

BACKGROUND RESEARCH REPORT: General background about The Partnership for the Arts & Humanities

Renhao Li
Team: CPAC
SI 501, 006, Colin Haywood
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Client name: The Partnership for the Arts & Humanities

Summary of your client's mission: My client's name is The Partnership for the Arts & Humanities; they are a non-profit organization that provides the local community with a platform for artists to express themselves. By raising funds, they have established theatres in the local community to perform with different types of bands, choirs, and dramatic theatres (Partnership for the Arts and Humanities, 2020).

Summary of the client problem: The main requirement of our client was to look for a database system that could centralize all organizational dynamics. The system is primarily used to give organization members, employees and donors access to review and provide regular newsletters. The main role is to integrate the organization's banking software, list supplier information(donor), build up the organization's history and calendar, etc.

The Questions:

1. What projects are the organization currently working on?
2. What population are the organization helping?
3. What services or activities are the organization offering to the community currently?

I. Introduction

Partnerships for the Arts & Humanities is a 501 (c)(3) cultural arts non-profit organization initiated by the canton community, that encourages the development of the humanities and arts. Their intent is to build programs that can provide a performance platform for all art organizations performing in canton. The history of the organization can be traced back to 1996 (Partnership for the Arts and Humanities, 2020), after a series of investigations by residents and the surrounding environment. The local government known as Canton Township, established the organization and successfully raised funds for the building that provides opportunities for artists. Through this organization, after six years of hard work and waiting, Canton has its own art education center. (Partnership for the Arts and Humanities, 2020).

The main members of the art center consist of 16 individuals, all of which include board members and key employees. This organization is also led by the retired supervisor of Canton who serves as the board chair, and many other professionals (Partnership for the Arts and Humanities, 2020). Though this is not a very long-established organization, it is engrained with deep development potential and connections.

The organization's primary goal is to raise funds for the establishment of an arts center to serve those in the community like adults and veterans (Datanyze, 2022), and the main purpose of the extensive funding is to give back to the entire community through the assistance of donors. The organization has developed three main programs: the Village Arts Factory, Veterans Memorial Garden, and the Village Theatre (Partnership for the Arts and Humanities, 2020). Donors can qualify for free participation in these programs by donating over a certain amount and can also reflect their contribution and respect to the organization and the arts by purchasing tickets (Partnership for the Arts and Humanities, 2020).

II. History

Partnerships for the Arts & Humanities was established in 1998 after a series of investigations by the local government to help the community raise funds to assist in the development of the local arts (Partnership for the Arts and Humanities, 2020). As the first art-related organization in Canton Town, it has raised enough funds to help different art organizations in just 6 years. These funds were also used to build the organization's first project: The Village Theater (The Village Arts Factory, 2020).

- Village Theater

The conception of the Village Theater can be traced back to 1996, when Canton Township formed a collaborative committee, an arts user subcommittee, and an architectural design committee for the construction of the arts center (The Village Arts Factory, 2020). These committees made significant contributions to the funding, location, and operating models of this art center, which furthered the development of the theater. In 1998, a group of individuals interested in running the center collectively came together by invitation to form the non-profit organization, and after hiring a consulting firm, they decided to build a 450-seat theater in Cherry Hill Village (The Village Arts Factory, 2020). From only having a blueprint, it took only

three short years for the completion of the entire art center's concept, plan, and construction. As a result, Canton has made a great contribution to the improvement of residents' lives in many ways including theater arts, and more recently through the construction of the Art Center as well. The construction of the Art Center began in 2003, after the construction party shared and exchanged plans with the participating art teams. The building was quickly completed in the summer of 2004 as a result of many donations. Since the completion of the art center, its contributions to the organization have also been astronomical. The total amount of contributions has been between 10 million and 50 million (The Village Arts Factory, 2020), which is indispensable for the organization's capital turnover. This also plays an important key role in the subsequential creation of the other two major projects of this organization.

In an auction in 2012, the organization purchased an area of land in Cherry Hill through bidding to continue the development of the economy in Canton. Their main service for this land is to construct a workshop space and to also develop art galleries and retail stores (Datanyze, 2022). Additionally, the organization also renovated local military quarters in order to provide shelter for struggling veterans and to create shelter for those in need. The original owner of this land was Henry Ford, who bought the land in 1943 and converted it into a dormitory for WWII disabled soldiers, along with a factory for the soldiers to work in (Canton, Mi). After organizing the refurbishment of the dormitory, Mr. Ford's good deeds continued until the present day; this factory brought great economic benefits to Canton while providing job opportunities for people with difficult lives. The main source of income for the factory is through art exhibitions, the sale of artworks, the establishment of courses and activities, visits to memorial gardens, and mostly donations. The main target members of the courses and activities in this establishment are children, and the factory also provides them with a good source of education and sports platforms such as dance lessons and dress-up competitions at different festivals. All these sources for education for the younger kids have taught and encouraged good leadership skills and created important contributions to the development of the next generation of Canton (Canton, Mi).

