

**Executive Director Report**

The July-August 2019 activities of the Executive Director align with key strategies from the CCGJ strategic plan 2017-2022 as follows:

**EXPAND FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

* Mayor’s budget for 2019-2020 included an increase of approximately 7% or additional 200K. I am especially focused on achieving equity between the three tiers of grantees. The CSG Committee is in agreement with this idea; however there are concerns about how to achieve equity. More discussion is needed.
* I believe we should pursue a strategy for moving the needle for increases in each of the Mayor’s remaining budgets.
* LEAP – Planning continues for this 4-day event. New Milestones include:
  + Raised approximately $78K of $200K toward LEAP. 69K in sponsorship and 9K in ticket sales.
  + In-kind sponsorship from Bacardi for beverages has been secured.
* Regions Bank will provide $5000 in support of Artist programs at CCGJ.
* Year-round resource development. A resource development plan must be initiated for year-round funds development. I will work on a grants calendar. However, we need to consider earned income strategies. This topic should be a priority for a board retreat.

**ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY**

**External Relationships**

* Participated in the Chamber’s Downtown Buffalo Tour. Key takeaway is that the tax structure in Jacksonville Florida and NE Florida is more conservative than in NW New York and Buffalo New York. They utilize tax credits and state funding for downtown revitalization and infrastructure projects in ways that are not currently available to this region. Buffalo’s examples of private-public partnerships and long-term planning are strategies that we can adopt.
* Anticipating that a partnership with the DuPont Fund will garner a grant to implement pilot projects in support of Artists/Artist Entrepreneurship.
* Presented to the Beaches Chamber of Commerce.
* Met with representatives from Jaguars Foundation and Florida Blue to secure funding for LEAP and other program ideas.
* Two television interviews – Kent Justice and Tenikka Hughes.
* CCGJ Public Art Program is well positioned to provide consultations and full project management services to the City and private interests. See Public Art Director’s Report.

**BROADEN ACCESS TO THE ARTS**

* Cultural Internship Program has concluded. 60 students were placed, 54 completed the program. Special thanks to United Way, the Mayors Youth at Work Program and Kids Hope Alliance for their funding and program support. A video documentary has been produced to capture the students who worked in video production as part of their summer internship at the Cultural Council.