

The two research projects I explored are Savannah Barrett's *The Community Arts Programs of the Cooperative Extension Service: Comparative Study of Arts Initiatives in Kentucky and Wisconsin* and Philip Carnahan's *Sports & Arts/Culture Nonprofit Organizations: The Skills and Traits of a 21st Century Leader*. I have chosen these two projects based on their topics that are interesting for my own research. These projects use similar methodology for their exploration but have different tactics of their methods for their specific focuses.

In Barrett's work, she mentions her research question in the title of her project. Her main question is as followed; *What is the history of the Fine Arts Extension program in Kentucky as compared to the history of the "Putting the Culture back in Agriculture" project in Wisconsin?* She also asked the following questions; *How does the Fine Arts Extension program impact/add value to rural Kentucky communities? In what ways are these programs in Kentucky and Wisconsin model rural arts projects for other states to consider?* These are clear questions and I have asked similar inquiries when reading the abstract of her work. These were her explorations during her work.

The research question for Carnahan took a different approach than Barrett's. He explored the traits and skills of an individual working in two industries, sports and art/cultural nonprofits, rather than comparing two case studies of specific organization. His clear question statement is, *"What skills and traits must a person possess in order to enhance collaboration between a sports non-profit organizations and arts/culture non-profit organizations?"* He

studied these traits to understand how to communicate effectively between non-profit establishments and sports organizations. Other questions he asked were, *would the organizational structures for each type of organization allow such collaborations to take place? Are there current models for these practices? Are there markets in which these types of collaborations could be authored? Are there markets in which these collaborations already exist? Do opportunities exist for work as a liaison between these two types of organizations?* He did this in hopes the United States could fill the gap between the two types of interests. He does use the model that describes a relationship between the industries by using the Department for Culture, Media and Sports in the United Kingdom. However, his research has shown that the United States could not take on this model because it would upheave the current system. This is another topic research that is interesting to connect these two interests and show they do relate to one another.

Barrett's framework for her study evaluated the cultural policy patterns impacting cultural programming in rural communities in an effort to rationalize and to establish the need for alternative funding and policy models for rural arts and cultural programming. She used John Kingdon's policy window theory to evaluate the state of the rural arts and rural cultural policy. The reasoning to study Kingdon's policy is to indicate that the federal and state political platform have yet to realize that rural cultural policies are a key issue. They have only been identified by entrepreneurs, such as the organization she works for now called Art of the Rural. The importance of Barrett's study is to look at the lack of investment in rural communities from both a public and philanthropic perspective. She found and stated that, "only one percent of philanthropy and as little as two to five times less federal investment per capita are allocated to

rural communities despite our nation's reliance on rural agriculture and resources for the prosperity of urban centers." Barrett describes the importance of her work with more data collections such as the one previous stated. Her other data collections consisted of understanding policies in the United States. She argues that this disconnect between America's rural production expectations and lack of policy and resource investment constitutes a policy problem which is now beginning to be identified across governmental agencies. In her work, she mentioned how the Federal Government has established the White House Rural Council. It has been the closest policy makers to address the struggles of rural arts.

Besides comparing policies, Barrett compares the strengths and weakness of both the Kentucky Extension Fine Arts Program and the Wisconsin Putting Culture back in Agriculture program. The model she used to illustrate the conceptual framework is a "map." It leads to the center for her main question. The strengths consisted of the actions of grant managers soliciting responses from known arts leaders throughout the states, and by so doing guaranteed quality programming and supported excellence in the field. Then, she compared the challenges faced by both extension services project. Overall, she looks at gaining knowledge of grant making and the challenges they faced.

The conceptual framework was also well illustrated in Carnahan's research with conceptual map designed in a baseball. Like he stated in his work, "there are many topical areas to which this research could have led." It is true the study of the partnership between the two can lead to corporate sponsorship, celebrity endorsements, a for-profit parent organization and an off-season. As for a culture organization can be a resource for sports facilities by providing programming, being defining of local culture and having a short to non-existent off-

season. He tries to find common ground between the two different industries by the following; the bread He viewed the economic and non-economic of both industries. The non-economic views were how they provide the greater social good and wellbeing of a community. It is interesting that he took two readings to help support his idea that the social good and an experience by using writings called Non-economic Societal Impacts of Intercollegiate Athletics and Sport and Spirituality: A Comparative Perspective. This was the framework and explanation for Carnahan's research.

Both projects use qualitative research study to address their questions. Barrett used tools such as interviews, surveys, and personal communications that included email and telephone conversations. She used these tools in a spreadsheet to help compare the Wisconsin and Kentucky outreach programs. By doing this, she was able to explore their history and structure of both programs. This in turn taught her audience the best practices in the community arts field, and make recommendations to the organizations.

Carnahan's research was very similar in a way he took qualitative research for his study. However, he approaches his work in an interpretivist perspective. His goal was to gain an intimate understanding of people, places, cultures, and situations through rich engagement and even immersion into the reality being studied. Another methodology used for his research was ethnomethodology, "the study of methods that individuals use to accomplish their daily actions and make sense of their social world. Its focus is on uncovering the rules that direct ordinary life." His research relied heavily of the experience of decision makers on the inside of sports, arts, and culture organization. He too used interviews from people in these organizations, however, it was on a personal level rather than opinions on certain policies. Just like myself, he

had to remove his bias and the biggest one is the sports non-profits and arts/culture non-profit organizations development an affiliation with one another. He also used the tools of informed interviews regarding collaboration and what skills were necessary for one to have in order to build collaborative relationships.

Both projects were very compelling and even though they both took on qualitative research methodology, their tools/methods to compare their projects were very different. Barrett's question and topic dealt with the rural art communities and their importance for federal recognition by understanding of policy and structure of certain organizations. The data was gaining knowledge of different policies already taken place in the United States and quantitative data to see the lack of participation of philanthropists. Carnahan's looked into the skills and collaboration of individual who communicate between two industries of sports and art/cultural nonprofits. He uses many interviews, business structures, and government structure to compare experiences and what makes the collaborations between sports and cultural nonprofits co-exist with one another. Largely, this assignment has was successful to brainstorm methods to be used in research.