Art for Local Innovation - Art is Us

Open Innovation Activities Guide

OPEN INNOVATION ACTIVITIES GUIDE is part of the project Art is Us , it will provide directions on how to successfully engage, connect and co-design with and for communities.

The project Art is Us is a two-year project co-funded by the European Union under the ERASMUS+ KA227 "Partnerships for Creativity" programme.

Project Reference Number: 2020-1-SI01-KA227-ADU-093618

Coordinator:

Partners:

Introduction

Welcome to the Open Innovation Activities Guide, an essential resource for those seeking to foster innovation, collaboration, and community engagement. As part of the "Art for Local Innovation (Art is Us)" project, this guide is designed to equip you with the necessary knowledge and tools to successfully connect, engage, and co-design with communities. Divided into two distinct parts, the first section offers a comprehensive summary of the Art is Us training course, specifically focusing on identifying innovative actions for effective community involvement. Drawing from the rich content and resources of the Microlearning Course 1: "Understanding the Community and Co-design" from the Art is Us MOOC (https://mooc.artisus-project.eu/courses/course-v1:artisus+01+2022EN/about), as well as the CO.Create EU project (www.cocreate.training), this guide provides a solid foundation for understanding the principles and strategies behind community co-design. The second part of this guide features a collection of Good Practice examples, showcasing projects implemented, produced, supported, or collaborated on by the Art is Us partner organizations. These real-world examples highlight the diverse range of co-design community innovation projects, offering inspiration and practical insights to artists, educators, community leaders, and policymakers alike. Whether used as a standalone resource or in conjunction with relevant training courses, the Open Innovation Activities Guide is designed to empower you in creating added value through inclusive and creative processes. Join us in exploring the potential of art, community co-design, for empowering vulnerable artists and underserved communities.

www.artisus-project.eu.

www.cocreate.training.com

About Art is Us

The project Art is Us is a two-year project co-funded by the European Union under the ERASMUS+ KA227 "Partnerships for Creativity" programme.

It equips artists, community leaders and art educators with key skills and competences for a sustainable creative career and provides them with the opportunity to be successful innovators in their communities.

It enhances social inclusion by fostering innovative, arts-based participatory and intercultural dialogue approaches.

The project effectively used the strong experience of all its consortium members in socially engaged arts teaching and content development, e-learning and multimedia, community arts initiatives and career guidance and skills development to design and develop a high-quality adults education course on Innovative Community Development: "**The ABC – Art for Building Community microlearning courses - MOOC**" that you can sign in for free at the following link https://artisus-project.eu/art-is-us-course/

ABC - Art for Building Community Microlearning Courses: Harnessing the Transformative Power of Creativity and Art

The ABC – Art for Building Community microlearning courses focus on using the transformative force of creativity for community regeneration to respond to the contemporary societal challenges, such as the severe impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on artists, the cultural sector, on social inclusion and cohesion.
The learning content is designed primarily for nonprofessional artists, community leaders and art educators to become successful innovators in their communities.

The aim of the 4 courses is to equip learners to develop ideas, projects and businesses aimed towards encouraging social inclusion by fostering innovative, arts-based participatory and intercultural dialogue approaches.

In Microlearning Course 1, "**Understanding the community and Co-design**", the course looks into what a community is, explores different examples of communities and how a learner can empower community people. The course delves into the definition and levels of co-design, explores community engagement strategies, examines the various tools used in co-design, addresses the challenges and benefits of co-design, and highlights the role of new technologies in the process.

In the 2nd microlearning course "**Networking and Partnership Building**" dives into how to establish relations where there are none, recreate broken ones, and build partnerships that are based on equality, equity and solidarity. This course addresses the challenges associated with building inclusive social networks; the learners are informed about the reach and potential of the variety of your roles, as well as how to use them to be most successful in innovating one community. Offered case studies showcase the taste of challenges that might

await you as well as some of the practical tools to use.

In the 3th microlearning course "**Budgeting and Fundraising**" the learners gain knowledge about some basic concepts and tools to manage the economic and financial side of a project and how to create a budget from scratch. The trainers explains how to develop a suitable strategy to find funds to realise a project and open up the world of "donors". Learners learn more about different types of donations and how to get in touch with them. Through examples and cases studies practical tools are shared.

The fourth course "**Entrepreneurship and Career Building**" explores the possibilities the learners might consider for identifying your career path as an artist/creative. The course guides the learners towards better understanding of how to turn an idea into a creative enterprise that can bring added value to your community as well as the basics of entrepreneurship with a strong focus on social and arts entrepreneurship. The course offers the knowledge to learn how to identify and evaluate a business idea, how to do market research and create and use the business model canvas, understand what marketing, brand and branding are, how to fund and sustain your business whilst having a social impact.

The courses are available in **English, Italian, German, Greek, Romanian, Slovenian, Ukrainian and Arabic** language. You can access them directly by clicking on THIS link.

Art is Us Consortium members

APIS Institute / ZAVOD APIS (Slovenia) is the coordinating organisation of Art is Us project. APis Institute is a socially engaged institute with a vision to promote social inclusion, intercultural dialogue and respect for human rights through different artistic and educational mediums such as digital storytelling, audiovisual production and music.

