

Summary of Scoping Meeting
June 9, 2015

Cultural District

in Dublin USA

*For Dublin Arts Council and the City of Dublin by:
Creative Community Builders*

DUBLIN
Arts
Council
+ Glenmoy
Parade

On June 9, 2015 the Dublin Arts Council and City of Dublin convened key stakeholders in major developments underway and planned within the core area of the city that flanks the Scioto River, including the Historic downtown and emerging Bridge Street Districts. The one-day workshop was part of a process to optimize collaboration and synergy among the physical development, cultural and civic activities, and organizational leadership at work in this greater area described herein as a downtown or river **Cultural District**.

Participants represented multiple departments and agencies within the City, the Dublin Arts Council, Crawford Hoying Development, Ohio University, Dublin Convention and Visitor's Bureau, and Kolar Design. Creative Community Builders of Minneapolis, a cultural and neighborhood planning group led the workshop. (See complete list below.)

Planned Outcomes for the Day

1. Build familiarity among Dublin leaders and their plans and hopes
2. Co-create a visual representation of the community as an aid to planning
3. Devise a strategy to move district planning forward
4. Establish commitments to continued stakeholder collaboration
5. Set next step(s)/meeting follow-up
6. Enjoy participation in community planning!



*We all came together in June,
Around a map as big as a room.
On the table we crawled,
On the paper we scrawled,
And we committed to get back to it soon.*

Participants

City of Dublin

- Michelle Crandall, Assistant City Manager
- Matt Earman, Director of Parks and Recreation
- Kyle Kridler, Management Assistant
- Alison LeRoy, Events Manager
- Sarah McQuaide, Public Information Officer
- Christine Nardecchia, Volunteer Resources Administrator
- Megan O'Callaghan, Director of Public Works
- Justin Quisumbing, Web Developer
- Jenny Rauch, Planner II
- Joanne Shelly, Urban Design/Landscape Architect

Crawford Hoying Development

- Steve Brothers-McGrew, Marketing Manager

Creative Community Builders

- Tom Borrup, Principal
- Peter Musty, Senior Associate

Dublin Arts Council

- Janet Cooper, Marketing and Public Relations Manager
- David Guion, Executive Director
- Naomi Hoyt, Board Member
- Gretchen McIntosh, Public Information
- Claudia Plumley, Chair, Board of Directors

Dublin Convention and Visitors Bureau

- Scott Dring, Executive Director

Kolar Design

- Joell Angel-Chumbley, Creative Lead
- Kelly Kolar, CEO

Ohio University

- Rachel Cornish, Director of External Relations
- Daniel Dennis, Artistic Director
- Donna Goss, Director Real Estate, Community Engagement
- Margaret Kennedy-Dygas, Dean, College of Fine Arts
- Michael Lincoln, Director, Theater Division

The Flow of the Day

Welcome, Introductions and Limericks!

Matt Earman, Michelle Crandall & David Guion welcomed participants. Folks introduced themselves and shared their favorite inspiring/enriching place or activity in Dublin. Participants then shared their respective organizational agendas for Dublin's future *in Limerick!*

Discovery

Mapping Part I: *On the Ground Now*

- Map existing **physical** cultural and creative assets
- Map existing cultural, civic and creative **activities**
- Map existing **players/managers** of physical assets and activities

Mapping Part II: *Coming Soon*

- Map planned and projected additions (physical & activities)
- Identify synergies, emerging possibilities & challenges

Visioning

Mapping Part III: *So What Else Is Needed?*

- Map long range plans, emerging project concepts or completely new desired physical additions to Dublin

Small Group (during Lunch): *Ideas for Each of the Seasons*

- Small group activity (4 small groups, one/season, detail seasonal activity plans)
- Re-convene in full group to share work from small groups
- Consolidate and discuss visioning work

Preference Voting (choose 2 new physical improvements, 2 new activities)

- Small groups detail new projects (4 groups x one activity each)
- Share results in full group
- Identify other partners needed

Scoping, Next Steps and Commitments

- Reflections on day's lessons
- Discuss next step(s)
- Add commitments to "Before I Dig" wall

