

**ACBC Emergency Arts Summit
February 16, 2010
Attendee Responses (54)**

The comments all fell into 9 categories: Economic Issues (funding, costs etc), Administration, Audience Development, Cooperation, Venue, Promotion, Quality of Life, Arts Education, and Incubation.

Question # 1: What is the biggest challenge to you or your organization (and/or the arts in Beaufort County)?

COOPERATION:

- Inner support within my genre of work (dance.) To be more specific, my genre seems to think that we are all stealing from each other.
- To get all of the arts groups to work together—we are stronger as a whole!
- Not everyone can have their individual "kingdom" and expect to be individually supported.
- Connections; supporting each other
- Clear communication
- Get all of the "horses" pulling in the same direction and supporting each other
- Factionalism
- Lack of cooperation between arts organizations
- Community cohesiveness

VENUE:

- Space (studios and performing arts)
- Venues for teaching
- Maintaining and improving the Performing Arts Center
- Attracting and sustaining artists and providing venues for their exhibitions
- Working together with USCB
- Performance Venues
- Low budget venues are gone

ECONOMIC:

- Making a living as an artist
- Producing arts while staying in the black, while not excluding people due to cost
- Patron support for Artists
- Getting People to support AND spend money on the arts.
Affordability
- Money! Funding! (11 similar responses)
- Visitor traffic (tourism)
- Level of Sales

- Funding education and outreach programs
- Providing public access to the Arts Council of Beaufort County, relative to grants provided per taxpayer dollar...
- Not enough shows and/or presentations related to public monetary input
- The Economy!
- Understanding the economic realities of making a living as an artist
- Financial/Economic participation: ART IS GOOD FOR BUSINESS!
Art IS business!!
- Continuing to get contributors
- In this economy, financial survival is very important.
- Funding for programs: too many financially fragile entities
- Sustainability!
- Lack of people willing to spend money on art
- Offering programs that participants can afford
- Creating a Value System!
- Achieving critical mass that will last
- Offering programs that participants can afford
- Creating a Value System!
- Achieving critical mass that will last

ADMINISTRATIVE:

- Helping people understand the value of art—that it is necessary.
- Building a group of community supporters
- Building strong partnerships with artists and arts organizations (that are stable)
- We need a local registry of Artists and a contact/email list.
- The biggest challenge is to make sure that the community understands the importance of all arts—especially for our children and the generations to come.
- Attracting and sustaining artists and providing venues for their exhibitions
- Clear mission/vision for each organization
- Combined activities with other groups/organizations would be a goal
- Funding for programs: too many financially fragile entities
- Disorganization
- Partnerships with arts organizations

PROMOTION:

- Getting the word out about arts and events
- Publicity and business skills for artists/writers
- Getting out the message that we have a Symphony Orchestra in Beaufort—we need more promotion!
- Getting more visible
- Making our offerings stand out

AUDIENCE:

- Building a group of community supporters
- Getting more people on board
- Increase participation of public in supporting the arts (i.e. ticket sales, purchase art, etc.)
- Finding an audience; funding to mount a proper production
- Developing and interest in non-traditional subject matter/style
- Lack of interest by wider range of our population (for example: where are the African American and Hispanics?)
- Maintaining and growing audience

QUALITY of LIFE:

- Getting people to love artists as much as they love art—wanting and caring for the artists, not just what they do for the community.
- Preservation of our culture!

EDUCATION:

- Developing a strong academic program in the arts
- Finding my niche—finding an important, genuine, needed addition to the scene

INCUBATION:

- Bringing more professional authors to the Lowcountry

Question # 2: *What is your greatest personal or organizational asset to the arts community? Or, what is our biggest asset to the arts in Beaufort County?*

COOPERATION:

- Diversity of people interested in the arts
- The multi-faceted layers of connections and associations— I have met with many different groups of people in our community.
- (*ref: Art Center of Coastal Carolina*) Our facility and reputation, along with promoting and supporting artists in our community
- Community involvement
- Being open-minded and willingness to get involved
- Bringing different cultural experiences to Beaufort

ECONOMIC/ VENUE:

- The Arts Council of Beaufort County
- Remaining competitive with other counties, states, and the rest of the world

ADMINISTRATIVE:

- Program variety
- Organizational Skills
- The Arts Council of Beaufort County
- Technical Support
- Labor
- Member Artists

PROMOTION:

- Graphic Design skills
- Promoting arts outside the area
- The area has the reputation as a good place for artists, and does a good job of supporting artists at the hobby and intermediate level. This needs to be expanded to more advanced and professional levels—maybe with a major juried show...
- Projects like "The Great Swim" (the mermaid project)
- The hospital has over 1,200 employees: a good sized audience...

