

Power of We Consortium
Meeting Agenda for February 17, 2012

- I. Welcome, introductions, and announcements** (10 minutes)
- II. Update** (10 minutes)
Leadership and Practice Committee:
Before the *Power of We Consortium* created the [Leadership and Practice Committee](#) (LPC) in 2006, capacity building support to community and faith-based organizations was provided in an ad hoc fashion, without any formal assessment, needs-based planning, or coordination of available capacity building resources. The LPC is charged with identifying the capacity building needs of community and faith-based organizations and coordinating efforts to meet them. Committee Chair Cathy Babcock, Executive Director of the [Lansing Art Gallery](#), will take us on a creative and interactive look at the work of the LPC over the past year.
- III. Dialogue for Collective Impact** (90 minutes)
Cultural Economic Development:
Focusing on justice, cultural production, collaboration and innovation, the arts and creativity are increasingly serving critical roles at the intersection of regional community and economic development, the power of place, equity, and sustainability. With more arts-based organizations per capita than Seattle, Wash., this may be particularly true for mid-Michigan. Leslie Donaldson, Executive Director of the [Arts Council for Greater Lansing](#) is leading regional work on *ArtWorks: Creative Invention / Reinvention, A Collaborative Cultural Economic Development Plan for Greater Lansing's Urban Center* -- a ten-year plan aimed to grow creative enterprise, attract and retain talent, and enhance the value of place through the arts. Suban Nur Cooley is managing editor of [Capital Gains](#) -- an online magazine that “tells the story of the city’s entrepreneurs, investments, neighborhoods, and arts and culture with the latest development and jobs news in the Lansing area.” [Othello Pumphrey](#), a world-renowned, DeWitt-based, hip-hop artist, collaborates frequently with The Learning Express – a traveling workshop bringing jazz and hip-hop to school kids as a way to teach about everything from astronomy to bike-safety. All three will update the consortium on what’s the “state of the art” in mid-Michigan.

Leslie Donaldson is the Executive Director of the Arts Council of Greater Lansing and serves as the regional voice for the arts and cultural community. Since joining the Arts Council in 2005, she has led the organization through a strategic organizational re-branding in which she has created numerous programs to support local artists and arts organizations, including two new grant programs. As a part of her role at the Arts Council, Leslie also helped to develop, and is now currently leading the implementation of the Collaborative Cultural Economic Development Plan for Greater Lansing’s Urban Center, working alongside local community and municipal partners. Prior to joining the Arts Council, Leslie’s appointments included coordinating the East Lansing Art Festival and the fine arts program for East Lansing Recreation and Arts. Leslie has also co-founded three alternative art spaces in East Lansing: the Art Apartment, (SCENE) Metrospace, and Grove Gallery Co-op. Leslie also continues to pursue her art and exhibits her work whenever possible. She has received acclaim for her performance artworks centered around her “Queen of the Honeycombs” character and has recently gained attention for her traveling billboard of “characters” based upon her 100 character paintings and 100 sculptures recently on view at the Lansing Art Gallery.

Suban Nur Cooley openly suffers from a serious case of wanderlust. A seasoned traveler, she has called four of the world's seven continents "home" in her lifetime. Now, she happily resides in Lansing's Moores Park Neighborhood where she shares a home with her husband and son, and a hermit crab named "Hermes." Suban began her reporting beat working for a music magazine, *BMA Mag*, in her Australian hometown, interviewing the likes of Comedian Margaret Cho and the Buena Vista Social Club. After moving to Lansing, she worked at the Refugee Development Center as well as a freelance writer with the Lansing State Journal and fulltime as a communications professional. A lover of all things local, you can find Suban frequenting many of Lansing's locally owned restaurants, coffee shops, bakeries, museums and parks.

Seattle born (ironically), **Othello Pumphrey** has been producing and reinventing his brand of hip hop for over a decade. A world traveler, he has dropped four solo records and three group projects, two of which were along side Braille / Ohmega Watts as the Pacific Northwest super Trio "Lightheaded". He has also featured on hundreds of international and independent releases, some of which showcase him as a beatsmith as well. Othello has toured extensively moving crowds from Miami to Osaka to Amsterdam. With a desire to touch lives beyond only that of a musical experience, Othello crafts his lyrics with the sole intent of "waking up" and "broadening perspective" while maintaining a persona that testifies to the honesty of everyday life as artist, father, husband, and dreamer. "The best is yet to come," he rhymes. "Today's another one."

Next meeting of the *Power of We Consortium* – March 16, 2012