

200903 JDM dialogue with Sandy Bleifer since 200823 DFC meeting

From: **Joe Murphy** <joedmur@gmail.com>

Date: Sat, Aug 8, 2020 at 8:39 PM

Subject: Hi!

To: DFC - Joe Murphy - VNC Discussion Forum Committee Chair <joedmur@gmail.com>, DFC - Joelle Dumas - Director of Ecole Claire Fontaine (Kristen, Marie, Gwendoline, Karen) <bonjour@laclairefontaine.org>, DFC - Paul Davis - Parent & Architect <davis@pauldavisarchitects.com>, DFC - Mehrnoosh Mojallali - Architecture/Urban Design <mehrnoosh@mehrnoosh.com>, DFC - John M. Palka - Christ Lutheran Church Ministries <palka.john@gmail.com>, DFC - Jasmine Carey - Worthy Beyond Purpose (Mindfulness Mentoring) <modernshero@gmail.com>, DFC - Mark S. Washington - Assistant Principal/Operations of Venice Skills Center & LAUSD Division of Adult/Career Education <mark.washington@lausd.net>, DFC - Regan Kibbee - Co-moderator of Venice Moms <regank777@gmail.com>
Cc: Freddy Cupen-Ames <freddy.cupen-ames@lacity.org>, Kevin Ocubillo <Kevin.Ocubillo@lacity.org>, Alek Bartosouf <alek.bartosouf@lacity.org>, Nisa Kove <nisa.kove@lacity.org>, Patrick Tudor <ptudor@gmail.com>, Eric Bruins <eric.bruins@lacity.org>, Sandy Bleifer - Artist and Social Activist <sandy@sandybleifer.com>

At last Monday's webinar, we talked about holding a webinar at 5:30pm this coming Monday (Aug 10, 2020) to continue our discussion of how best to proceed in dealing with the needs of children during the pandemic.

We've been doing additional research on how to provide for the critical educational needs of the most vulnerable preK-5 children in a way that enables teacher-student bonding and peer-play - both of which are considered essential, across the spectrum of interested parties (parents/teachers/etc), to any viable educational experience for these kids.

How to achieve this result during the pandemic is proving to be a very complicated issue despite almost unanimous agreement on the overall objective.

This email is to let you know:

- We're continuing to research the matter; and
- For various reasons, in addition to the above-referenced research but also due to personal demands, we will not be scheduling the proposed 5:30pm Monday (Aug 10, 2020) webinar but are considering doing so the following Monday (5:30pm Aug 17, 2020) and ask that you plan to attend that webinar; and
- We encourage you to independently inform yourselves of options to achieve the overall objective which we think we share - it's something that we co-chairs simply cannot do without your involvement.

In order to enable you to communicate with each other between now and our next webinar, attached is the contact information as we also discussed at our Aug 3 webinar to enable you to communicate directly with one another. To contact a city employees working from home, email him/her and ask that he/she call you since they do not provide their private telephone numbers.

Thanks much.

Sincerely,

Joe Murphy
Paul Davis
Joelle Dumas

From: **Sandy Bleifer** <sandy@sandybleifer.com>

Date: Sun, Aug 9, 2020 at 11:00 AM

Subject: Re: Hi!

To: Joe Murphy <joedmur@gmail.com>

Cc: DFC - Joelle Dumas - Director of Ecole Claire Fontaine (Kristen, Marie, Gwendoline, Karen) <bonjour@laclairefontaine.org>, Paul Davis <davis@pauldavisarchitects.com>, Mehrnoosh Mojallali <mehrnoosh@mehrnoosh.com>, DFC - John M. Palka - Christ Lutheran Church Ministries <palka.john@gmail.com>, Jasmine Carey <modernshero@gmail.com>, Mark Washington <mark.washington@lausd.net>, Regan Kibbee <regank777@gmail.com>, Freddy Cupen-Ames <freddy.cupen-ames@lacity.org>, Kevin Ocubillo <Kevin.Ocubillo@lacity.org>, Alek Bartrosouf <alek.bartrosouf@lacity.org>, Nisa Kove <nisa.kove@lacity.org>, Patrick Tudor <ptudor@gmail.com>, Eric Bruins <eric.bruins@lacity.org>

Hi Joe/All:

It is clear to me after listening to Alek that we should not try to append the Safer Streets Initiative with pedestrian activities...social distancing notwithstanding. This time is a unique opportunity for the City to address the issues of aggressive driving...now that there is less traffic and fewer pedestrians.

Hopefully, this initiative will be one of the good things to come out of this difficult situation by patterning a fundamental shift in driver behavior. One thing we can do to help is not put more people and, especially children, out on the streets.

