

Chapter Organizing Call
Tuesday, August 11, 2009
Minutes

1. Welcome

Paulina Migalska (SEA National) welcomed attendees to the call.

2. Opening Round Introductions / Participants share their burning questions/updates for the dialogue:

John Herron (SEA-Mid-Atlantic Chapter)

John Herron of *Harbor City Services* is the president of SEA-Mid-Atlantic. The chapter recently "went back to the drawing board" having realized that audiences are quite different in Baltimore and Washington. The chapter is focusing on Baltimore for the time being and is trying to figure out the unique benefits of local and national SEA. The chapter is also planning a few fall event in Baltimore the will incorporate (1) the University of Baltimore Alumni Roundtable (2) three lectures, and (3) three events hosted by members the first of them to take place at Vehicles for Change. Additionally, the chapter is interested in advocacy on state level and spurring the L3C legislation in Maryland.

John Roser (SEA-Tampa and/or SEA-Miami Networking Group)

John described himself as an entrepreneur who has shifted between the for profit and non-profit worlds for the past 15 years and a very mission driven person. Based in Tampa, Florida he frequents Miami often and is interested in aiding chapter building in both locations. Additionally, John is also interested in the growth of social enterprise in the Caribbean and Latin America. John is very excited to see that people are interested in re-assessing what business is about and is interested in hearing other opinions as to how does the diversity of the social enterprise field influence its popularity? Is the diversity of social enterprise a draw or obstacle?

Ron Gibbs (SEA-Seattle and Puget Sound Networking Group)

Ron, currently with the Community Employment Alliance Rehabilitation Enterprises of Washington, has a long history of managing nonprofits as well as being an entrepreneur and a teacher. His organization is an association of nonprofits that provide employment opportunities to people with disabilities. As his organization hopes to ramp advocacy efforts, it occurred the Ron forming an SEA chapter would be a great way to do this rather than re-inventing the wheel.

3. Content:

- a. Brief description of SEA chapter program (if necessary)
- b. Discussion of issues raised during the introduction

- Diversity of Social Enterprise: Opportunity or Obstacle?

John Herron feels that on up side, this diversity (spurred by the expansion of social enterprise definition to include both nonprofits and for profits) opens up many opportunities. On the down side, the diversity of social enterprise might hamper access to capital and/or funding, especially given the current economic situation.

- c. *2009 'Mission, Inc' SEA Chapter Tour* (see attached document for more information)

- **SEA-Mid-Atlantic** is bringing Kevin Lynch to Baltimore in November
- **Ron Gibbs** is interested and will look into this possibility as well.

d. Updates from SEA:

i. Social Entrepreneur membership category

The **Social Entrepreneur** membership is designed for *individuals* who are exploring social change or planning to launch a social venture, and who want to become part of the Social Enterprise Alliance network. You get a \$100 discount off the Social Enterprise Summit registration. ***Regularly \$150 - Now only \$75 - so everyone can join our movement in these tough economic times.***

ii. Member Teleconferences

SEA Teleconferences & Webinars offer SEA members the opportunity to learn from and interact with seasoned social enterprise practitioners and supporters. This is your chance to hear experts speak on topics crucial to the successes of your social enterprise, whether you're an experienced social entrepreneur yourself or just planning your venture. We will cover topics at all stages of business lifecycle.

iii. Policy Committee

a) SEA will conduct a field survey that will yield valuable data to help us advocate for government funding and other initiatives in August.

b) Social Innovation Fund recommendations:

Per President Obama's commitment to identify 'hidden gems' that may not be well known, SEA recommend a few high-impact, high-performing social enterprises be included in the Social Innovation Tour to be undertaken by Melody Barnes, Director of the Domestic Policy Council. Some SEA member organizations included in the recommendation are:

iv. City Harbor Services (SEA-Mid-Atlantic Chapter)

v. Pine Street Inn (SEA-Boston Networking Group)

vi. Juma Ventures (SEA-SF Bay Area Chapter)

4. Closing round – feedback on the meeting/final thoughts/agenda items for next meeting