### Elements of a Marketing Tool Kit

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#### Goals

Why are you marketing...what are you trying to accomplish?

#### Examples:

- Increase number of visitors by 50%
- Increase page views on our website by 50%
- Increase specific demographic segments: Example: more young couples

#### Objectives

These are measures or targets...they indicate how you will know whether you have achieved your goal(s).

- Measurable-if you can't measure it, you can't manage it. Objectives must have measurable progress, so you can see the changes that occur.
- Attainable/realistic When you identify objectives, they must be reachable. The objectives must fit and pertain to the overall strategy and goals of the organization
- A time frame -Set a timeframe for the goal. Putting an end point on your goal gives you a clear target to work towards.

### **Objectives (continued)**

Examples of Objectives:

- a) Retention
- b) Increase first-time visitors
- c) Increased frequency of visitors
- d) Conversions

#### How to define your markets: questions to ask yourself

- What else do you need to know in order to market effectively?
- How can you find this information?
- What research have you undertaken?

#### Identifying your markets

Who are your customers or guests?

- When do they visit?
- Why do they visit?

#### Identifying your markets

- Geographic
- Target segments: ages, genders, incomes, purposes, activities
- Data sources:
  - conduct own survey
  - use state, regional associations,
  - Chamber of commerce data

#### Latent demand?

- Latent demand are the potential customers who are not presently your clients
- Who else are you attempting to attract?
- Where do they live?
- What is stopping them from visiting?

#### **Reasons for Latent Demand**

- Is it the character of your property?
- The nature of your surroundings?
- The service itself?
- The price?
- Or do customers simply not know about your property?

## What is needed to overcome latent demand?

- Add-ons
- New services
- Rehabilitation
- Partnering
- Marketing

#### Know your competition

- What makes another business your competitor?
- Where are they?
- What type(s) of business?
- What is their size?
- What services do they offer?
- What types of customers do they attract?

# Q: How can you separate yourself from your competition?

#### A: Branding

- What is a brand?
- A brand is the identity of a specific product, service, or business. A brand can take many forms, including a name, sign, symbol, or slogan.

## What do you associate with the following brands?

We associate:

- Volkswagen with: reliable, versatile
- Mercedes-Benz with: high class, expensive
- Coca Cola with: red label, refreshing

### Why establish a brand?

- Brands clarify how your product meets a customer's needs
- 2. Brands help tourism businesses focus on what they have to deliver to customers
- 3. Brands give marketing initiatives a foundation & clear direction
- Brands give customers something they can understand and buy into

#### Before you establish your brand...

- 1. Determine your strengths (through the eyes of potential customers, not your own)
- 2. Determine your weaknesses
- 3. Determine how you differ from your competition
- State: my product/service is as good as the competition because \_\_\_\_\_\_ is better than . . .
- 5. Determine any threats to your success—short and long term
- 6. Determine opportunities for development short and long term

### 4 steps in branding:

How does one go about creating a brand?

- 1. Know your product or service
  - What does the service do and who benefits?
- 2. Develop a clear customer "proposition"
  - What are you offering and is there a unique selling point?
- 3. Develop broad guide logo/design and lines and a visual identity
  - What is your logo/design and tone of voice -based on #2?
- 4. Use marketing to build awareness of your brand
  Where and when will you place promotions?

To develop your 'unique selling proposition,' answer these 5 questions:

- 1. Who is my target audience?
- 2. What do I know about my target audience and their needs?
- 3. What specific aspects of my product/ service will meet these needs?
- 4. What emotional benefits does my product/service offer? how does it make customers feel?
- 5. What is my key offering to customers?

#### Using your brand

Everything you do now should be based upon branding: your logo, ads, emails, responses to customers' questions

# Now it's time to achieve your objectives

- Select promotional options-How do you want to promote your property? For example, you may chose to use advertising, personal selling, public relations, or sales promotion
- Determine the costs of various types of ads vs. your marketing budget
- Determine your time framework vs. the deadlines established by various media

### Who can help you?

- Agencies: state travel office, regional promotions group, chamber of commerce, professional organizations
- Division of Travel and Tourism Development
- Web sites

#### Techniques to drive more business

- Paid advertising (paper & electronic media)
- Promotional discounts/specials
- Direct mail/email
- Newsletters
- Coop ads
- Packaging
- Social networks (Facebook, Twitter)
- Events
- Association/organization/chamber memberships
- Attend state travel conferences

#### Advertising placement: to be successful...

- Must be seen
- Must grab attention
- Must increase desire for product
- Must prompt customers to take action

#### Create a list



### Your ads should convey an effective message of the above

#### What ads do

- Inform customers about a new product or service
- Persuade customers to buy or use
- Remind customers that a product exists
- Present special offers
- Educate/inform
- Build image
- Develop customer loyalty
- Generate inquiries

#### Monitoring your success

- Occupancy rates
- Inquiries
- Conversions
- Web site visits (not hits)
- CRM (customer relations management)

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