

Developing Community Partnerships To Sustain Your Career 2025 😊

(I'm a terrible speller, so don't @ me, please. I will edit later)

Participant's Book and Resource Recommendations:

Rob Cameron (m), Featuring: Dr. Jason Aukerman, Diana Pho, Maurice Broaddus

Description: Interested in embedding your creative career where you live?
Join us as we discuss how to work with local institutions, foundations, and libraries to support your career.

Questions & Answers

Who said it?

What was the first community you reached out to and why? What were your goals?

- A. Local levels, neighborhood levels, and beyond***
 - a. Sci-fi community: grassroots as needed action on specific issues like: Writers Against Gaza, has political goals***
 - i. Fundraising goals during Japanese tsunami: shelter boxes, organizing spec-fic community to donate aid to Japan***
 - ii. Travon Martin: and Black Lives Matter. Organizing on the ground, acted as an individual to pull people together for a targeted action (not directly affiliated with any group, just saw a need and pulled people together)***
 - iii. The action of solidarity was had without expectations***
 - B. "If you are living your purpose, there is a conspiracy of the universe to meet you where you are."***
 - a. How do you make your world a better place, when you are just a writer? Finding your voice in the world is tied to finding your voice in your fiction.***
 - b. Extreme conditions do sometimes call for bold action and sacrifice (but always better when you have a strong support structure, Maurice's wife and family).***

- A. Diana***
- B. Maurice***
- C. Jason***
- D. Cameron***

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. DeAmon Harges ii. The Learning Tree c. Engaged with his son's school. Worked with the Learning Tree and the Kheprw Institute. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The missions were youth leadership development ii. <u>The mission becomes your life and finding synergy between your missions around family, career, and community, using your skill set.</u> C. The Bradbury Center, but also did work with public libraries. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. His goals aligned with the Bradbury Center, and found the right team of collaborators (Carrey Cooper was fundamental to their work. Her super power is making connections). "Finding people who have the skills that you may not have is essential." D. Also, being that person with the skills a group needs is really helpful. And if you don't know a thing, go out and learn! 	
<p>What are some categories of organizations that an author might be interested in connecting with? How do you approach them?</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Find your local networks that align to your level as a writer and a person. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Go to the library: they need programming volunteers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Reading groups ii. Host a class or critique groups iii. Craft and skill sets that are not directly connected to writing. b. Fandom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Diana B. Jason C. Maurice D.

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>i. Con-organizers and volunteers have day jobs that align to the con needs.</i></p> <p><i>B. <u>Fundraising is a difficult thing to find people who have the skillset and the energy</u></i></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>a. People who can do things during the day when other people need to work.</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>b. Social Media and marketing people. Creating content.</i></p> <p><i>C. Local Humanities organizations are where you should go to connect and apply for grants.</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>a. Teaching people the skills that you have and that the community needs. "Do not gate keep."</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>b. "You are not trying to recreate the wheel." (I love Olivia)</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>c. Finding synergy between people in the local literary scene.</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>d. "Flanner House." Community bookstore another connection</i></p> <p><i>D. BSW used Meetup as our base for planning and finding people. But then we also use Discord to organize all the writing groups and events.</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>a. There may also be umbrella organizations like Fractured Atlas which can give semi-nonprofit status.</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>b. Organizations that need content for a particular topic. BRIC Media in Brooklyn is a good example. BSW has worked with them on a bunch of projects.</i></p>	
<p><i>What are some skill sets that made you an asset to some of the institutions that you connected with?</i></p>	
<p><i>A.</i></p> <p><i>B.</i></p> <p><i>C.</i></p> <p><i>D.</i></p>	<p><i>A.</i></p> <p><i>B.</i></p> <p><i>C.</i></p> <p><i>D.</i></p>

<i>What limits do you put on your involvement?</i>	
<p>A.</p> <p>B.</p> <p>C.</p> <p>D.</p>	<p>A.</p> <p>B.</p> <p>C.</p> <p>D.</p>
<i>What are some do's and don'ts of building relationships with other organizations as a writer (anecdotes about interactions that went really well, and those that very much did not).</i>	
<p>A. <i>Don't focus on transactional relationships, build real relationships</i></p> <p>B. <i>Feel comfortable, only do the things that you feel comfortable taking a chance and doing well. Learn the skill sets that you think people need.</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a. <i>You are an entertainer but you are an artist and exposing yourself to the world. You are making an agreement with yourself and the others.</i></p> <p>C. <i>Know your limits and learn to take some chances.</i></p> <p>D. <i>All of this takes time. If you're not in it for the long haul, people will figure it out. This is a smallish but international people. We talk to each other. Your reputation will often precede you.</i></p>	<p>A. <i>Jason</i></p> <p>B. <i>Diana</i></p> <p>C. <i>Cam</i></p> <p>D.</p>

What are some of the ways that \$\$\$ has been involved in your collaborations and how did you handle it?

- A. What do you do without \$\$\$? Looking out to other organizations to help you. Not looking for perfection but having to be flexible.***
- B. "Worse case scenario it's just me and my friends."***
 - a. I never start with the \$\$\$\$. We just figure it out. But somebody is always asking the questions even if its not you.***
 - b. the times change and so do the funding sources.***
 - c. It's building relationships.***
 - d. Establish a body of work to show that you can be trusted and follow through.***
- C. She has worked with Mutual Aid.***
 - a. If you wanted to start something from the ground up it looks like "people getting together" and finding a way to work. Mutual aid doesn't start with an organization, it starts with organizing. Finding a need and meeting it (a lot of this happened during the pandemic).***
 - i. Horizontal planning. "Community Fridges"***
 - 1. Got a person to talk to the fridge***
 - 2. People reached out to get the food.***
 - ii. Queer Liberation March (Parade/ Protest) (look up QLM)***
 - iii. Response was taken for direct action.***

- A. Jason***
- B. Maurice***
- C. Diana***
- D.***

<p><i>How to the balance that and writing</i></p>	
<p><i>A. The humanities organizations (supported his career and he won their award)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. Awards and speakers fees and connected to the places that he wants to do a reading or speaking engagement.</i> <i>b. Became the school librarian</i> <i>c. Build communities around the writers' skill sets.</i> <p><i>B. "It's a business relationship" what can the author bring to the table.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. How do we market this author "what connections do they have."</i> <i>b. The best writer to work with is the one who is a good writer community citizen</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>i. If you go on a book tour it's not just you, it's a group of writers who are invested in the conversation and the community.</i> <p><i>C. Treat it like a job.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. Know your limits and stretch them.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>i. Particularly your social energy limits. If you are an introvert and you find this kind of thing draining, own that and pay attention to your motivations. Delegate. Know when to ask for help. You are giving support to get support as well.</i> <p><i>D.</i></p>	<p><i>A. Maurice</i> <i>B. Diana</i> <i>C. Cam</i> <i>D.</i></p>
<p><i>A.</i> <i>B.</i></p>	<p><i>A.</i> <i>B.</i></p>

<i>C.</i> <i>D.</i>	<i>C.</i> <i>D.</i>
<i>A.</i> <i>B.</i> <i>C.</i> <i>D.</i>	<i>A.</i> <i>B.</i> <i>C.</i> <i>D.</i>