AUDIENCE:

- Music (musicians, conductors, appreciators...)
- The Arts Council of Beaufort County
- The variety and depth of artists here, and the amount of people interested in the arts
- The Arts Council of Beaufort County
- Keeping the music LIVE!!
- Our growing arts-focused facility, faculty, and students--- new art majors
- Sharing art forms, and patronizing arts events
- The hospital has over 1,200 employees: a good sized audience...

QUALITY of LIFE:

- Diversity of people interested in the arts
- The rhythm of life
- The multi-faceted layers of connections and associations—I have met with many different groups of people in our community

EDUCATION:

- I've got experience teaching, acting, with props, writing, photography—I want to get more involved!
- Educational—we have great teachers here!
- The Arts Council of Beaufort County
- (*ref. BAA*): We have a series of free programs as well as classes and workshops.
- Arts Education (*ref: USCB*) Our students and our faculty—
- Our growing arts-focused facility, faculty, and students--- new art majors
- Artists, teachers, and advocates!

- Writers! I write articles, essays, and short stories. I teach writing through the Arts Council of Beaufort County; I share what I have learned, and I pass it on
- Classes—at ARTworks, the YMCA, Riverview, etc
- Expertise in the arts, crafts, clay, fiber arts, costuming, sewing, papermaking, book binding, etc...
- Educational background—teachers, librarians, arts lovers, computer skills...
- I am an organizer, an arts administrator, and event coordinator, theater all-around-jack-of-all-trades, an educator, and an AVID VOLUNTEER!

INCUBATION:

- The environmentally and architecturally inspirational setting—what a place to create art!
- My biggest asset: being a working artist in the community—paying rent on my studio, charity work, etc.
- Expertise in the arts, crafts, clay, fiber arts, costuming, sewing, papermaking, book binding, etc...

Question # 3: *If you had a magic wand, what ONE thing would you do to ensure/improve the arts (in relation to quality of life) in Beaufort County?*

COOPERATION:

- Attendance and collaboration of all art forms/works
- A live/work situation
- Develop partnership with University—and together we can strengthen Beaufort County's reputation on the arts—as well as bring many students, visiting artists, etc., to Beaufort (*4 Similar Responses*)
- To use more of the USCB performance theater
- Bring Arts Groups together under one umbrella, with a representative from each group on the board. It could act as a co-op, so that they could make decisions together, and KEEP EACH OTHER INFORMED.
- Coming together as a Northern Beaufort group
- I wish everyone would cooperate together for one united Beaufort County Arts organization—let's stop duplicating each others efforts, and play together!
- Support from the city of Beaufort (*7 Similar Responses*)
- Merge with BPA and perhaps other arts organizations

ECONOMIC:

- Make it accessible to everyone—rich or poor!
- A live/work situation
- Give the Arts Council of Beaufort County a HUGE endowment
- Larger pool of private grants funding artists
- Reduce costs

- Willingness to find private funding
- Funding increases through Federal AND local governments for the arts
- I would fully fund the Arts Council of Beaufort County—a solid base for the arts—and use it to it's full potential!
- Unlimited funding, of course! (*14 similar responses*)
- Keep ALL of the arts alive!
- United Way-type funding for the arts
- Funded foundations
- Get more volunteers involved!

VENUE:

- Free/Affordable space in which to work
- Ensure that USCB remains available to ALL of us in the community
- More venue choices
- I need a studio!
- Start using the Waterfront Park consistently! ("Wake up, city of Beaufort!!!")
- Create a warehouse/artist district/artist commune: low rent, large open spaces, etc...
- A place where our visitors could find and partake of the wonderful arts here in Beaufort Co.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

- Improve understanding and the VALUE of the arts
- Make people realize how much they NEED the arts—and how much art/artists can benefit an entire community!

PROMOTION:

- Have every person in Beaufort invested in the arts, and increase overall understanding
- Increase marketing and promotion of the arts (i.e. promoting Beaufort County as an arts destination, festivals, shows, etc...) to locals AND tourists
- Traveling show of Beaufort scenes/ Beaufort artists
- Use local art, etc. on billboards, advertising
- Increase funding for arts publicity
- Coordinate efforts to publicize the arts—the ACBC has great resources, but needs to be financially supported!
- Expand perspectives so that people view the arts as a regional asset!

AUDIENCE:

- Get people to the events! Ideally, it snowballs from there.
- Increase attendance
- Open minds to new ideas and cultures
- Broaden community support
- Appreciation and participation from the community (*6 similar answers*)
- I would add at least 5,000 college students to the population

EDUCATION:

- Integration of art with history—not nostalgic, but effectively—it is the progressive refinement of the idea of art as living.
- Build classes for home-schooled kids, along with the local middle/high schools
- Emphasize skills/educational aspects of theater/performance arts
- Make sure ALL Beaufort County school children have field trips to museums, etc., in order to train them, and stimulate their motivation to do art

INCUBATION:

- Greater efforts to recruit artists to work/show in Beaufort
- Fund a historic/artists district
- Add 5,000 college students to the population