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Partnering and utilizing resources
Examples of partnership in action

MN Access Alliance

• Founded by individuals who were chatting at a conference
• Shared vision
• Formed board
• Programming/resources
• 3 years and growing

VSA MN & Program Stewards

• VSA MN sought ought likely partners
• Collaborative meetings
• Discussions led to program stewards
• VSA MN Closed official Sep 2019
• Much of VSA MN programming lives on
Why partner?

• You’re not alone
• Everyone brings something to the table
• Power of the pack vs. loan wolf
• Sector advances
Partner with whom?

• Start with other individuals with shared interest/concerns:
  - Conference attendees
  - Trainings
  - Colleagues/comrades/competitors
  - Shared lists
  - Org’s website staff lists
  - Etc.
How to partner?

• Get it on the calendar
  - Set the date/time/place
  - Make and keep the commitment

• Set a goal
  - Start small! Examples:
    • Another meeting on the calendar
    • Two additional people to invite to the conversation
    • List of issues- shared and not
    • List of achievements
Who is bringing what to the “table”?

- Experience in x, y, z
- Diversity in language, community, communication methods
- Physical space or online hosting platform
- Flexible budget in a certain area
- Website or social media skills
- Time/capacity
- Relationships
Maximize resources

• Targeted professional development
• Shared guests/consultants/professionals
  - Ex: Roger Ideishi, MN Orchestra, MN Access Alliance
• Shared benefits (credits, marketing, etc.)
• Tap into existing networks
Leverage your power as a “we”.

• In advocacy or lobbying
• In organizational budget or planning meetings
• In grant applications or funder meetings
Contact

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