

"Having done a lot of fundraising myself recently," he added, it taught him that "you have to believe passionately in the mission. And if you believe strongly enough in the mission, you're willing to ask anybody for anything."

SOUTH END 'PLAN'

Kraft has often been compared to another local woman who built a thriving arts organization: Andrea Rogers. She was the founding executive director of the Flynn, instrumental in transitioning it from a moribund movie theater to a restored art-deco performing arts center. Rogers ran the Flynn for 29 years before retiring in 2010.

BCA focused on the visual arts because it was underrepresented in Burlington's arts scene. Avoiding duplication of the Flynn's performing arts programming and classes was helpful to what Rogers described as a "good working relationship" with BCA, citing their collaboration in producing the annual Burlington Discover Jazz Festival.

"We were both dedicated to our own institutions," Rogers said. "There's no question about that. And I think, because we were early leaders of our institutions, the both of us could be charged with being too protective of our own kingdoms. I'm sure I was considered that, and she probably has been, too."

It's a diplomatic way of acknowledging that Burlington's arts community has seen some turf battles over the years. BCA has run into resistance from the artists and business owners along the Pine Street corridor—later dubbed the South End Arts District—who were protective of their neighborhood and fiercely opposed to any development that might threaten scarce, affordable studio space. They rallied behind the South End Arts and Business Association, which created and still organizes Burlington's annual South End Art Hop.

Whether or not it was warranted, some believed that BCA—and, by extension, Kraft—wanted to stake a claim in the South End, perhaps because of the organization's city-department status.

That came to a head with planBTV. In June 2015, the city released a draft of a plan to redevelop the South End—the postindustrial area of Burlington along Pine Street and Flynn Avenue. BCA, with the help of a National Endowment for the Arts grant, recruited artists to create works that would engage the public and solicit comments on the proposed plan.

But in August, many of those artists became disenchanting with the process and didn't think their voices had been heard. They worried that a proposed zoning change to allow more housing in the area would displace them, and they believed BCA was complicit.

Amey Radcliffe, one of the artists who received funding for a community engagement project, put it this way in a recent email to Seven Days: "I don't necessarily feel that the artist/activists that emerged at that time were fully heard or fully understood. If BCA were less under the purview of the Mayor, we might see BCA taking more independent stands and actions—less in-step with the Mayor's development agendas for the area."

Signs began to appear around the neighborhood, according to local media reports, including ones that read, "BCA: Will you stand with the arts community to preserve industrial zoning in the SEAD?" At that year's South End Art Hop in September, artists built a temporary cardboard house across the street from ArtsRiot that was dubbed "Miroville."

Kraft was also the subject of some Art Hop protest art. One of the buildings in the How-

ard Space—the warren of artist studios at Pine and Howard streets—was topped with a large sculpture depicting Weinberger holding puppet versions of Kraft and the city's director of planning, David White, on strings.

"I tried to buy it," Kraft said of the artwork. "I stood there that night, and I remember saying to people, 'I do get this. I understand it, you know? I'll take the criticism.' But I also felt that BCA was misunderstood, and our role in that planning."

Relations have improved since then. SEABA's current executive director, Christy Mitchell, said she's excited to have another organization with a stake in the South End and sees BCA as a potential ally in getting new signage and maps pointing tourists to Pine Street. Radcliffe said she thought the perception of BCA in the area was generally positive and that the purchase of the building on Pine Street could provide new opportunities for South End artists.

Steve Conant, owner of Conant Metal & Light and the Soda Plant—and an early member of SEABA—said he'd been aware of a "turf war" between the two organizations, though not when he was directly involved. "It's hard to complain about an organization that anchors 30,000 square feet of real estate and commits it to the arts," Conant said. "That's the biggest risk in the South End: the loss of real estate that supports the arts."

BCA's relationship with the city is a double-edged sword. On one hand, it provides the organization with a significant portion of its budget, covering staff and overhead costs. It also provides easy connections with other city departments and a larger stake in city decision making. On the other hand, the public money opens the organization up to criticism about how those funds are used. Dissatisfaction with Weinberger generally casts a shadow on his appointees.

Kraft, one of the original members of the Sanders administration, has another challenge: walking a line between the passionate, activist tendencies of the community and the bureaucratic nature of city government.

John Franco, once Sanders' assistant city attorney, has represented opponents of the Weinberger administration in court; Steve Goodkind, another original Sanders appointee who headed up the Department of Public Works, ran against Weinberger in 2015. Among the original group of Bernie acolytes that former Seven Days columnist Peter Freyne called the "inner circle of Sanderistas," Kraft is the only one still on the city payroll.

Lloyd is a longtime peace activist in Vermont and said that has led to friendly disagreements between her and Kraft. For example, BCA's annual Festival of Fools often lands on the August anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in World War II.

