

Themes Identified for 1812 Bicentennial Celebrations

At the conclusion of a June exercise for the 2012 Celebrations Group, we reviewed the input of participants, looking for themes. We found a great many instances when 'arts and arts/culture' were identified along with numerous ideas and projects needed to do a great job of connecting with public interest in celebrating the Bicentennial of the War of 1812.

We have pulled those from the grand manuscript and set them out here – in no order of priority or importance. We hope, that as visitors to the website review them, they are inspired to offer more ideas; to offer suggestions around the ideas and concepts listed here; to offer to get involved in making some of these ideas come to life.

Remember – this is raw information – it is not refined – nor is it reshaped by the facilitator. It is the input of participants from the 2012 Celebrations Group.

Arts and Culture

- ❑ Leadership/co-ordination
 - Timing – documentaries
 - Timing of events
 - Pace of events
 - Co-ordinate all events
 - Become aware of other initiatives
- ❑ Cross border mechanism/group/bi-national leadership mode
 - SWOT analysis
 - Co-ordinating group (government/private funding)
 - Seek financial support from large corporations (VISA)
 - Bi-national funding group – national/federal focus
 - Provincial/state focus – Ministry of Culture
 - Promotion challenge - \$\$
 - Tourism readiness – packaging quality events, tours, experience
- ❑ Volunteers and volunteer education
 - Communities and individuals must be involved
- ❑ Invite royalty
- ❑ Documentaries – showcase history, heritage, archives, libraries
 - Craft persons to show skills of time
 - WNED documentary already in the works
- ❑ Historical walking trails/heritage archivist space/connection to historical museum
- ❑ Heritage/cultural master plans
- ❑ Organization to make places 'event ready'
- ❑ Cultural asset mapping
 - Open and clean up sites
 - Balls Falls and any other site – re-enactment of daily life for one full year
 - Focus on women/social history – what did civilians do
- ❑ Historica/heritage minutes

- ❑ Joint committee for heritage review/designation

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- ❑ Performing arts potential
 - Artpark potential
 - Carousel Players
 - Shaw Festival – original play
 - A Harriet Tubman play
 - Niagara Arts Council
 - Lewiston Arts Council
 - Symphonies at forts
 - Light and sound show
 - Cross border art project
 - Multi-disciplinary focus
- ❑ Annual kite festival
- ❑ Friendship festival
- ❑ Twin with the Isle of Gurnsey
- ❑ Organized walks and tours – 1000 stories
- ❑ Fort Niagara Centre
- ❑ Peace Bridge Aboriginal Centre
- ❑ Open doors program
- ❑ Art of Peace Festival
 - Public art competition
 - Travelling art exhibition
- ❑ International music festival
 - Music contest - \$25000 first prize
 - Them song for 200th anniversary of battle
 - Chorus Niagara – opening at Casino Niagara
 - Mass tattoos at Fort George and other sites
- ❑ Museum exhibits
 - Rolling museum
 - Documents – ROM model, US Bicentennial
 - Encourage travelling exhibits of treasures/artefacts
 - Co-ordination of museum exhibitions
 - Museums and arts groups collaborate – Albright/Knox and Rodman Hall
 - 1812 images at Rodman Hall
- ❑ Permanent 1812 development (think Gettysburg)
- ❑ Archaeological digs
- ❑ One central resource centre – website (visit1812.com)
 - User friendly resource centre
- ❑ Develop an ‘ambassador’ program – liaison service with 12 area municipalities to encourage buy-in
- ❑ Art Centre development
- ❑ Art exhibit
- ❑ Fashion show
- ❑ Documentaries

- ❑ Guidebook – 1812 for Dummies
- ❑ Craft persons to show skills of the time
- ❑ FIRE-ART – survivors, fireworks
- ❑ Celebrate peace – bi-national

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- ❑ Culinary
- ❑ Themed songs
- ❑ Bi-national scholarships
- ❑ Building at Brock University – Tecumseh Centre
- ❑ Information to various levels of government
- ❑ Dinners, beyond Brock’s annual 1812 dinner
 - General Brock Dinner at Fort George on October 13 each year
- ❑ Preservation of family treasures
- ❑ City Leisure Guide, cultural news (St. Catharines)
- ❑ Arts Culture and Heritage Committee at Niagara Region is prepared to volunteer for things
- ❑ Art galleries in Niagara and Erie Counties celebrate 2011 Biennial
- ❑ Brock University partnerships with the community
 - Niagara University has/could have a similar objective