

Minutes from Thursday Evening Meeting, 4/22/10

## **Nonprofit Center for San Mateo County**

With a HUB Social Innovation Center Inside

### **The Agenda and Presentation:**

#### **1) The Nonprofit Center for San Mateo County**

Co-location of nonprofit agencies proposed by THRIVE  
Interest expressed by Sobrato Family Foundation  
Survey done with design input from San Mateo community and THRIVE in December 2009 showed:

- Interest by agencies in space as well as cash grants
- Interest by agencies in having central offices
- Interest in “satellite” offices
- About 35 agencies seeking about 60,000+ square feet
- Interest in location near transit/transportation (bus/rail) corridor in Central County to make access easy for employees and clients
- Interest in warehouse space by agencies, also THRIVE emergency preparedness materials and services, also Wish List exchange
- Six of the nine counties have such centers (SF has the most)

This meeting seeks community response, questions, and ideas regarding:

- Is co-location of agencies just the “beginning” of the project?
- Is there a San Mateo County nonprofit “culture” among residents, nonprofit staff, boards, funders and clients?
- Is there interest in creation of alliance, efficiency and shared services at such a center?

#### **2) The HUB or Social Innovation Center**

Two models, Global HUB and “grow your own” Social Innovation Center (as in Portland, Ore.)

Both models stress: green building and sustainable practices, cutting-edge technology, proximity to public transit

- Global HUB would be member-supported space within the Nonprofit Center
- Memberships pay for tenant improvements and management of the HUB Center
- Presentation by Tim Freundlich from HUB Bay Area to be scheduled during summer 2010
  - ii) Social Innovation Center model is a nonprofit organization for use by the community to discuss “triple bottom line” (people, planet, profit)
- Presentation by Portland leader to be schedule

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### **3) Discussion in FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) Format:**

Could such a center benefit the community by delivering services more efficiently?

*Alliances and/or mergers are always a possibility. Delivery of services and programs on the ground can have hidden complexity. The balance needs to be examined with care.*

Could such a center be related/allied with the CSM Center?

*We do not know yet. Possibly, although it would be difficult for some clients to travel to the campus.*

What would be the cost of the space to nonprofits?

*The cost would depend on financial support raised for this concept. Several prospective supporters are actively interested. The arrangement could involve zero or low rent paired with long leases, while agencies might pay for tenant improvements. More research and fund development are required.*

Could the Nonprofit Center include a group like the “sustainable enterprise cluster” now at San Rafael’s Dominican College?

*The Dominican model could be a very good possibility to investigate.*

Could a connection with the “Nonprofit Centers Network” be promoted if a Nonprofit Center were created in San Mateo County?

*This would be a good long-term goal.*

Could a San Mateo Nonprofit Center design and fund center administration using a model similar to the one in place at the Tides Center at the Presidio to create a unique San Mateo Center function uniting the whole community, including the agencies, clients and the community-at-large?

*This is a definite possibility.*

Could nonprofit agencies at a San Mateo County Nonprofit Center tap into the new L3C movement that is a hybrid of for-profit and nonprofit enterprises? Can we take a position in the economy that values both tangible and intangible returns, finding new sources of capital to invest in agency missions?

*Yes.*

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### **4) Action Steps**

1. Find out who is interested in:
  - Visiting the San Francisco social innovation hub (Hub SoMa) at the Grand Opening on the evening of May 27
  - Visiting Hub SoMa on another date
  - Attending a meeting this summer with the leader of Hub World Ltd. Group that opened the Berkeley and San Francisco social innovation hubs
  - Attending a meeting with a leader from the Portland social innovation hub that is being formed independently
2. Stay “in the loop” as we move forward on the concept and site options via email notifications
3. Work with and/or advise the task force exploring both a nonprofit center and a social innovation hub
4. Make suggestions directly to the task force: Porcia Silverberg, Terry Nagel and Mark Moulton