:

- **Jenny** will write a Concept note for pitching speaker ask
- **Richard** to follow up with his contact from the ***Shoe story***
- **Azadeh made 2 suggestions:**
 - a) a Vietnamese speaker – a former judge. b) Sharmarke Dubow – councillor in Victoria
- **Other members** to follow up with their potential speakers
- **Leila** to follow up with the President of WUSC who is Rwandan, is an amazing dancer
- **Richard** – will look into FV venues
- Silent Auction – **Carl@** will arrange (later)
- Children's Art – healing through art.- **Sara** to talk to Mathias at VAST
- Flavors of Hope catering – **Sara** to inquire.