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Brian L. Mitchell
Director

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Name of Organization: STEAM Subcommittee
Date and Time of Meeting: Friday, February 1, 2019 at 4:00 P.M.
Place of Meeting: Nevada Museum of Art
NMA - Founders Room
160 W. Liberty Street
Reno, Nevada 89501

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I. Call to Order / Roll Call

Marisa Cooper

The STEAM subcommittee was called to order by Chair Marissa Cooper at 4:02 P.M. on February 1, 2019, at the Nevada Museum of Art located at 160 W. Liberty Street, Reno, Nevada. She will be running the meeting today.

Members Present:

Andrew Snyder
Brian Mitchell
Candy Schneider
Craig Rosen
Laura Christian
Marisa Cooper
Mary Holsclaw
MaryJane Dorofachuk
Meghan Schiedel
Sarah Gobbs-Hill
Tia Flores

Members Absent:

Alisha Kerlin

Candace Garlock
Jeneane Harter
Sue Dehart

Staff Present:

Debra Petrelli

Guests Present:

Levi Evans, Graduate Assistant in Department of Nutrition at UNR

II. Public Comment (No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item.)

Marisa Cooper

Levi Evans, Graduate Assistant in Department of Nutrition at UNR, commented he is a PHD student and is a member of a nationwide Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and is attempting to get involved with his local community and advocate for science policy with a particular interest in nutritional science. He said he had been following the STEAM subcommittee meetings over the last year and decided to pursue any commonalities with his professional studies.

III. Welcoming Remarks and Announcements (For information only)

Marisa Cooper

Chair Cooper welcomed everyone. She updated the subcommittee on the annual NV Steam Conference taking place at the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno, tomorrow, February 2, 2018. She said with zero-marketing, the registration for the conference is well over 300 including all partners and collaborators, with 15 of Nevada's 18 school districts registered. She added this is largely due in part to the members of this subcommittee with their support and assistance. She said this is a statewide event and feels it is representative of the entire state. She said the contingency from Elko is strong, with funders, teachers and an administrator joining the conference. She said from past year's experiences and feedback received, the event has been streamlined to reflect what teachers want, how they want to spend their day at the event and what they want to walk away with. She pointed out the intention was to make everything "hands-on," and everything applicable in the classroom. She pointed out that all marketing was largely by "word of mouth." She said registration in Las Vegas, which only opened five days ago, is already at 180. Mr. Rosen said this means the conference is reaching well over 500 educators this year. Chair Cooper added there will be designated press representatives in attendance from the Las Vegas Review Journal and the Reno Gazette newspapers. She briefly discussed a one-page informational sheet that will be distributed to all members of the subcommittee containing basic attendance counts as well as direct feedback from teachers and survey data to hand-out to donors.

Chair Cooper said the event does have legislative support and commented on a letter received from Senator Catherine Cortez-Masteo as a welcome and in support of the event addressed to the participants which will be read at the beginning of the conference.

IV. Approval of the Minutes from the December 12, 2018 STEAM Subcommittee Meeting

(For possible action)

Marisa Cooper

Chair Cooper asked if there were any corrections or additions to the December 12, 2018 Minutes, as written. None were made. Ms. Schneider made a motion to approve the Minutes of December 12, 2018, as written. Ms. Holsclaw seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Discussion and Updates on the NV STEAM Conference and The Southern Nevada STEAM Symposium (For possible action)

Marisa Cooper

Mr. Rosen updated the subcommittee on the Southern Nevada STEAM Symposium taking place on February 23, 2019 at University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV). He pointed out the capacity for the event is approximately 220, with registration is currently at 180. He said all workshops should be ready to go by the end of next week. He said the keynote speaker will be Dr. Ken Goldberg, a professor of robotics at Berkley, as well as being a well-respected artist. He said the afternoon keynote speaker will be from the Las Vegas show, Cirque de Soleil who will discuss arts integration and how the show brings things to life. He said the Ka Theatre at the MGM will host a behind-the-scenes tour during the afternoon on how the production works, and tickets to the 7:00 P.M. show that evening will be offered at a discounted rate for conference attendees. He added that the MGM Hotel and Casino will waive parking fees that evening for conference attendees attending the show. He said Cirque de Soleil will be presenting a workshop with actual performers, as well as UNLV will be hosting tours and a hands-on workshop. He added that the Smith Center for the Performing Arts is presenting a workshop with the Poet Laureate, Vogue Robinson, and the Discovery Museum in Reno, through collaboration, will be bringing their workshop to Las Vegas, as is Sierra Nevada Journeys. Chair Cooper said at the conclusion of the NV STEAM Conference tomorrow, a better idea of the program for the NV STEAM Conference in Elko in the fall of 2019 can be expected, but is assuming the entire show will go to Elko.

