**Redwood Arts Collaborative**

*A Board Faces the Pandemic*

It was 3:00 on a Monday afternoon, and the board of the Redwoods Arts Collaborative was assembled, their agendas before them. Two were in the office, and four were present virtually, on Zoom.

In the face of the global pandemic, and with only six people on the board, they had each agreed to assume major responsibility to help keep the organization afloat. There was not enough cash to hire a full-time director but Meredith, the board chair had taken on key operational tasks to maintain the organization. She responded to calls, posted announcements and ads, and wrote grant applications. She also scheduled monthly board meetings and distributed the agendas. Fundraising was a group activity, with everyone taking part as they could.

The treasurer began by sharing her report. She was quite distressed.

“We ended this past fiscal year $22,000. in the red,” she said. Their budget for the new fiscal year had been projected at $30,000. Clearly that was not possible to sustain.

“Our recent fundraiser was really disappointing. We only brought in $1800, but we had projected $5,000 to $6,000. Our bank balance is diminishing, with only $4800 remaining.”

The program chair, Jonathan, was troubled by the number of income-producing activities that had been cancelled because of the pandemic. These included children’s pottery classes, a dinner and auction, a juried crafts display—all postponed because assembling groups of any size was just impossible.

Meredith enlisted the board’s help as they tried to come up with solutions to the problems that faced them. “What do you see as potential activities that might bring in more funds?” she asked. “Can we all be creative, and come up with some new ideas?”

The board consisted of a lawyer; a mid-level bank manager; two active craftspeople (a potter and a furniture maker); a retired art teacher, and a retired businessman. These were dedicated and resourceful individuals who had devoted time and energy to the organization over many years.

As a board, they decided that at the next meeting everyone would bring three actionable ideas that could support the organization during the difficult months ahead.

1. As a board, what is your responsibility to manage this crisis?
2. What specific strategies would you use to go about it?

*Please have someone record your responses and identify* ***one*** *strategy you’d like to share during the large group feedback session to follow.*