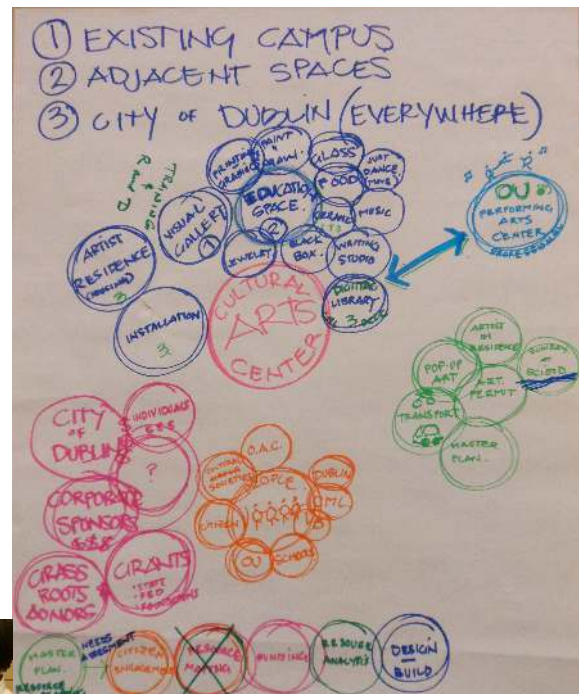


Four Project Ideas That Rose

Near the end of the day, preference voting was conducted as a means to focus on **two physical projects** and **two activities** for further planning.