Chair Cooper announced the date for the Northern Nevada STEAM Conferences in 2020 will take place on February 1, 2020. She said the Eastern Nevada STEAM Conference will continue to be in mid-October in 2020, and the Southern Nevada STEAM Conference will be moving to the spring in 2020.

Chair Cooper commented on an upcoming opportunity for the STEAM events in 2020 to work with an artist collective known as Studio Drift, most well-known for “Franchise Freedom,” a flying sculpture, drone swarm, at Burning Man. She said these artists work in the fields of robotics and biomimicry, and have been commissioned by the museum. She pointed out that Studio Drift will be honing in on artificial intelligence (AI) and coding. She also commented on another artist, for 2021, David Best who also displayed his work at the Burning Man exhibition, in which his crew built temples made from recycled material, and will be displaying the first major retrospective of his work. She commented that the 2021 theme will be “Architecture and Design.” Mr. Rosen commented that the theme for 2022 is tentatively “Climate Change.”

VI. STEAM Subcommittee Member General Announcements (For information only)

Marisa Cooper

Ms. Dorofachuk asked about the progress of creating the STEAM logo. Chair Cooper said the museum's internal graphics design team is currently redesigning the visual graphics for the entire NV Steam website. She said a package of logos will be presented at the conference and the subcommittee can discuss how that could be turned into a visual brand. Mr. Mitchell explained that the subcommittee can certainly take a vote in making a decision on a final STEAM subcommittee brand/logo. Chair Cooper said she will present those ideas in the next couple of months to the subcommittee in order to develop a STEAM stamp/seal that can be used by all subcommittee members on outgoing documents, literature, etc., to sponsors and donors demonstrating the collaboration between all subcommittee members.

Ms. Flores with Sierra Arts, commented on the initiative "Insuring the Arts for Any Given Child," and the collaboration within the state to also locate in Northern Nevada.

Mr. Rosen commented on creating a STEAM advocacy piece for the legislature and what the next steps would entail. He asked whether there are opportunities to address the legislature this spring or whether the STEM Advisory Council has "a day" at the legislature in which the STEAM subcommittee could take part in. Ms. Flores, Executive Director of Cultural Alliance Nevada (CAN), a statewide arts advocacy organization, responded that CAN is sponsoring "Champions for the Arts Advocacy Day" at the Nevada State Legislature on Friday, March 15th, in which artists, arts educators, art students, arts organizations, and arts advocates from around the state will come together to celebrate the arts, participate in arts advocacy activities and meet their state legislators. She pointed out that March is "Youth Arts Month," and space has been reserved at the legislature building from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon. She added they will be in room 3100 at the legislative building from 8:00 am to 10:00 am for "Breakfast with your Legislators." She said, Washoe County has chartered two buses to take 110 students to the legislature that day. She said this includes the kickoff of a postcard campaign project in which students from around the state can invite their legislators to attend, and schedule time to sit with individual legislators. She said after the legislative events, a lunch will be hosted at the Hub Coffee Roasters at the Union across from the legislative building in Carson City.

Mr. Mitchell said that to his knowledge, there is not a "STEM or STEAM Day" set at the legislature this session and indicated it may be too late this session to arrange for one. He pointed out that he will be meeting with legislators informing them about STEM and STEAM priorities and the Governor's budget, as well as ongoing efforts by the OSIT office, the STEM Advisory Council and its subcommittees. He said he agrees with compiling information for the recognition of STEM and STEAM for the legislature prior to the next session in 2021. He also suggested that members of the subcommittee contact and set meetings or phone conferences with individual legislators this session. He also suggested all members email their legislators which could include information on what is currently being done around the state with STEAM. He added it would be a good time, in the spring of 2020, for this subcommittee and other subcommittees to start thinking through recommendations for the Governor and legislature. He said the Interim Committees on Education, as well as other committees, start meeting in the spring of even numbered years. He pointed out that since the bill draft deadline has already passed for this session, the subcommittee could discuss ideas in the winter of 2020,

and perhaps the subcommittee could do a presentation on STEAM outlining their recommendations and suggestions to the legislation, for consideration at the 2021 legislative session.

Chair Cooper asked whether the STEM Advisory Council would be presenting a series of recommendations at this year's legislative session. Mr. Mitchell replied they are and are required by statute to produce a report to the Governor and Legislature with recommendations by January 31st of odd-numbered years. He pointed out that recommendations were recently submitted. He suggested collaboration between the STEAM subcommittee and the STEM Advisory Council by together compiling recommendations on integrating the arts into STEM, either in winter or spring of 2020. He said the OSIT office would send out a copy of this year's "STEM Advisory Council Recommendations to the Legislature" to all members of the STEAM subcommittee. He added the recommendations this year included professional development for computer science teachers, which builds on the computer science bill that passed last session; a recommendation to develop regional STEM networks allowing the Council to work at more regional levels; the introduction of a new STEM Motor Vehicle license plate; K-5 STEM grants; and STEM recognition events Statutory cleanup recommendations. He said the council's recommendation are posted on the OSIT website at: http://osit.nv.gov/STEM/NV_STEM_Advisory_Council/

Ms. Flores gave a brief update on Sierra Arts Foundation's event, "Brew HaHa," an annual beer tasting and entertainment event that generates funding for the Sierra Arts Foundation, which took place on January 26, 2019 at the Nugget in Reno, Nevada.

