



JUNTOS (Joining & Understanding Now, Teens Overcome Separation)

An Española/Los Alamos Youth Initiative

Youth JUNTOS Meeting
UNM-LA, September 29, 2007, 2:00-3:30 PM

Minutes

Attendees: Nathana Bird, Marcos Vigil, Andrew Vierra, Kevin Hemphill, Maurice de Segovia, Meegan Chute, Lori Heimdahl Gibson, Johanna Eager. Marcos Vigil was the facilitator (and did a great job!)

- After the welcome and introductions, we reviewed the last youth minutes, the adult minutes, and notes from the youth summit and murals committee meetings. We had two new students from LAHS, Andrew and Kevin, who are members of the Key Club. Meegan Chute is a new adult volunteer who is reasonably new to the area and a new mother. Johanna Eager, our workshop facilitator, was present to guide the youth in their facilitation of the small groups tomorrow.
- We watched the Creativity for Peace DVD and discussed what we could learn from it to use with JUNTOS. It is a powerful video showing a remarkable process of healing. Valerie Carpenter, art therapist for Creativity for Peace, presented at our last adult meeting. See the adult minutes for more details.
- Johanna Eager discussed the process for the youth facilitators at the workshop tomorrow. As facilitators of the small groups, the students will guide all participants to speak, although they are allowed "to pass" if they want. They start with one person and go to the right, and then the next time, go to the left. They encourage participants to pull their chairs in to form a tight circle. The most important aspect is to create an atmosphere of safety, respect, and equity. The goal is to listen intently with no cross-talk; no interruptions until every person has had a chance to speak. Johanna suggested beginning future JUNTOS meetings by asking members what they have done to address racism since the last meeting.
- Announcements:
 1. Funding so far is from the LA JJAB (\$5,000), NNM United Way (\$5,000/year for three years), \$500 from NNMC, and several other hopeful prospects.
 2. In order to grow, JUNTOS' organizational framework needs adjusting, with more people taking a leadership role with the meetings and projects. We discussed having the YMCA be a core organization that may hire someone to work on JUNTOS administrative duties, etc. The Y has expanded its area of services to include Española. The Teen and Tech Center will be opening in October and would like to host JUNTOS meetings. There is a suggestion to pay some youth leaders a stipend for working on JUNTOS projects in a leadership capacity. The adult meeting schedule has been changed to include quarterly meetings-at-large. (The next adult meeting will be on Tuesday, December 11th at 8:30 AM at UNM-LA.) JUNTOS youth meetings will be monthly at the high schools, with the school districts providing transportation. See date below for the next youth meeting.
 3. There is a great need to recruit more youth from both communities. Lori, Nathana, and Maurice have been speaking to different groups in each community, but need help from everyone.
 4. We need an official JUNTOS logo. Lori found some clip art for the logo above that we are using on the letterhead for our solicitation letters until we get an official logo. Nathana has some connections and is pursuing them to create a possible graffiti logo.
 5. We had a discussion about the phrase, "People of Color." Johanna wanted to know if it is okay to use that phrase to distinguish between Anglos and other non-white groups. She will check it out with the large group tomorrow. No one had a problem with it here.

6. Meegan suggested creating our own JUNTOS web site. Her husband may be able to help with it when we are ready. Currently, we are a part of the LA JJAB web site at www.losalamosjjab.com.
7. We had an authentic dialogue about the LAYL team name "Conquistadors." A few people expressed discomfort with the name. Lori will present this to the team for reconsideration.
8. Post-meeting, Meegan sent me a link to a resource for the murals project; SPARC (Social and Public Art Resource Center) is a non-profit organization in Los Angeles that focuses on "public art as an organizing tool for addressing contemporary issues, fostering cross-cultural understanding, and promoting civic dialog". SPARC is the driving force of several very well known art projects throughout urban Los Angeles and has a proven track record of success within diverse communities. The web site is: http://www.sparcmurals.org/sparcone/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=1

- **Next youth meeting - Wednesday, Oct 24th at LAHS, lunch (12:42-1:20 PM) in the Speech-Theatre Room. EPS to provide transportation to LA and back from EVHS.**

Committees (so far):

Advisory - Nathana Bird, Janelle Vigil-Maestas, Maurice de Segovia, Lori Heimdahl Gibson. . . .

Funding - Robert Gibson (chair), Ron Martinez, Joe Maestas, Wayne Torpy, Jim Anderson, David Cockerham

Educational Leadership - Marcia Brenden (chair), Cedric Page, Sandra Roney, Frank Orona, Erwin Rivera

Youth Summit - Nathana Bird and Maurice de Segovia (co-chairs), Sharon Stover, Min Park. . . .

Murals - Marcos Vigil (co-chair), Nathana Bird, Andrew Herrera, Maria Tapia, Gillian Sutton. . . .

Joint Dances - Meegan Chute, Susan Mack (chaperone). . . .

Help as Can - Paul Romero, Erwin Rivera, Michelle Hall, Susan Mack (baked goods)

Recorder: Lori Heimdahl Gibson, lorihq@swcp.com