- **Veterans Memorial Garden**

The Veterans Memorial Garden is another crucial and significant service of the Partnerships for the Arts & Humanities. It was established in 2019 to stand in front of the veterans' dormitory and represents the large amount of respect the organization and community holds for the soldiers who have contributed to our country. The Memorial Garden, named "Cut Short", was designed by Pamela Alderman, an artist from Grand Rapids (Partnership for the Arts and Humanities, 2020). The garden consists of 21 white pillars of varying heights whose presence represents respect for the warriors who served the country, and the garden name comes from the remembrance of those whose lives were cut short. These memorial pillars are now open to the public for any individual to visit and enjoy. For those who have fallen family members who were in the military or know anyone who they think is worthy to be commemorated here, they can spend \$100 to buy a plaque to hang on the pillars. This is offered not only to show honor to those you respect, but it also serves as a way for the organization to support the community as a whole (Canton, Mi).

As of 2022, all projects are now run by the current executive board and their team. The head of the organization including the executive of all the team's external activities, is the current chairman of the board, Tom Yack, who has been working on the development of the area for 20 years as the former mayor of Canton Town (Partnership for the Arts and Humanities, 2020). At his side, Tammy Haggerty serves as vice chair of the board of directors. She has a heavy responsibility on her shoulders alongside Tom yack. Herb Scott, the Veterans Liaison Office, is responsible for assisting military personnel when it comes to their physical and mental needs, and he is also a partner at NutriTech USA. Susan Hurley is the financial manager who is tasked with overseeing, reviewing, and managing all financial procedures. In addition to the individuals already listed, the Board of Directors includes Greg Demopoulos, who is the organization's attorney. His job is to help prepare all types of contracts and deeds for the organization as needed. Another important facet of the organization is the resident medical service, which is served by Saad Muhammad. Ranjeev Puri is the state representative of the organization who is responsible for communicating with the Michigan state capital and local government. As the person who communicated with Merlin Securities within the organization, Daniel P. Fisher came to represent the organization by handling everything that includes banking, security transactions, and the organization's investments. Michael Siegrist is the clerk of the organization; his job is to help the organization sort documents and answer calls. Mark Waldbauer is the head of the North Front Church, and Jon LaFever, the head of leisure services for the town of Canton, is also a key player in several of the organization's projects related to recreational services (Partnership for the Arts and Humanities, 2020).

III. Services

Like every nonprofit organization, all services and activities of Partnerships for the Arts Humanities are individually customized and promoted by the Board of Directors. Organizations hold these services and activities on specific festivals or dates each year, and they are all related to the topic of arts and humanities. The organization itself provides all services, as well as the projects that are created by the organization. As stated previously, the organization has partnerships with the Arts & Humanities that offer free dorms to live in for veterans and individuals in need, as well as providing opportunities for these individuals to work at their workshops (Canton, Mi); such as the theatre and the factory. Another service the organization offers is the free events they hold and the activities that come with them. One of the many purposes of these events is that they bring the community together by providing a joyful and relaxing time for the local families and their friends. The most recent event the organization provides is called "Fall into Art". This remarkable event adds new art pieces to their existing gallery, provided by renowned artists Robert Maniscalco and Nick Bair. Another feature included that the community enjoys is the organization hosting other artists to perform musical instruments at the events which creates great opportunities for new artists to showcase their talent which also creates more joy for residents who view them (Partnership for the Arts and Humanities, 2020).

Being one of the projects of the organization, the Village Theatre has also been holding numerous events throughout the years. Its services mainly consist of creating galleries that exhibit the works of different painters, renting out theater facilities, and providing a platform for artists to perform (The Village Arts Factory, 2020). One of the features the Village Theatre

exhibits in its shows is how they change themes with the changing seasons and holidays, which keeps the showcase varied and interesting. Most of its recent shows are related to Halloween as fall has approached; they present shows such as "Wake Me Up at Midnight" presented by Still Got, Monster Mash, and Alice in Zombieland by Spotlight Junior. The Village Arts factory also offers art classes, where people can contact the factory to sign up for classes and then be provided with dedicated artists to help them learn different art mediums (Canton Mi). Not only that, but the theater would also invite different artists to the factory to showcase their works for the community. The most recent guest that was invited was Nick Bair. Bair is autistic but does not let this affect his love for art nor his ability to share it; his work "Animals and Art" for example combines his talent for painting and his desire to explore animals. The factory will often invite people who are passionate about art like Nick Bair, which also encourages people to acquire new hobbies and enhance their horizons (The Village Arts Factory, 2020).

IV. Conclusion

Despite its relatively short history, Partnership for the Arts & Humanities in its roughly 20 years of existence has influenced the community of Canton and is continuing to grow. From the initial creation of this organization, having few volunteers who committed their time, efforts, and resources into this work, to now having three large-scale projects ran by executive boards and teams, the growth and influence of this organization is evident. The organization with its various projects continues to help the people of Canton, including its artists, through their services and facilities. In only its two decades of history, the organization has donated to more than 15 organizations: not only art-related organizations but also educational and cultural-related organizations, such as Plymouth-Canton community school, spotlight on youth, commission for culture & arts, heritage (Partnership for the Arts and Humanities, 2020). Their mission has been growing and expanding into more fields to do anything they can to aid, for example, those in the military who have contributed to this country and who need justice and communal support. This organization continues to follow its mission by also broadening the scope of services to encourage the community to have new hobbies, increase the quality of life of local residents, and to focus on educating the future generation of leaders to better the town's future.

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