

CROSSING THE BORDER: Connecting groups within each state and throughout the region

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Unlike most other regions, our communities are some distance apart which can make it difficult to coordinate with each other about getting talent to multiple places. But the Southwest is a wonderful destination for talent who look to have a national reputation. How can we better coordinate with other dance communities in our state and throughout the region to bring top-notch talent out west? You provide the questions and we'll try to come up with the answers together.

ATTENDEE NOTES:

How we as organizers can connect about hiring talent, sharing resources, talk about lots of things

- share talent between nearby dance weekends

Burning Questions:

- everybody wants a Saturday dance: dances at the same time
- coordinate days across the region so a visiting caller/musician can go between dances
- money
- post list of bookers/etc. for the region
- bookend talent: dance weekend, then a workshop/house concert: protocol of communicating with other groups
- example solution:
 - Charlottesville -> Atlanta can do 5 gig deals, 10 gig deals, organizing tours including bigger venues
 - is up to each dance to determine how much to pay the band
 - help bands book gigs, find housing, etc.
- who pays airfare when a band is coming on tour?
 - negotiate with coalition
- under tech tools talk in notes:
 - regional proposal to a band for a three dance weekend
 - plug in overall cost of airfare, etc. for tour
 - put in what each dance costs/can pay
 - gives starting point for negotiation, everyone pays a part of everything
- do a conference call, do it as a google doc
- communicate 'we want to hire band/caller X for this weekend, who might be interested in hiring them for dances before/after?'
- exclusivity clauses can be an issue: between dance weekends, dances, etc.
- is it good or bad to have the same band at nearby events (in time/location)
 - some dancers will not make a trip if they can wait a day/week and hear the same band in their town
 - others think it would be better to have the band play many places
 - people would not want to hear the same band at dance weekends one week apart
 - a band doing multiple adjacent dances (not weekends) can be promoted as a series: hear this one great band more than once!
 - can support bands better if multiple dances can be offered
- goes back to everyone wants Saturday: can you change the dance day
- Teri Rasmusson in Boulder: does a Friday/Saturday/Sunday booking with a band for Boulder, Denver and Ft. Collins

Saturdays:

- San Diego alternates Fridays and Saturdays (1st and 3rd weekends)
 - North Bay group get good turnouts for Thursday/Sunday night dances, since people want to come in and see a national band (locally, or to see them again)
 - informal collaboration, direct contact with people you know
 - some halls have flexibility to add a Monday
 - talk and collaborate
 - travel time issues (i.e. Durango -> ABQ is 3.5 hours, so workdays don't work)
 - shoehorn a special dance in (possibly at an alternate venue) for national bands
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- lead time: 6-12 months needed to organize events
 - time would shorten with practice

post class communication: list of registrants

callers (or musicians or dancers) who travel can pass on info about bands/callers who are wonderful to work with

list serve: allows for targeting of topics

Google Docs can be used to organize and share information

- what nights are you willing and able to hold dances?
 - share info about bands you are interested in bringing out
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- a band coming in from out of town needs an anchor weekend, especially in the southwest
 - bands either set up a tour themselves by talking to dance organizers, or the dance organizers get together and organize a series of events close together (not a week apart)
 - weekend in Houston Friday, Saturday, Sunday, organize a dance in Houston on Wednesday, a house concert in Austin on Monday, etc.
 - if you can do two weekends, and fill in the holes with house concerts, workshops, etc. during the week
 - one weekend could pay for airfare, the other for car rental
 - not very many bands know how to book a tour outside of CA or the trio of cities in CO
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- right now, the bands and callers do the booking, and it is nearly impossible to figure out who to call and try to put together a coherent set of dates
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- ** pilot project with the Syncopaths (Jeff Spero)
- possible backup funding from CDSS
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- share information about callers/musicians availability: do they have jobs during the week, willing to do dances around vacation
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- bundle packages together to attract bands (5 gigs, 10 gigs, every night, can work even if airfare isn't included)
 - you need to have the ability to create dances/etc. on Sunday afternoons, Wednesday evenings, etc.
 - band workshop, house concert, dance = 3 nights
 - help do a flash mob

- create a shared Google Doc that people can fill in with locations, current nights, what nights do you have a venue for, how many people would you expect on different nights
- provide links to calendars

- info about hosting house concert: talk to Jeff Spero, group in Tucson, a few people in Albuquerque host them

Name: Southwest Regional Organizers Coalition

- think outside the regular series: link to local churches, festivals, concert venues, concert series, nonprofit music associations that do house concerts (IAMA), libraries, schools, universities, Sierra Club
- other groups in your town that might be interested in a concert but not a dance

*** start with listserv, sent by early October

Notes taken by Lucy Frey