"I said, 'OK, Doreen, you're having a Festival of Fools, but I'm going to walk down Church Street with ashes on my head impersonating what happened in Hiroshima many years ago,'" Lloyd described with a laugh.

Because of their long-standing friendship, Lloyd said, she and Kraft can usually work out a deal when their interests collide. In the case of the Festival of Fools, Lloyd planned her demonstration on the waterfront after the last festival act had performed there.

The women agree to disagree on other controversial city projects, too, such as the long-planned and much-delayed construction of the Champlain Parkway through the South End.

"She's a very loyal person for what she gets involved with," Lloyd said. "I think she's a vital person for Miro, because she has contacts with a lot of people he might not have within the arts community and with the alternative community."

Lots of people confide in Kraft. "Not that she gossips," said Lloyd, "but she could certainly do a lot of gossiping if she wanted to."

"I'm just pretty open and honest with people," Kraft said. "Not that we haven't had knock-down, drag-out debate on certain issues, you know, but I think people respect my role in the city and that you can't have another identity outside of BCA. It's just not possible. I can be active in causes, but I certainly can't take sides, because Burlington City Arts has to be neutral. . . . I don't think I hold back on my opinion; I just use it appropriately."

Kraft said the BCA board has considered, multiple times, whether staying associated with the city is the best path forward.

"We've gone through that exercise to sort of really look at ourselves at that time and to analyze the relationship with the city," Kraft said. "There have been mayors who said, 'You know, it's a good exercise, because are we holding you back from becoming something you could be more of if you weren't associated with the city?'"

But the answer, Kraft said, is always no—the benefits always outweigh the costs. BCA's new Pine Street studio space proves her point.

"We would not exist if it wasn't for the platform of the city," she said. "Either we wouldn't exist or we'd be a completely independent nonprofit that probably would have accomplished a quarter of what we've accomplished today. I think we stand on the shoulders of the city for what we've done."

RECOGNIZING VOLUNTEERS IN MARSHFIELD AND PLAINFIELD

Mr LEAHY. Madam President, the public health and economic crisis that has gripped the country since March has been a challenge everywhere, and Vermont is no different; yet it should surprise no one that Vermonters rise to the moment. As businesses shuttered and Vermonters adhered to our State's stay-at-home orders, a group of 20 or so Vermonters stepped up to volunteer to bring groceries, medications, or other essential items for their neighbors and friends in Marshfield and Plainfield.

The effect was organized by the enrichment coordinator for Montpelier's public schools, Drew McNaughton, who stepped up, utilizing Front Porch Forum, coordinating a group of volunteers to help bring goods to those staying at home. It is "a natural thing to do," Drew said, and he could not be more right: It is natural for Vermonters to step up to help other Vermonters. It has always been the Vermont way. And it is why together we are Vermont strong.

I ask unanimous consent that an article highlighting this volunteer effort, which appeared in the Times Argus in March, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Times Argus, Mar. 20, 2020]

VOLUNTEERS OFFERING DELIVERIES FOR THOSE ISOLATED IN MARSHFIELD AND PLAINFIELD

(By Eric Blaisdell)

MARSHFIELD.—More than 20 residents in the area have volunteered to help get people groceries or medication in response to the novel coronavirus pandemic.

Drew McNaughton is the enrichment coordinator for Montpelier's public schools. Schools across the state have shut down due to the virus that causes COVID-19. So McNaughton has been working from home.

While at home he's decided to help organize a group of volunteers in the Marshfield and Plainfield areas who can go to stores to pick up items for those who may not be able. "It seemed like the natural thing to do. It seems like a natural response for a community to take care of the vulnerable populations," he said.

Health officials have said those that are older, have chronic health conditions or have a compromised immune system are most at risk from the virus. People are being told to stay home as much as they can and to stay at least six feet away from others in effort to keep the virus from spreading. Some who have tested positive for the virus or are showing symptoms are being told to stay home and self-isolate for 14 days.

McNaughton has been promoting the effort on Front Porch Forum and so far 22 people have signed up to volunteer. Those who volunteered have agreed to share their contact information with those looking for items to be delivered.

So far he said there's only been one request for delivery: a resident who needed heart medication. But McNaughton believes that will change the longer this goes on and the stricter the isolation requirements during the pandemic.

"There's going to be more people sheltering in place and it's going to be up to the healthy and the young to step up for once. The millennials are going to be facing an actual challenge," he said.

He said one of the hard parts about the pandemic is the anxiety people are feeling due to the uncertainty of how long this will go on with no defined end date.

"To me, that's the unnerving part," he said.

To help pass the time, he said he's been doing projects around the house and doing things outside. He said he would bet plenty of people will have renovation projects completed by themselves by the time this is all over.

"A lot of amateur carpenters are going to emerge," he said.

