

FUSION Halifax

Connect. Engage. Inspire

April 2011

Cheryl Stewart, Past Chair

Level Chan, Past Vice Chair

Updated by Chris Crowell , Vice Chair



FUSION
HALIFAX
Inspiring Tomorrow. **Today.**

In 2007...

A bunch of energetic, talented and passionate young people came together to sketch out a vision for a new organization focused on the next generation in Halifax. At the time, we knew very little about what the organization would look like or what the uptake would be in the community.



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Why FUSION? Because Shift Happens!

If you always believe what you've always believed,

You'll always feel the way you've always felt

If you always feel the way you've always felt,

You'll always think the way you've always thought.

If you always think the way you've always thought,

You'll always do what you've always done.

If you always do what you've always done,

You'll always get what you've always gotten.

If there is no change, there is no change.

~ Author Unknown



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Imagine a city...

“Imagine a city with lots of amazing career opportunities, no matter what you do. Imagine a city where innovation is a way of life. Imagine a city that embraces everyone, no matter where they come from ... or who their father is. Imagine a city with the smallest ecological footprint in North America. Imagine a city that truly embraces risk and progress. Imagine a city that is truly the envy of the entire world. We can create that city, and we believe that tonight we took the first step. Together- Let’s connect. Let’s engage. Let’s inspire”. ~ Peter Moorhouse, Founding Chair



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Leveraging our assets...

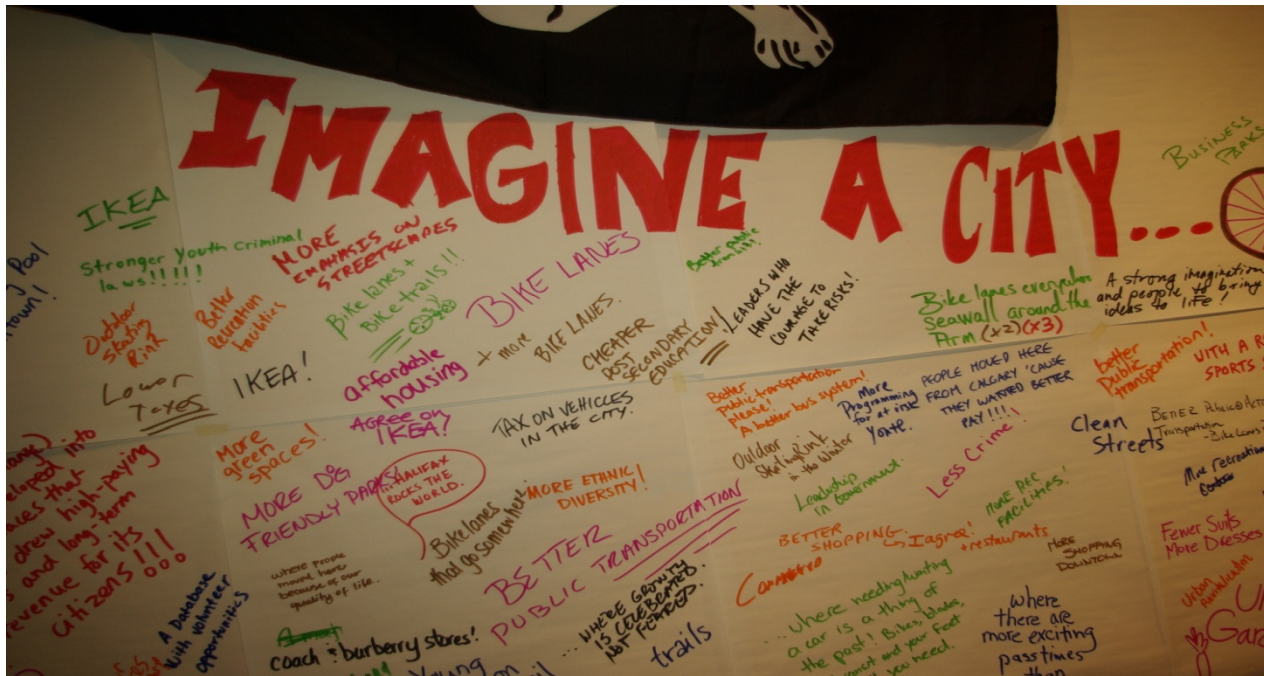
“Some of the answers to these challenges lie in more deeply engaging the next generation. They are aching to be engaged, and have clear, do’able ideas for how Halifax can become a global talent capital”.

» Rebecca Ryan, Next Generation Consulting, 2007



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Our membership has a vision...



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FUSION Halifax: Inspiring Tomorrow. Today.

- A networking group created by and for 20-40 year-olds, we aim to ***Connect, Engage and Inspire*** the 'Next Generation' and the broader community to make Greater Halifax the best city to live, work and play.



FUSION Halifax mandate

- CONNECT
- ENGAGE
- INSPIRE



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Connect

Through our more than 1400 members, volunteer committees and dynamic networks, showcase existing opportunities – and unleash new ones - that encourage civic and community engagement.



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Engage

Help position HRM as a dynamic, sophisticated, attractive city – and a destination of choice for young professionals. Work to capture the voice, spirit and energy of the next generation in shaping the future of Halifax and Nova Scotia.



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Inspire

Through engagement, action and outreach- act as a valued partner to the current leadership in our city to inspire a positive and collective vision for progress.



