



Sharon Rapoport: Creative Connectors wants YOU!

April 5, 2009



DAY FIVE: The Final Four

I promised I would clue all SCH readers in on the outcome of the **Richard Florida Creative Connectors 2 Day Seminar**. To recap, the first day we generated hundreds of ideas on how to change the region for the better, and on the second day, we had the near-impossible task of narrowing those ideas down to four - one each for the 4Ts of **Technology, Territorial Assets, Tolerance, and Talent**. Here are the final four of our particular *March Madness* . . .

CNR 2030: Growing a Carbon-Neutral Region

The plan is to partner with others in the region to educate and engage the community toward the achievement of sustainable living. The initiative will position the region as a proving ground for sustainable technologies. As progression toward the goal occurs, the region will attract new businesses, generate new jobs and become a model community for sustainable living. The ultimate goal is for the region to be carbon neutral by 2030. **For more information and to participate, contact Mike Dame at mdame68@yahoo.com.**

81 Reasons to Connect

The purpose of this initiative is to connect the Roanoke and Blacksburg MSAs through three key areas - economic development, attraction and retention of creative professionals, and leveraging our natural resources. This effort will be seeking feedback from at least 40 already identified regional organizations and the general public. The group is also planning a regional economic summit in 2009. **For more information and to participate, contact Krisha Chachra at kchachra@aol.com.**

STAR is a movement towards inclusion: The Spirit of Tolerance and Art in the Region.

This is an umbrella that would build upon existing events and organizations like Pride Parade, Local Colors, Interfaith Hospitality Network, Henry Street Festival and create new initiatives such as: BridgeWalk - people/congregations gather at and on the bridges that connect the separate areas of our region and use them as symbols of how we can come together to learn from each other. OPEN DOORS series -Imagine a block party that promotes inclusion. Businesses open their doors, quite literally, to performances and readings in the common areas with the theme of different communities uniting. STAR event - a musical event in the Downtown area where diverse musicians from all over the world come to play TOGETHER and, through music, promote tolerance and understanding. The STAR movement begins with a website and a calendar online. Our aim is to have at least one event per month, ongoing, beginning with LOCAL COLORS in May. **For more information and to participate, contact Sharon Rapoport at sharon@thefarm.com.**

YEA! Youth Experiencing the Amenities

The mission of YEA! is to grow Roanoke's Creative Class from within by encouraging youth to work, play, live, and stay in the region. Many of the region's youth lack significant opportunity to experience the region's amenities and economic opportunities. Plus, a new, expanding audience for cultural and recreational amenities is needed. To this end, volunteerism will be promoted by working with local arts and entertainment amenities to offer incentives by donating excess capacity at their events and venues. **For more information and to participate, contact Gordie Zeigler at gzeigler@sycomtech.com.**

I encourage anyone interested in working on these initiatives to reach out to the contacts listed — we are in the recruitment mode for human capital (*all volunteer, of course*). Our next goal is to gather citizens to help and to start flushing out more specific details and plans for each program. On Monday, I'll be having the first meeting with my group, the Tolerance/S.T.A.R. Group. I will continue to blog about our process on that initiative.

In the meantime, your comments and suggestions are welcome.

Posted by Sharon Rapoport | Filed Under [Action](#)