I think the most constructive thing we can contribute to children right now is to help develop engaging activities remotely -not in outside events that have the potential for added exposure to the virus and add human obstacles in traffic.

I have been coping with confinement and connecting with peers through Zoom. I'm thinking that there could be Zoom meetings and activities developed for children just as there have been all kinds of classes and gallery shows and interactive discussions popping up on line that keep me entertained and connected.

There can be Zoom exercise classes, meditation lessons, cooking classes, gardening (hydroponic?) and arts and crafts classes using household objects (e.g. pots and pans sculpture) (pillow and chair architecture) and even classes conducted by children for children where the kids get to talk about their projects and how they did them.

A Zoom class can be the kids watching as someone tours the shoreline looking for clams and fish, or goes through a garden looking for bugs or walks on a trail closing in on rocks and plants.

A Zoom "party" set at noon every day where everyone is invited to sit down to lunch and turns it into a party with dressing up and setting the table and arranging the food attractively. It could also develop conversation skills/manners? It could be built around the food that is distributed that day by charities and schools so kids won't feel left out. These parties could be hosted by older kids.

One idea I had that might be appropriate for Joelle's kids that could be a Zoom event is a book writing - "story building" - project where the kids can suggest the next twist in the story and others illustrate each new event and share the text and pictures on line. This could be assembled as an on-line book at the end and, eventually printed on one of the self publishing programs. Joelle could also revisit my artist colony project for the old Metro bus depot...as that is going to come back to life in the Fall.

The two articles Joe sent talk about the problems of isolation and inadequacy of the on-line experience for children, but I did not see how anyone was working on making it more engaging. Maybe someone is working on this...I just don't know.

Maybe we can develop our own Venice-centric program where we can have Zoom meetings at various Venice landmarks (the canals, the walkstreets, the beach, the Japanese internment memorial on Lincoln, the Venice sign, the library, the clown doll on Rose and Main, murals and art installations all around the neighborhood.) This will help our kids learn the neighborhood that they can then visit when this is all over.

Anyway, these are my thoughts.
Sandy Bleifer

Sandy Bleifer – Aug 15, 2020

See NY Times article re inequity of learning pods. (Only the rich can afford tutors) Can our group organize learning pods with Venice Family Clinic and our Venice artists?

Joe Murphy – Aug 17, 2020

Hi Sandy.

Yes, a 'learning pod', as I've found in my research and as practiced during the early stages of this pandemic, is an option that only the rich can afford.

I'm not sure how to circumvent this conundrum.

What do you think about what I sent earlier today?

Could the concept be used for teaching art as well?

Joe

Sandy Bleifer – Aug 20, 2020

https://therealdeal.com/la/2020/08/19/office-is-out-school-is-in-co-working-operators-try-to-lure-students-into-workspace/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=LA%20Daily%20%7C%2008.20.2020&utm_term=Los%20Angeles%20Daily

Maybe we can organize a fund raiser for Venice kids whose families can't afford this.

Just a thought.

Sandy

Joe Murphy – Aug 20, 2020

Thanks, Sandy.

I don't want to say 'no' but I can't say 'yes' as something that a VNC committee can do.

More later.

Joe

Sandy Bleifer – Aug 27, 2020

The museums (LACMA and Pacific Asia Museum in Pasadena) are producing activities on line for kids. Maybe we should contact some of the social service agencies in Venice to make sure their constituents have access to them.

Sandy

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Will Chandler" <will.cacs@cox.net>

Subject: **Helpful and fun blog post from LACMA textiles conservator Catherine McLean**

Date: August 27, 2020 at 10:14:24 AM PDT

To: "Will Chandler" <will.cacs@cox.net>

Written for kids, with sage advice for me too, such as, "Ask an adult to iron it for you."
As the carnival barkers used to shout along the midway, "Entertaining and Educational!"
Cheers,
Will

<https://unframed.lacma.org/2020/08/04/make-art-home%E2%80%94darn-cat>

It appears that there is a gap in availability of technology (and access).

I think we should think locally...try to fill the technology gap and internet gap...in Venice.

We should consult local public and private schools and local child-serving organizations to find out what the technology gap is and who/how many are afflicted.

We should then organize for fundraising and/or donations so that every child in Venice has access to technology and connectivity.

Then: we should check with the same schools (also pre-schools) and see how we can fill in the gaps, programatically. Maybe art offerings...maybe creative writing...maybe music/singing lessons.

Again, I feel we should not be promoting any kind of group events because of the rapidly changing policies on gatherings.

We know the schools in California will be 100% on line this fall.

We need to make sure all Venice children will be able to access that modality.

We cannot deal with the City at large, but Venice is a close knit community...especially in the social service sector...so we have all the resources to address our needs.