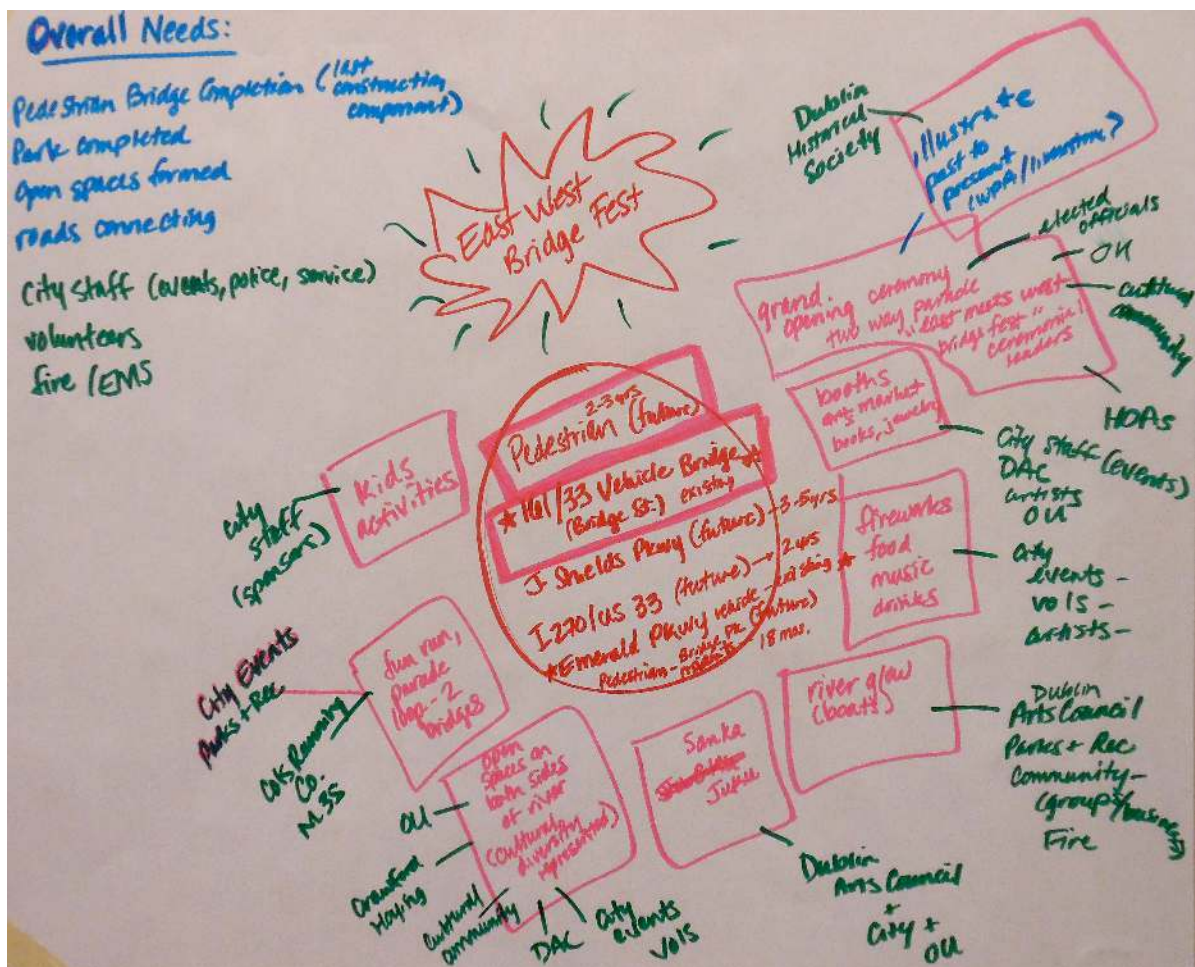


1. **Arts Council Campus** – centered at the existing arts center, the campus will extend to adjacent properties and include programming of sites throughout the District. Activities might include: artists in residence, permanent and temporary public art, multi-disciplinary visual arts education spaces, installations, visual art gallery, dance and music events in public spaces, etc.