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FUSION: A Strong Voice

- Fusion Halifax aims to:
 - be a trusted advisor to the community at large;
 - work with the current leadership to be a force for positive and progressive change;
 - be a one stop shop for the broader community to access a large number of the next generation



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FUSION is a Catalyst for Positive Change

We are a catalyst for the broader community in attracting ideas, in attracting investments, in attracting innovation, in attracting energy and MOST importantly in attracting people.



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STRUCTURE

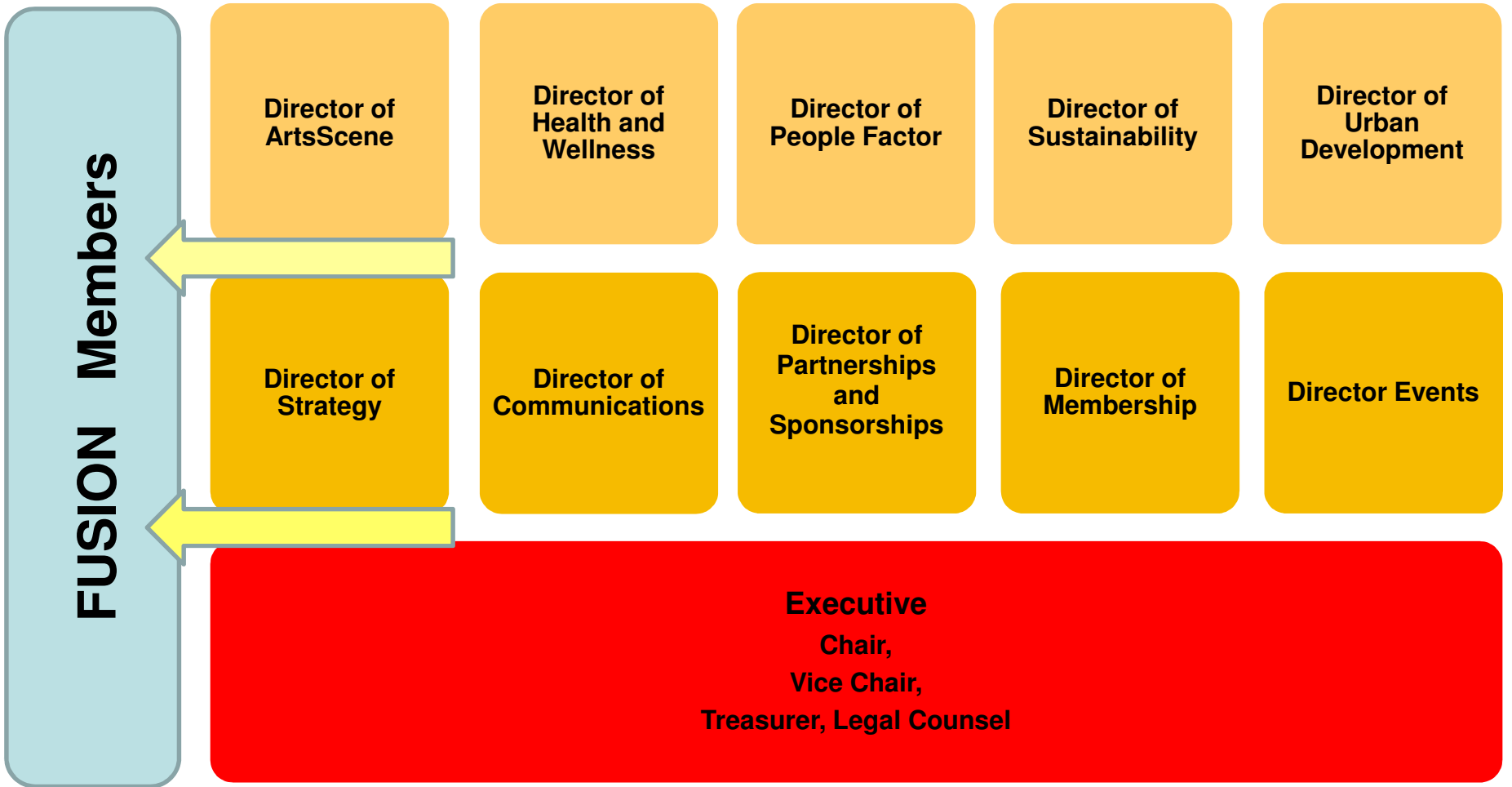


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Organic Roots, Refining Structure

- Applied 'think outside the box' model of organic team building when FUSION was founded
- Board/Action Teams wanted more structure to guide their respective engagement in FUSION





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Year 1 & 2:

- Volunteer Recruitment
- Launched website
- Launched Second Thursday networking series
- Grew Membership and data base
- Created Action Team structure
- Initial foray into community advocacy – supporting HRM By Design



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Year 3: Strategic Planning

- Developed strategic direction on: Structure and Governance, Communications, Membership, Partnership and Sponsorship
- Launched Go Awards, Volunteer Here and Mentorship Program



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Year 4: Strategic Planning

- Sustainable transportation
- Democratic & community engagement – volunteer opportunities, participation in public processes
- Making a living – mentorship, professional development, support for local business
- Organization maturity – advocacy, alumni engagement , action team collaboration



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BEYOND FUSION



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Other 20 – 40 Focused Organizations

- Fusion Saint John – the original
- 21 Inc. – developing tomorrow's leaders, today
- East Coast Connected – cause a Maritimer is a Maritimer no matter where you live



Keys to Success

- Incubate and allow for organic growth – encourage employers to be supportive
- Engage in community fabric
- Allow the voice to take its own form
- Don't forget people who do leave – and show them opportunities to return



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