TRIBUTE TO DWIGHT GARDNER

Mr. BENNET. Madam President, I rise to honor the career of Dwight Gardner, who recently announced his retirement after providing decades of service to the State of Colorado. He most recently served on my staff as the regional director for southeast Colorado. Dwight has been a tireless advocate for the farmers, ranchers, and communities across our State. For decades, he has worked on behalf of communities throughout the region, from Pueblo to Raton Pass on the New Mexico border, and from the headwaters of the Arkansas River in Leadville, high in the Rockies, to the town of Holly in Prowers County.

Early in his career, Dwight worked alongside his brother to support the farmers of the Arkansas Valley as a cropduster. Living through the era of "buy and dry" land purchasing to divert water to meet the needs of a growing Front Range, Dwight understood early the value of advocacy for rural Colorado.

In 2000, he was elected to the first of two terms as a Crowley County Commissioner, and in that role, he was selected as chairman of the Southern Colorado Economic Development District to represent the interests of the 14 counties in the region. In 2007, my predecessor, Senator Ken Salazar, asked Dwight to join his office. I was fortunate that Dwight agreed to continue his service in my office in 2009.

Dwight employs a formidable array of skills to serve the southeast region of Colorado effectively. He builds strong relationships with people; he possesses a deep knowledge and respect for the heritage of Colorado; and he provides a constant presence when the issues demand it. He has engaged in the battle for Federal funds to build the long-promised Arkansas Valley conduit. He was witness to the important preservation of our national heritage at Camp Amache and Sand Creek. He helped shepherd the critical economic opportunity represented by the continuation of the Southwest Chief railroad line.

From local food production to manufacturing, from the decommissioning of the Pueblo Chemical Depot to establishing good neighbor relations at Fort Carson's Pinon Canyon Maneuver site, Dwight has been a steady presence and road warrior as he has advanced the common good across hundreds of miles of beautiful southern Colorado.

Going forward, I will miss Dwight's humility, his candor, and his keen understanding of what it means to be a son of rural America, attributes so needed as we work our way toward a better future. I am comforted to know that the next generation, represented by his grandsons Noah, Devlan, and Gatlan, have the benefit of his guidance. Colorado is grateful for his service.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO KARA FOUR BEAR

• Mr. CRAMER. Madam President, I want to congratulate Kara Four Bear, the principal at the New Town, ND, Middle School, for being one of two educators in the Nation to be presented with the Presidential Cybersecurity Education Award.

The U.S. Department of Education received nominations for 43 educators from 23 States for this inaugural award. Kara Four Bear's selection was based on her passion for developing digital literacy and safety skills in her students and then helping them make real-world connections with what they learn.

She has led her school in establishing robust, global, and relevant education programs using curriculum provided from the National Integrated Education Research Center. This curriculum challenges students to put into practical use their lessons in topics such as cyber ethics and cyber law.

They start this curriculum as sixth graders and continue through middle school and high school. Through various class projects and State, regional, and national competitions, they explore science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and the careers available in these fields.

This Presidential Cybersecurity Education Award was established on May 2, 2019, by President Trump's executive order on America's Cybersecurity Workforce. The Department of Education was charged with creating this award within 1 year and in consultation with the Deputy Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism at the National Security Council and the National Science Foundation.

Because the demand for STEM careers continues to grow in my State, our Nation, and around the world, there is a critical need for students to excel in these subjects. Because women continue to be underrepresented in careers focusing on computer science and cybersecurity, the challenge is even greater to encourage girls to develop the creative thinking and problem-solving skills needed in these careers at an early age.

The New Town students joined young North Dakota women from Bismarck, Fargo, Grand Forks, West Fargo, Sheyenne, and Williston schools last month in the Girls Go CyberStart competition, sponsored by the SANS Institute. North Dakota had the highest nationwide participation per capita for the second year in a row, and I commend all who participated in this competition.

Inspirational educators like Kara Four Bear are leading the way to increase opportunities for North Dakota students to prepare for careers in the field of cybersecurity. I thank her for her passion for cyber education and for being an inspiration to what can be done to successfully create this level of excellence in schools across the Nation.●

RECOGNIZING GOOD SHEPHERD HOUSING AND FAMILY SERVICES

• Mr. KAINE. Madam President, the formation, development, growth and success of Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services, GSH is a story that exemplifies the very best in people-to-people programs. Started in 1974 as a "helping hand" volunteer-run organization by members of the Mount Vernon community, including several churches and local businesses, the founders of GSH established a volunteer board of directors to steer the organization's efforts to help those experiencing homelessness in the Greater Mount Vernon community.

Today, GSH is a vital affordable housing and services provider with a 10-person professional staff and a \$2.7 million operating budget. GSH remains true to its founding vision and mission. GSH works every day to reduce homelessness and enable self-sufficiency by