

# Arts Collaboration and Community Engagement

## Charrette Design

The purpose of this assignment is to explore how a charrette process might aid you in initiating a community engagement process. While charrettes can be designed in multiple ways to achieve the goals of a project, use the material provided in this module to guide you in this assignment. Envision a community event where you are using the charrette to bring awareness of a social or political issue. The charrette can, itself, incorporate artistic elements and practices, or it can be an event where you are gaining support for a collaborative/community engagement project you will do in the future.

Your assignment should include the following:

- Title of charrette event
- Summary, or overview of the charrette including what you intend to accomplish
- Targeted participants (for example, third-graders in a local school district, homeless citizens of a city and people who provide services for them, patients in a mental-health facility, residents of a particular city, etc.)
  - The summary should name the objectives you hope to achieve as a result of holding the charrette event.
  - The summary should also name where the charrette will take place (in a particular park, in a particular building, etc.).
- Agenda—what do you want to happen during the charrette? The agenda should be a chronology of what will take place during the time period of the charrette event. Will it start with a speaker to explain and kick-off the event? Will there be a particular activity in which the participants engage? How will it end?
- Key personnel—will you lead the charrette on your own, or will there be other people with you who will help with facilitation of the event?
- Materials needed, especially informational material. Try to envision what materials will be needed for the charrette to take place.

- Evaluation—explain how you will know that the charrette accomplished its aims.
- Conclusion

Note that the charrette design does not need to be fully fleshed out. Treat this as a preliminary sketch of an event that might take place. Nonetheless, you should put thought into the assignment. The most important part of any plan, no matter how cursory or underdeveloped, is the thinking part you do in advance of writing anything down.