Ms. Dorofachuk commented on the Nevada Arts Council's rural funding program. She said a flyer would be handed out to teachers, offering between \$250 and \$450, for a lesson plan inspired by attendance to the STEAM conference. She said more information would be posted on the Nevada Arts Councils' website.

Ms. Schneider, the Smith Center for the Performing Arts, commented on their event, National Geographic's "When Women Ruled the World," and Kara Cooney, Egyptologist, who will explore the reigns of powerful ancient queens to illuminate a time when women ruled the work

Ms. Christian, Discovery Children's Museum in Las Vegas, commented the museum recently joined the "Museums for All" initiative, and will be offering \$3.00 admission for anyone who presents a WIC, EBT SNAP card, or a Foster Care license. She said they are also opening a new makerspace, "DISCOVERY Lab," on February 16, 2019, which will offer a unique learning environment.

Ms. Schiedel, Nevada Discovery Museum, commented they opened their newest gallery, "Mindbender Mansion" exhibition, which has an atmospheric environment in which the visitor is invited to join the Mindbender Society by gathering hidden clues and secret passwords scattered throughout the various thematic rooms of the house. She said it offers activities to find hidden early algebra skills as well as logic and problem solving. She said this exhibition will open on February 3, 2019.

Mr. Rosen, Desert Research Institute (DRI), commented on the Science and Tech Festival in Las Vegas and that it will be brought up to Northern Nevada this year for the first time. He

said there will be a “Science and Tech Festival” week, May 13 - 19, 2019. He commented that DRI and the Discovery Museum are collaborating along with other organizations to bring this festival together. DRI will present on the evening of May 15, 2019 in Reno, and will present on May 3, 2019 at the Science and Tech Festival in Las Vegas, with “May Science Be With You, Star Wars in Science.” Ms. Christian added the Children’s Discovery Museum will be hosting “Bubble Science” on the evening of May 16, 2019 in Reno. Mr. Rosen invited any organization, and/or subcommittee members that would like to participate in these events with art or STEAM pieces that are free, hands-on, and STEAM-related, to contact him.

Chair Cooper commented that the Nevada Arts Museum just opened their third of three original exhibitions, called “The Inside World,” which are contemporary Aboriginal Australian memorial poles from the Debra and Dennis Scholl Collection.

Ms. Holsclaw, Department of Education, commented on the passing of the new Fine Arts Standards and currently the department is very involved with the legislative session.

Ms. Flores, Sierra Arts Foundation, commented on their collaboration with the Nevada Arts Council, and said they had been invited to present at the Mega Conference in May 2019, which is an annual statewide conference that focuses on research-based school improvement efforts and current issues and trends in the education of children. She said last year the event was in Las Vegas, this year it will take place at Lake Tahoe.

VII. Consider Future Agenda Items for the Next Meeting (For possible action)

Marisa Cooper

Mr. Rosen suggested the legislative piece discussed earlier should be a topic for the next meeting. Chair Cooper agreed that future projects and advocacy recommendations be included. Mr. Mitchell said he is currently advocating a new project with the STEM Advisory Council, to prepare an asset map for all STEM programs in the state and suggested something similar could be prepared with STEAM programs. He pointed out a STEAM asset map would assist in a better understanding of what the state is currently doing and how existing STEAM programs could become higher quality, while also looking at where there are STEAM ‘deserts’ and how more STEAM programs can be added.

Ms. Dorofachuk suggested revisiting the STEAM certificate program for high school, as well as a brochure on the topic. Mr. Mitchell updated the subcommittee on this item, and said it may be a bit premature at this time to start working on. He said the issue, before any outreach can be done, is that the Department of Education is currently reprogramming their system, Infinite Campus, which will assist counselors in determining required classes and/or courses students need in order to receive the STEM or STEAM seal on their diploma. He pointed out that until that time, it would be very burdensome on guidance counselors to set up those class schedules. He said this leaves the subcommittee in a holding pattern until Infinite Campus is updated and the system is in place by the Department of Education, in order to work with counselors and make them aware of the opportunity for students, as well as on the university side, by recommending they recruit students that earn these seals on their diplomas.

VIII. Public Comment (No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item.)
Marisa Cooper

There were no public comments.

IX. Adjournment
Marisa Cooper

Chair Cooper adjourned the meeting at 5:00 P.M.