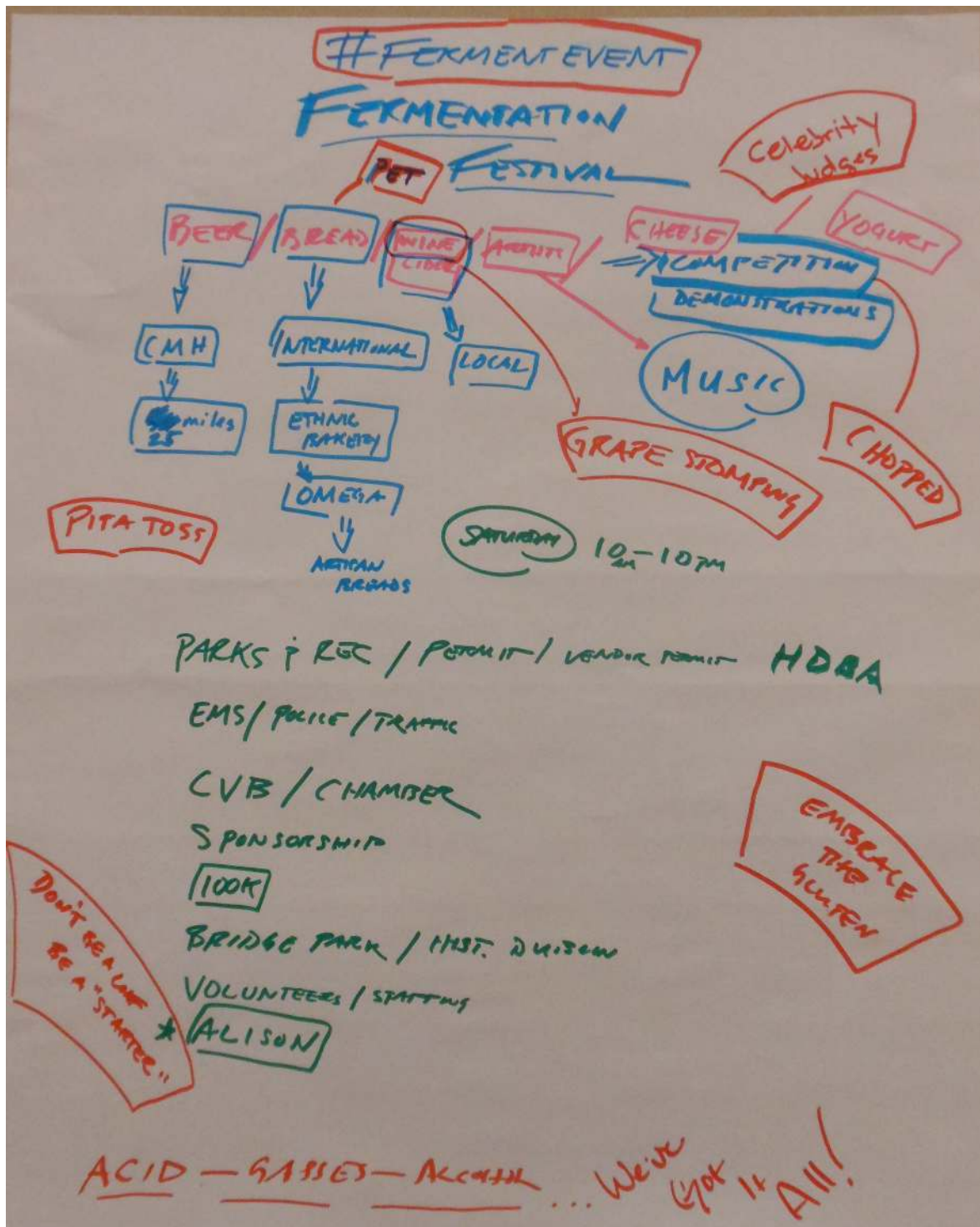


2. **Performing Arts Center** with Ohio University Theatre Program as lead tenant. The facility would include music, dance, and other performing arts programming throughout the year. It could serve as the focal point for the Bridge Street district.

3. **East-West Bridge Festival** – This new event would initially mark and celebrate the opening of the new pedestrian bridge across the Scioto and continue annually to signify the connection of the two “downtowns” (the Historic and Bridge Street Districts) and possibly build on the east-west metaphor to include the growing population of Asians and Asian-Americans in Dublin.



4. **Fermentation Festival (or FermentEvent)** would connect a variety of food-making and consumption activities including beer, bread, wine, cider, kimchi, cheese, yogurt, and others. International foods and themes could play out through music, dancing, films, grape-stomping, pita bread tossing, and other thematic activities.





Before I Dig, I Will...

Inspired by public artist Candy Chang and her internationally known interactive “Before I Die”... walls, participants were asked to make an individual and/or organizational commitment to future involvement in development of the Cultural District.

Participants wrote: **I will...**

- Ask our community (Michelle)
- Think BIG
- Engage a diverse range of participants
- Consider the importance of earning buy-in
- Get our community engaged in this (Christine)
- Plan leadership sequencing
- Make sure there is a strategic plan
- Get to know the Dublin community (Dan Dennis)
- LISTEN (David)
- Make sure I have all the right tools and materials
- Rally our troops (Dan Dennis)
- Ensure Quality (Rachel)
- Identify summer theater space (Michael Lincoln)
- Look for intersections and identify priorities (Janet)
- Build lasting relationships (Marty)
- Reach out to creative people outside my box (Alison)

Some Broader Takeaways

The Greater Sum of the Parts

The benefits of working together became increasingly apparent over the course of the day. Participants reflected on the remarkable range of skills, talents, and capacities in the room, both individual and organizational. Many became aware of the interconnectedness among stakeholders and their plans – the potential cohesion and impact the many planned additions to the community could have if coordinated. These included physical changes, organizational commitments, and activities, existing and planned. Great potential and value in a cohesive new Cultural District emerged through the mapping exercise.

This was a high capacity group that brought a lot of skills into the room. Dozens of potential small and large-scale physical amenities were identified ranging from wifi stations in parks and public art, to stairs and canoe access points. There was no shortage of great visions and apparently no shortage of implementation capacities. What crystalized was the potential benefits in a clear, shared vision and the need for an organized and focused strategy so that independent investments in the physical landscape, cultural and civic activities, and organizational capacities can build on one another most effectively.

Engage and Involve the Community!!

Repeatedly, team members voiced the sentiment that the constituents and stakeholders they represent could and should be involved in this kind of co-creative planning.

Next Steps

The following recommendations will be implemented by the Dublin Arts Council in collaboration with the City of Dublin:

1. **Organize** - Form a Steering Committee or District Commission to lead further planning and possibly to be charged with ongoing management (to include but not supercede or replace the Performing Arts Center Steering Committee); consult and engage more people from the population of Dublin at large in planning, particularly the Historic Preservation Commission; focus on diversity in a substantial way when planning for the future.
2. **Formalize** - Explore and set formal boundaries, identity, and mission of new Downtown / River Cultural District
3. **Create a Plan** - Commission a comprehensive cultural district plan during 2015-2016.
4. **Learn by Doing** - Inform the plan and engage community s by commissioning small creative placemaking demonstration projects (aka temporary urbanism and public space animation) within the district to involve and benefit the community while illustrating/testing potential; seek funding to expand these placemaking activities.

