



St. Louis Regional Health Commission
Off the Charts! Workshop on Friday, July 18, 2014
Event Summary

The Off the Charts! Workshop, sponsored by the St. Louis Regional Health Commission (RHC) and Regional Arts Commission of St. Louis (RAC), was attended by over 150 healthcare leaders, data analysts and artists who participated in this full day conversation about the intersection between health, data and art.

About the Off the Charts! Collaborative

In 2012, as part of the RHC's Decade Review of Health Status report dissemination effort, the Commission partnered with the Regional Arts Commission, Missouri Institute of Mental Health and Rise to form the Off the Charts! Collaborative. This partnership hosted a successful workshop in July 2013 which began to engage the region in a new conversation about the intersection between health, data and art.

As a result of the energy and interest generated by the initial Off the Charts! event, the Collaborative grew to include the Missouri Foundation for Health and the group hosted a second workshop, sponsored by the RHC and Regional Arts Commission.

About the Second Annual Off the Charts! Workshop

The second annual "Off the Charts! Data and the Arts for Social Change" workshop was held at the Regional Arts Commission on July 18, 2014. The event was sold-out and attended by over 150 healthcare leaders, researchers and artists. This full day conversation was designed to share health and housing data with artists and nonprofit leaders, explore local projects utilizing data and the arts, and foster conversation about new opportunities to develop projects that share this information in creative ways throughout the community.



We were joined by keynote speaker, Jer Thorpe, an Adjunct Professor at New York University and COCA's Data Artist in Residence. The presentation explored the possibilities created when we appreciate the humanity of data by focusing on a variety of his professional experiences including: working as the New York Times' Data Artist in Residence; assisting with the design of the World Trade Center Memorial; and contributing to NASA's data visualization efforts. More information about Jer can be found online at <http://blog.blprnt.com/>.

The workshop also included a variety of panels, hands-on trainings and collaborative conversations featuring local and national leaders in physical and behavioral health, art, community building and data visualization. These breakout sessions included a panel discussion about behavioral health in our region and an interactive gallery that allowed participants to engage with health data and share their interpretations about what it means to be "Alive and Well" in St. Louis.

By rotating through these, and other, experiences participants had the opportunity to both explore specific topics and projects in depth and begin to appreciate existing, and create their own, collaborations.



Continuing the Conversation

Based on the overwhelming positive response from workshop attendees, the Off the Charts! Collaborative is considering next steps to encourage St. Louis artists, data analysts, community leaders and healthcare professionals to work in collaboration and continue this exciting conversation.