

State Ambassador Meetup

MAKING LOCAL

Working Session @ NOMCON

Red text added after NOMCON

Session Attendees

First Name	Last Name	Organization	ST	Email
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Nathan	Pritchett	Fab Lab Tulsa & Maker Faire Tulsa	OK	nathan@fablabtulsa.org
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Joel	Gordon	Steam Rocket Engine	AR	jgordon@steamrocketengine.com
Joe	Dwyer	Reforge Charleston	SC	joe.m.dwyer@gmail.com

Ryan	Reedell	Newark Museum	NJ (joining remotely)	ryan.reedell@gmail.com
Dallin	Graham	USU Extension	UT	dallin.graham@usu.edu

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ial_zJKaZAGX--nFfESTzX6Xb5v0oZ8ZmwKPIqdrBxw/edit#gid=0

Intentional Inclusion

How can your session and this topic generally be more intentionally inclusive?

- In preparation for the session, we're looking for the states that are not represented, along with the representation of demographics
 - Alabama
 - Kentucky
 - South Dakota
 - Puerto Rico

Introduction Notes:

- Connecting people together
- Skeletons used some on purpose, some not
- Some communities are dead
- Wear lots of different hats
- Meet once virtually every month to talk about a specific topic
 - Others hold quarterly makerspaces
 - Bring in outside speakers to talk about specific issues (diversity, social issues)
 - Igniting sparks through Maker Faires

Session Background Research & Resources

- Current List of State Ambassadors: <https://nationofmakers.us/team.html>
- Sortable spreadsheet of State Ambassadors: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/14MUUIgkszbTREYr7ZMvCuBXSfUs4EdIDvb4gUn5IHdo/edit?usp=sharing>
- Questions raised by Dorothy, Andrew and others to be addressed when planning this meetup:
 - What have you seen as your role in your local community?
 - What is your favorite thing you've done in your community?
 - What does it mean to be a State Ambassador within Nation of Makers?

- What role do you see the ambassadors having within Nation of Makers?
 - Defining the role (best way to utilize State Ambassadors)
 - What is the process for election?
 - How to introduce new State Ambassadors to the role, and the larger maker ecosystem?
 - What is the time commitment?
- How long should State Ambassadors serve?
- How would you like to see this program evolve in the future?

Session Conversation & Notes

Dorothy notes – in ideation phase:

- Take load off of Board and paid staff
- Work-In-Progress: Stipends available
 - Phase 1 - Micro-grant to help cover costs for travel
 - Phase 2 - Codify local funding structures
- Lobbying activities & how to talk to state holders (some it is random happenstance, other is not)
 - State/agenda
 - Rolling out platform
 - Shared Talking points
 - Workforce Development
 - Ambassadors as “boots on the ground”
 - Quarterly reports on the state of making in their state
 - Bandwidth for ambassadors
 - Look at Congressional allocations (base on State population)
- Small states, minimum of two
- Value of Membership
 - More robust resources
 - Tool recommendation lists
 - Sample badges
 - Sample bylaws
 - Insurance companies list

Information Collected on Saturday’s session regarding “What is the Role of the Ambassador?”

Snapshots of representations of the Role in LEGOs are at the end of this document.

From the LEGO Creations:

- *Part of the NOM Team. Standard Bearer. Visible and Accessible. Able to speak on Makers & Maker issues*
- *I'm a fish out of water. I was looking for what individuals are doing to support their maker hobbies.*
- *A State Ambassador can/will:*
 - *Make connections; Bridge gaps; Build up existing resources & expand on success; Engage other / leverage others; Be strong & resilient; Find / distribute funding / resources; Communicate/Collaborate*
 - *Working with our State's sustainable structures to grow the Maker Movement as the connector to showcase the creativity & innovation throughout the state #ShowmeMAKERS*
- *Ambassadors should:*
 - *Be connectors; share toolkits; Create & maintain maps for their state; Advocate for makes; Build collaboration & networks of makers; Grow new makerspaces; Be thought leaders on makers; Wear many hats; Respond to needs of makers in their state; Connect to other states; Represent & advocate for makers in their states*
 - *ONRAMPing Makers; LAUNCHing fun projects; CATCHing opportunities; SUPPORTing Sponsorships*
 - *We should visit or contact all the spaces in the state; Help create & update the map of makers; connect them to other spaces; Meet up with other Ambassadors to share info*
 - *We see State Ambassadors as being connectors of resources and talent to people and organizations who can benefit from support.*
 - *Connecting People across state, connecting resources, relationships*
 - *Leading, convincing, selling, communicating among chaos without mandating or controlling to create a maker region*
 - *Steer state stakeholders toward collaboratively cultivating a launchpad for evolving opportunities*
- *To assess maker work in our state; To organize maker group of educators (P-K12 & Higher Ed), students, community members and business owners who communicate regularly; To help organize Mini Maker Faire; To empower students through educators; To support Maker Faires through grant opportunities.*
- *Broadcast state efforts on a national level; Connect local makers with National Resources*
- *State ambassadors bear responsibility to coordinate state efforts, HELP and communicate*
- *Evangelize the maker movement; Connect maker groups & related community organizations; Support maker events around the state; Search for funding sources for maker programs*

