Joint Education Committee with Awards Committee Meeting:
Wednesday Mar 7, 2018
Millennium Library – Anhang Board Room

Present: Marcella Poirier, Janet Hunt, Ken Shachtay, Colleen Waters, Louis Gaudry, Sandy Popham, Liz Mitchell, Doug Gordon Maggie Lee Grant, Chris Sobkowicz

Regrets: Judy Redmond, Tim Johnson

The coordinator began the meeting with an outline for the meeting to include:

1. Update on the strategic planning and major changes that have evolved over the last month and since our last month.
2. Announcement of a special educational opportunity which is linked to the awards that is happening in July 2018.
3. Discussion of the roll out announcement(s) for the schedule changes for the Access Awards being every second year.

Marcella reported that the last time we met, we facilitated a session on our goals and our vision for our combined Awards and Education Committee. In general, it was agreed that we did a really good job of setting some priorities and Marcella wanted to remind us of those before we carried forward.

1. The first principles we needed was to involve students.
2. Have a networking opportunity
3. Be sustainable over time
4. Desired to have professionals, and architectural firms to be involved
5. Wanted technology trends to be addressed
6. Wanted to be public focused
7. Want to piggy back on existing programs or projects such as outreach projects with something like “Storefront”
8. Bring students in contact with the professionals

The most significant thing that touched her was the “Age Friendly” – “All Participant” piece were we landed on where we started to talk about an essay competition. It was different than in the past in what we did with the awards. We had the capacity as a team, that we could make contact with schools and organizations, but there would be some legwork to put this together.

Now….. comically at our meeting, Colleen asked on a number of fronts if this would include Jocelynn Johnson's (our choice) for a presentation at the TEDx talks that our committee was invited to.

As it happened, with a real direction of what we wanted to do with an essay competition……..Tedx contacted us on how the details could be ironed out in terms of supports, message, and all that. After meeting with TEDx it was apparently clear that we could accomplish our goals and vision with the support of Jocelynn Johnson doing a presentation at Tedx in lieu of an essay competition….. For those at the meeting, Marcella introduced to us who Jocelynn Johnson who crossed our path at the DIO's workshop on Communication and Information Barriers. She is…..

1. She works in the Provincial Office of Sustainability/ Conservation
2. GIS specialist
3. Heavily involved and founder of the Professional Associations for Deaf and Hard of Hearing
4. She is a "Sparky Person"
5. She has the ability to express her story as an individual and as a professional on the barriers she has seen over the years
6. She also is very eloquent on explaining how her service animal is frequently misunderstood as a pet about 95% of the time.
7. She can in a very compelling way in communicating the various barriers regarding service animals, and technologies requirements for Deaf and Hard of hearing individuals in our community.

The invite from TEDx which is a local version of TED Talks came, and it was very apparent that we could highlight many of the goals of our awards program and touch base on…..

1. Accessibility
2. Standards
3. Universal Design
4. AMA Legislation in General
5. Service Dogs and Service Dog Teams as part of Customer Service

It was determined that Jocelynn would /could do the talk, with the support of the Access Advisory Committee committing to fund her ASL Interpretation and that

the talk would address “Service Animals” with a titled talk as…… “Service Animals – Not a Pet Project”.

It was hoped that our funding of an ASL Interpreter for Jocelyn would be in addition of their ASL interpretation for the event……but as it was discussed as a barrier to communication at the DIO event, Cost of this provision has been a huge barrier identified.

This opened up a real understanding of their organizational barrier so carrying forward was a real opportunity for us to make this happen as well as achieve our goals and vision as discussed earlier by:

1. Provide ASL for Jocelynn
2. Provide ASL for the TEDx event (approx.. 20 speakers)
3. Sponsor entry to Stakeholder Organizations (number to be determined later) to participate as audience members.

Marcella read out her email to the Coordinator explaining her ask which ultimately approved by the AAC February meeting. The email is as follows:

> Hi Chris,
> Having just attended the TedX pre-interview with Jocelyn.
> I am thinking differently about the essay competition discussed by our sub-committee.
>
> I am fairly certain TedX will select Jocelyn. They viewed our committee’s willingness to cover costs for her interpreter as MISSION CRITICAL for event success.
> Having said that, they cannot afford an interpreter for their TedX event.
> “Can’t afford it” (interpreter) was one of the major barriers discussed at the DIO workshop where we met Jocelyn.
>
> The gap and opportunity I see for the education committee is to remove that “can’t afford interpreter” barrier to ensure TedX is barrier free in Winnipeg 2018.
>
> My suggestions (all assuming Jocelyn’s talk is selected):
>
> 1. Fund Jocelyn’s interpreter for the pre-event meetings and TEDX event
> 2. Provide TedX with a sponsorship to cover the cost of an interpreter for ALL Winnipeg TedX talks.
> 3. Purchase seats at all TEdX talks to ensure people from accessibility community can attend.
> 4. Ask Jocelyn is she would be willing to take her talk to schools – we would provide her with a speakers honorarium and cover interpreting costs/travel.

5. The education committee could then use our volunteer phone calling team to reach out to schools to line up Jocelyn as a speaker. This may coincide well with Dec. 3 International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

   I think this approach has a value of about $5K.

   I would like the education committee to contemplate this opportunity although is is a departure from our last meeting.

   Could you please share this info with the group in advance of our next meeting

At the end of the day…..Colleens question could in fact be correct in saying Jocelynn's talk could be the event.

Please note that we worked very hard in getting to where we are with the determination of our goal and our first principles…. This opportunity can provide the broadest public appeal.

During the group discussion, it was identified:

1. That as a supporting group we should be concerned that the message is consistent with organizations such as the Manitoba Human Rights Commission and be consistent with their position on Service Animals and Service Animal Teams.
   As a point it was stressed that this message is not coming from our organization, but rather that it is framed as "her story" and experience that the audience will hear and learn from. As well, Jocelynn has also been involved with a Professional Development Network in the Government and has been spokesperson along with Tim McIssac which should guide them along with the consistency of the Manitoba Human Rights Commission. Again, it should be stressed that this is going to be her "message" with our involvement in the development of the final script which will bring us back to our goals and vision stated earlier.

At the conclusion of the TEDx meeting, and the real focus on the importance of this talk one of the organizers asked ……"Can I pet Lulu now?" We have a lot of work in creating the message. Jocelynn took the opportunity to turn an incorrect moment into a correct learning opportunity which really showed her professional demeanor as our representative.

In the next steps we will have to develop a strategic timeline on what needs to be done, as well some thought if we still want to involve the schools and possibly an essay sponsorship around this topic…..This will have to be determined in the next month or so if our time commitment to do the work is within our own parameters. Otherwise Jocelynn and Marcella will work with the TEDx professional team to roll out a desired and well done presentation.

Project #2

We have been invited to conduct a highlights bus tour for the Manitoba Professional Planning Conference for the International or Canadian Institute of Planners in July 2018.

This would involve taking the participants on an accessibility tour of up to 3 access award recipients.
It was determined that we would select up to 3 facilities from our Circle of Excellence developed for the Rick Hansen Foundation. The selected sites would be:

1. SSCY on Notre Dame
2. Miracle Garden at Victoria General Hospital
3. Accessible Playground at the Forks (if time allowed)

In marketing the event the brochure info in the package could look like:

Visit three best practice examples of universal design with members of the ACCESS community and design professionals. Each facility architect, planner and/or owner be involved in a specific presentation on site outlining the challenges of the facility and the highlights of exemplar use of universal and inclusive design. This tour also involves a walk through led by the City of Winnipeg Mayor's Access Advisory Committee Members and representatives from the facility. The Miracle Garden at the Victoria General Hospital is an award-winning example of inclusive place-making designed for reflection and healing. Specialized Services for Children and Youth is a unique and resource-rich environment that implements universal design best practices with a child-friendly lens in what was once a Christies Biscuits factory. Lastly, the Parks Canada Accessible Playground at The Forks National Park showcases an accessible active outdoor public space.

The committee would provide:

1. A tour leader on the bus to provide information and best practices on route to each facility.
2. 3-4 sub tour leaders on each site to augment the presentation from the facility leadership (Architect, planners, and owners)
3. Travel to one of the facilities of choice for AAC Members
4. AAC members will provide a smaller scale conversation while on the tours.

The Planners Institute would provide:

1. Accessible City of Winnipeg Transit for Conference Participants
2. Snack on the bus

Project #3

The roll out information package for the Access Awards in 2019 will need to be done in May and could include:

1. Official Communication in May
2. Determine an Open Call or Closed Call for Nominations
    a. Determine the Advantages of an open call vs. a closed call and make the decision.
3. Combine the messaging of the 2018 projects in conjunction with the 2019 Access Awards
4. Make a list of 2019 projects starting right away.
5.

Adjournment