ASH Redesign History of ASH Work Group
Tuesday, November 16, 2021 11am – 12pm | Conference Call

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Review Google Doc progress from last meeting
3. Focus Google Doc – "Who makes the center happen?"
4. December meeting discussion
5. Close

Attendees: Lauv Bruner, D.D. Clark, Jenna Cooper, Mary Kahle, Parker LaCombe, Cory Morris, Peggy Perry, Elizabeth Stauber, Francela Williams

Minutes:

Review Google Doc progress from last meeting
Group walked through the google doc to review what was discussed from the last meeting.   Discussed fleshing out audience needs and accessibility. Member noted that a general area for oral or auditory explanations would increase accessibility. Members further discussed a need for a space for research, such as a having a particular room or space. Members also further discussed buildings 501 and 540, with respect to elevators and wheelchair ramps. Building 501 does have an elevator, 540 does not. Members discussed that 501 could be very doable for both exhibit space and reading/research room space. Wheelchair ramp is a very important component. Good idea to also have Spanish translations. Having a digital component as well, especially considering that this is such a unique statewide project, to be able to share as comprehensively as possible what this is. Digital accessibility would be really helpful also with respect to travel barriers. Members discussed wanting to avoid having very text-based exhibits, as those tend to be the least accessible forms of exhibits.

Members discussed young visitors. Member raised: would we want to think about a particular area that's more adolescent/child focused?   A child-friendly area so that there isn't perpetuation of any stigma, so that it is not spooky or hard to understand for young people? It was noted in chat, that movies might capture the attention of young people as well as inform them.

Members further explored the following question: is there an area where researchers, or residents, or families can look at records? What information is accessible and to who and in what space? A research room would likely need desktops/desks so that the archives can be accessed. Members explored how records can be accessed – may need very careful thinking or even policy changes around who can and how the records can be accessed. Member will touch base with Dr. Davis to see if he knows who will have custody of the ASH records.

Focus Google Doc – "Who makes the center happen?"
The following were noted by members in discussion: Austin history center and other repositories, HHSC communications teams, consumer and community. Member emphasized that this is a massive project that could benefit from volunteers from schools and universities. Who will purchase the tools that get this stuff done? Could be anywhere conservatively from 75K to 100K. There is also a maintenance cost. Members discussed that there needs to be one to two staff to potentially deter the issues that

volunteering brings (short term volunteers, revolving changes with different people, and not having consistency in processes; a project manager might be helpful to ensure long-term consistency).

Member identified the following local high ed institutions in chat: Texas State, H-T, Concordia, St. Ed's, ACC, UT.

Members further discussed costs associated with renovating space – as there would be modifying, upkeep and updating, on top of repairs that are needed right now.   501 has a designation that allows access to grant money; grants are only available to certain organizations. Marketing the concept or idea and have people step forward to ask "how can we help you?" Members also explored expense of just curating items. Grant funding for digitization is fairly prevalent, particularly with respect to COVID. A member asked, "how do we go about applying for grant money?"   Members explored how the center is a very different and unique project – it isn't something that is too common across states. Reach out to local power brokers? Friends of ASH CHC as a donor initiative was suggested in chat as a way to encourage donation/grant/and philanthropic funding – Elon Musk? Or Kirk Watson?

December meeting discussion
Group discussed December meeting, and members agreed to have a December 21 meeting. Members identified for that meeting that they could focus on finalizing the Google doc and then move focus toward fundraising ideas and volunteer/community engagement. Members discussed Bill Bush joining the group in December, and splitting into two separate workgroups at the start of the new year.