



Folklore Workshop – Culture Plan Advisory Committee
June 15th, 2016
12pm
West Central Events Centre – Conference Room

Present: Sharon Haubrich, Helen Barclay, Richelle Dahl, Tim Hanna, Michelle McMillan

Guest: Kristin Catherwood

Regrets: Tom Morris, Tammy Diemert, Tessa Sautner, Marilyn Shea, Bill Warrington

Do not be afraid to try new things:

- Experiment and be willing to take new risks in efforts to collect stories and data about the community;
- 'try again'; do not simply give up or say 'no' just because it had been tried once before and years prior without success. The social climate or LOCAL CULTURE (people, community mentality, physical spaces, activities) is now different and the effort may be successful this time around.

Have an agenda and dialogue when initiating new efforts such as Intangible Cultural Heritage:

- Sometimes people assume there is a hidden agenda and do not buy in when they do not understand what is happening or believe that it could impact them. Everyone has a part to play in community wide efforts, a welcoming environment should be created so that they are encouraged to contribute.
- Adjust language used – 'our' to show a collective ownership and that the effort belongs to the community.
- A broader approach may welcome others who do not usually participate.
 - o Ex. Develop a culturally rich life for our community (anything and everything can be involved)

Identify avenues that bring people together to share and work with leaders:

- Use forums that have a greater significance to the population

- Ex. Social media in Kindersley – it is heavily used. Can stories be collected via engagement on Facebook? Can we ask and have tradition bearers identified via social media?
- ‘You know you’re from Shaunavon when...’ Facebook page created. The museum decided to use the existence of this page (connect with the page creator for permission) to encourage further sharing and engagement about local authenticities, idiosyncrasies and myth.
- Consider reenergizing spaces – bring attention to local intangible cultural heritage and support with secondary materials
 - Cultural Heritage Asset Database – when developing the local database which identifies properties, structures, programs, be sure to include human identities for those who are tradition bearers. Document what their expertise are in.

Recognize youth and introduce them to what is relevant for our generation in order to encourage them to share what is relevant to them:

- Include youth in efforts but understand that it will take place at their own pace. Interest in community significance grows within them based on their personal passions
- Engage youth in initiatives without strings. Small efforts that do not have expectations.

Stories are important:

- Stories will draw people into the effort because people are impacted by experiences and relativity as opposed to facts.
- Collect and feature stories, then enable people to engage with the story bearers.
 - Ex. PFRA Shelter Belt Centre (Indian Head) – hosted a celebration of the company and production through a dramatic presentation and representation of the history (mixed media)
- Recognize that there are so many different people ‘at the table’ and encourage them to open up to contributing what is significant to them.
 - Sit down with a group of people who are interested in accomplishing something (ICH related) and begin with them. Their passion and excitement will radiate out into the lives of those who surround them. That will continue and hopefully connect to most of the community.
- Living history – the person with the experience who can share a first person perspective.
 - Hearing a story from the individual who was present changes the presence and power of the words.
- Consider the value and recognize human expression – engage with groups who partake in historic cultural activities to understand why and share what you have learned in return.

How can Kindersley Capture Stories?

- Look for subjects or concepts that continue to reappear – these can be identified as themes.
 - o Select themes and invite people to participate in sharing their stories.
 - o Use these stories to encourage and inspire more people to contribute theirs.
 - o Create something from bit and pieces – multiple people can fill in the blanks.
 - o Select themes through brainstorming exercises and sort out responses via the four goals of ICH. Use whatever ‘floats to the top’.
- Places and actions are very important to recognize.
 - o Ex. Old dance styles are living history
 - o What music would be considered “traditional” for our community?

Oral history exercises

- Borrow oral history kit from Museum Association of Saskatchewan.
- Have a plan of attack for the content captured (ensure it is used) and how to collect it.
- Video is a good media but it needs to be a good quality.
- Reach out to individuals and groups that do not normally participate.
- Have pointed questions and a direction for the conversation.
- Explore identified concepts
 - o Ex. Community organizations (Legion, Kinsmen, Etc.)
 - o Ex. Moonshine