PEAL Town Hall Takeaways

The following responses were collected from a virtual town hall held via Zoom and Facebook Live on April 15th, and a synchronous survey. This feedback will be used by a Steering Committee to shape the programming and efforts of the Pittsburgh Emerging Arts Leaders Network for the 2021-2022 season.

If you are interested in becoming involved with the Pittsburgh Emerging Arts Leaders network, including becoming a member of the Steering Committee, please visit http://www.pittsburghartscouncil.org/peal or email Sarah Schreck, the Arts Council's communications assistant, at sschreck@pittsburghartscouncil.org.

What do Pittsburgh's Emerging Artists Need?

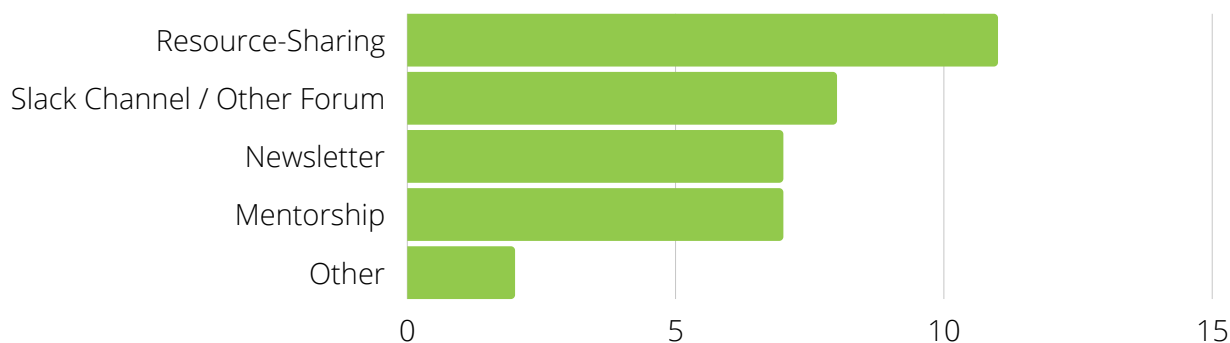- A Broader Sense of Diversity and Inclusivity

Convening in Communication
- Opportunities to connect, gather, and communicate with fellow arts leaders
- Mutual learning, resource-sharing, and collaboration opportunities
- Clarity between the needs of the arts community and offerings by organizations
  - More connection between resources being offered and those seeking resources
- The disintegration of industry silos
  - More efficient and effective internal and cross-industry communication, a hub for collaboration and communication
  - Assistance preventing the duplication of efforts

Professional Development and Resource Building
- Financial opportunities for themselves and their communities
- Methods to acquire operational funding or salaries as a volunteer arts leader
- Opportunities for mentorship and networking
- Audience development assistance in and beyond Pittsburgh
- Assistance with documenting their work
- Business development capacity (where artists and administrators spend more time on promotion, finding funding, and logistics than they do on the creative process)

What Kind of Non-Event Programming Would You Find Beneficial?

What Kind of Non-Event Programming Would You Find Beneficial? Survey Responses (n=14)
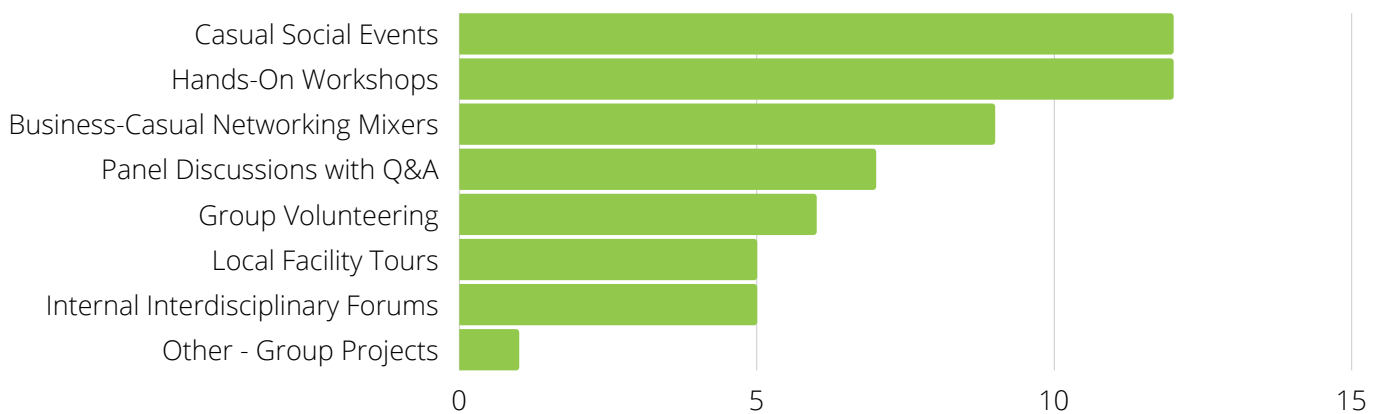
Convening in Communication
- Spreadsheet or calendar where arts leaders can share what they're planning
- PEAL Newsletter, open to submissions by members
- Forum or conversation group to brainstorm, share information, and collaborate (could take the form of a Facebook group, Slack account, etc.)
- Dialogue to incorporate humanities, arts, literary arts, environmentalism, and universities

Professional Development and Resource Building
- Transition methods for an artist to an arts leader (how to identify yourself)
- Burnout busting resources for overworked and underpaid professionals, professional development that is accessible at any time
- Local mentorship/allyship network
- Tools to promote sustainability in leadership, improving mental health and capacity
- Database of PEAL connections and resources
- Services for individual artists as well as organizational leaders

What Kind of Event Programming Would You Find Beneficial?

What Kind of Event Programming Would You Find Beneficial? Survey Responses (n=14)

- All events should have photos and documentation for visibility of members and Pittsburgh itself

Convening in Communication
- Quarterly "meeting of the minds" meetups
- Small or intimate group events or experiences to allow for meaningful networking
- Local conference featuring speakers from outside and within PGH, with cross-collaborative communication, ending in a happy hour

Professional Development & Resource-Sharing
- Classes and workshops (ex. financial literacy and arts law)
- Event integration with immigrant or cultural groups of the Greater Pittsburgh or Western PA region
- Happy Hours
  - One half structured program portion, one half unstructured time with topics for discussion
  - Icebreaker activities
  - A location that is accessible, not downtown, with cheap or free parking, possibly at art spaces
  - Guest speaker "How I Got Here" presentation and dialogue