Raw Comments from the 'Share Your Thoughts' Box in the Exhibit Hall:

1. *Role would be to connect with ND educators, community members and businesses to bring more awareness of how we can come together to do immersive, inclusive education.*
2. *Be visible to other organizations in their state maker community. Organize meetups & get together.*
3. *They should host a quarterly, statewide call*
4. *To bring together spaces, partners, organizations*
5. *Spread goodwill for Making and Connecting*
6. *Facilitator. Connector*
7. *Connecting conversations*
8. *Evangelist for Making!*
9. *Showcase the State*
10. *Connect people, programs and spaces to each other! Help spaces reach out to local communities. Help spaces find funding*
11. *To represent the concerns and needs of their state. To share tools and resources with their state.*
12. *State Ambassador would all the Makies! Help coordinate events and promote collaboration.*
13. *Work with SB.. Government to LOBBY for maker initiative funding and resources for support*
14. *Making it up as you go. Working with incomplete information*
15. *Mediocre at best.*
16. *Awesome job!*

NOTE: Even though the question was asked regarding the role of a 'State' Ambassador the regional scope of an Ambassador could vary as we go forward. It was mentioned that we need flexibility here.

Proposed Project Ideas/Next Steps

- Region representatives & state representatives
- Hawaii – being connected is important as they're spread out
 - They don't really have
- Several people don't know about state ambassadors
- State Ambassadors should be reaching out to makerspaces, not makerspaces reaching out to state ambassadors
- Dorothy remarks
 - We (Nation of Makers) have failed to really use State Ambassadors – we've not really used them well enough

- Idea of multiple representatives for state as it makes no sense for some states
 - Idea was to make it more fluid
 - Ideas are tossed around to have regions
 - Everyone understands what it means to be a state ambassador
 - What does it look like to be a representative? [GOALS?](#) (see linked blog post)
 - [What do you think the job description is?](#)
 - Providing people with tools
 - Microgrants to travel to meet all of the communities across your state
 - Expanding micro town hall grant
 - Everything takes money so things
 - Talking points
 - Some states are really strong as they already have hubs, or have programs behind them
 - Share with what had been working
 - Codify talking points
 - Lack of consolidated data
 - State Executive Summaries were created after June 17, 2016 convening but were not utilized. Here is the [NJ Executive Summary](#) for reference.
 - Want to take info back to local regions to get yourselves more funding, partnerships
 - If you're interested in being an ambassador, email Dorothy
- Framework for role: (see [State Ambassador Program Goals and Framework](#) working doc.)
- Defining the role (best way to utilize State Ambassadors)
 - Collaborators
 - Framework to collaborate for next steps
 - As a region, what tools and methods to create stronger relationships within their regions
 - We've need to start having round robins to have regions decide some of the issues that they deal with and bring them up to a point person
 - Skype sessions to talk about issues
 - State Maker Summits
 - Missouri Makers
 - What was the original function of the state ambassador?
 - As someone to document their state – not much really defined
 - See Executive Summary above
 - Do we scrap State Ambassadors?
 - Public Calls & Slack?
 - Quarterly calls
 - We need to make sure Dorothy isn't the made point
 - How do we disseminate info?
 - Slack plug-in/email

- How was it done after the White House meetings?
- Actual live conversations
 - Phone Call/Google Hangout
 - **Use the system we already have!**
- Hierarchies
 - Not to tell people what to do, but communication
 - Everyone here represents a network
 - Center of communication
 - Point People
 - Someone who can talk to NOM leaderships
 - Regional roles to a community manager
 - Some mix
 - How regions are designed
 - Self-select
 - Be inclusive of what a region is
 - Next steps
 - Starting conversations with our networks
 - Start determining how areas define themselves as regions
 - Determined by stakeholders
 - Multiple categories of representatives
 - Dissemination of information
 - Real action items for states
 - Create a form to start helping creating lists
 - Make a list of action items, what should we be trying to do
 - Two path
 - Define the roles before we engage
 - Group that wants to engage with their communities before we define the role

[Notes from Rachel Sadd taken during the same session](#)

APPENDIX: What is the Role of the State Ambassadors?

We HAD to make at a Nation of Makers Conference! The descriptions of each are included in the main part of the Session Notes.

Here are the LEGO Creations to represent the Role of the Ambassadors on Saturday's session:







