

AGF Public Policy – Matrix Sub-committee Meeting
Sept. 14, 2011
ACF offices

Participants: Kim VanPelt, Pat Miles, Tony Banegas, Teresa Brice, Marissa Theisen, Tom Torretta, Laura Atwell Absent: Eva Lester

Kim VanPelt reported that the AGF Public Policy meeting had a conference call with Frank Sanchez (Needmor Fdn) and Peter Bloch Garcia (Marguerite Casey Fdn) regarding the content for the AZ presentation at the upcoming NFG Conference in New Mexico. Peter said MCF had an interest in investing in AZ, but there was not enough capacity and the politics were too conservative. The presentation should address those issues, as well as focusing on the status of community organizing, advocacy efforts, issues like labor, immigrant rights, housing, civic participation, and community development. The goal of the presentation should be to answer the questions that funders may have about why and how to invest in AZ. The presentation should last about 30 minutes and allow time for Q&A. He suggested calling it, “Don’t Forget AZ.”

It was also noted that Steve Seleznow (ACF) was willing to provide the group with feedback on an outline for the presentation. He could provide his perspective on what a national funder might be seeking from the presentation.

The group analyzed the data collected from the matrix, and agreed to send an additional questionnaire to funders and nonprofits to categorize their advocacy efforts according to the issues in which they are engaged. Tom will create a survey monkey mailing, and Laura will send it to the recipients of the matrix. It is hoped that the results will be available to share at the conference.

Categories of issues:

1. Education including early childhood care
2. Economic Development – labor and wages, microloans, small business
3. Human Services – poverty, economic security, food security, economic justice
4. Public Sector Finance – taxes, legislative budgets
5. Crime & Safety – juvenile justice, domestic violence prevention, child abuse prevention, human trafficking
6. Health – drug abuse, behavioral health, access to health care, quality of health care
7. Human rights – immigration, religious freedom, discrimination, cultural preservation
8. Community Development – housing, transportation
9. Civic Engagement – community organizing, leadership development, voter participation, advocacy capacity building
10. Arts
11. Environment – pollution, parks preservation, energy use

The group outlined a format for the presentation to be given Oct. 25 in New Mexico.

1. Show slides of AZ while people are gathering in the room. (Pictures available from Jennifer Allen, Petra Falcon, Teresa Brice, etc. Send to Kim) Introductions of the panel.
2. What are your impressions of AZ? Kim will lead the questioning of the audience, while Teresa writes the responses on a flip chart. Approx. 2 min.
3. Highlight AZ strengths and respond to impressions voiced in #2, Approx. 8 min.
 - AZ is a young state, open to new ideas.
 - Collaboration is possible. There aren’t barriers among geographic communities.
 - Independence, support for issues, ballot initiatives, AZ We Want.

- There has been a response related to SB 1070, polling on SB1070, how little money has been raised for The Wall (border).
 - Diversity – 22 different tribes (Teresa has slides from NAC), mixed ethnicities, particularly among the young.
 - Prepare for negative questions about the legislature, etc.
 - Address myths with challenges/opportunities.
4. Making the Case for AZ – Approx. 5 min. (Did not decide who would do this part)
 - Civic Engagement – most people born somewhere else, voter participation efforts are young – just beginning.
 - Philanthropic community is young.
 - Tremendous need – poor state
 5. Examples of what is going on in the state currently? Approx. 15 min – 5 min. each
 - Human rights, immigration – Pat Miles will tell the story of One AZ, Border Action Network, use matrix as an example of all the activity occurring in this area.
 - Civic engagement, capacity building, leadership development – Tony Banegas will talk about the Flinn Fdn, Valley Leadership, AGF, VSUW, SLHI (Community Catalyst and Spitfire work), the Arizona We Want and others
 - Community development, community organizing – Teresa Brice will give examples from place-based giving and activities, etc.
 6. Close by talking about how AGF can be the conduit for connecting with Arizona funders, local organizations. Discuss website and how to connect.

Bring 20 copies of handouts like “Sustainable Communities” (Teresa), Housing (Tony) and AGF annual reports (Pat), and the Arizona We Want (Kim).

Do a short take-away with contact info for AGF and panel members (Kim).

Next steps: Kim will rework the invitation to the presentation for the conference and send to Frank for distribution; Tom will create the survey monkey, Laura will prepare the email of the survey monkey and send out a meetingwizard to schedule the next meeting. Teresa, Tony and Pat will work on their presentations and send any PowerPoint or video to Kim. Pat will determine what the costs are that are associated with AV and talk to the group about how costs might be covered.

Submitted by Laura Atwell

Edited by Kim Van Pelt

Sept. 22, 2011