JKPeV (Germany), a non-governmental institution with the aim of providing opportunities for young people to develop and use their soft & professional skills and stimulate their creativity & entrepreneurial skills through non-formal learning methods.

Melting Pro (Italy), an organisation founded by seven women with a shared vision: a more cohesive society and increased wellbeing for people through participation in culture and the arts.

AAN (Greece), a non-governmental association with a great experience on mentoring and guiding professionals working in the intercultural educational system as well as the humanitarian field, offering the chance to individuals in organizing artistic and social events.

ReadLab (Greece), a research institution that aims to generate positive social and sustainable impact through innovation by delivering high-quality research, training and ICT services to local, national, European and international levels.

CPIP (Romania), a non-governmental organization committed to mainstreaming the principle of equal opportunities for all citizens in the public policies and associated practices, as an integral part of democratization and the creation of an open society, to re-define the status of community co-production in all areas related to lifelong learning.

Part I

How to engage, connect and co-design with and for communities through art and creativity

Engaging, connecting, and co-designing with communities through art and creativity are vital components of community empowerment. This process enables individuals and communities to take control of their lives, make decisions, and bring about social and political change. Empowerment goes beyond mere participation; it involves community ownership and action, fostering a positive impact individually and collectively. In our digital age, empowering artists with the necessary educational tools to navigate the digital world becomes crucial for their integration into an information society. Digital skills and accessibility to new technologies are prerequisites for artists to enhance their work, promote their art, and stay connected with the demands of the modern world. Establishing a strong digital presence, whether through websites, blogs, or social media platforms, enables artists to engage with a wider audience

and share their unique stories and emotions. Empowering communities also requires long-term, systematic community engagement that fosters dialogue, builds trust, and creates participatory spaces. It is essential to approach community empowerment with a sense of mutual respect, commonality, and the recognition that everyone has something valuable to contribute. By working together to decrease social exclusion and marginalization, we can forge strong bonds and create a more inclusive and empowered society.

Engaging, connecting, and co-designing with communities through art and creativity is a multi-faceted process that requires careful consideration and strategic approaches. Here are some key steps to effectively engage, connect, and co-design with communities:

1) Nurturing community empowerment through art and creativity is paramount in fostering meaningful community engagement. The essence of empowerment lies in enabling individuals and communities to seize control of their artistic journeys and creative expressions. Offer platforms and initiatives that invite active participation from community members, ensuring their voices are not only heard but also cherished and respected. Cultivate spaces that facilitate open dialogue, collaborative endeavors, and a sense of collective ownership, empowering communities to shape and define their artistic narratives.

2) Understand the community: Take the time to deeply understand the community you wish to engage with. Conduct research, interact with community members, and listen attentively to their needs, aspirations, and challenges. Gain insights into their cultural backgrounds, values, and artistic preferences. This understanding will form the foundation for meaningful and inclusive engagement.

3) Build digital literacy and accessibility: In today's digital age, it is essential to equip artists and community members with the necessary digital skills and resources. Provide training and support to enhance their digital literacy, enabling them to effectively navigate

online platforms, create digital content, and promote their artwork. Ensure access to digital tools and technologies, minimizing barriers to entry and promoting inclusivity.

4)   Establish a digital presence: Help artists create and strengthen their digital identities by providing platforms for showcasing their work. This can include websites, blogs, and various social media channels. Encourage artists to share their stories, emotions, and unique perspectives through compelling visual and audiovisual content. Foster connections between artists and their audiences, facilitating dialogue and engagement.

5)   Facilitate co-design and collaboration: Co-design involves actively involving community members in the artistic and creative processes. Create opportunities for collaboration, where artists and community members work together to conceptualize, develop, and implement artistic projects. Emphasize inclusive and participatory approaches, ensuring that diverse voices and perspectives are represented and valued.

6)   Promote dialogue and trust-building: Establish spaces for open and respectful dialogue between artists, community members, and other stakeholders. Encourage ongoing communication and collaboration, allowing for the exchange of ideas, feedback, and collective decision-making. Building trust within the community is essential for meaningful engagement and co-design.

7)   Promote social and political change: Engaging with communities through art and creativity should have a broader purpose of contributing to social and political change. Encourage artists and community members to address relevant social issues, raise awareness, challenge stereotypes, and promote inclusivity. Art can be a powerful tool for initiating conversations, fostering empathy, and driving positive transformations within communities.

By following these steps and adopting an inclusive and empowering approach, you can effectively engage, connect, and co-design with communities through art and creativity.

Remember to continually adapt and refine your strategies based on the unique needs and dynamics of each community, nurturing a sustainable and impactful engagement process.

What is co-design[1]

Co-design defies a singular definition as its nature encompasses various interpretations. However, at its core, co-design is recognized as a political act that empowers individuals to exert influence and take charge of their environment (Sherry R. Arnstein, 2007). By engaging in co-design processes, citizens gain the ability to actively shape and participate in decision-making regarding matters that impact their lives and communities. This empowerment

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[1] Read more about co-design by enrolling to the freely available online Art is Us MOOC: https://mooc.artisus-project.eu/

forms the essence of co-design, highlighting its transformative power in granting citizens the agency to create meaningful change.

Originating in the 1970s, co-design emerged as a form of cooperative design, involving the direct participation of workers in improving their working conditions and shaping the products they use. The essence of co-design lies in expanding citizen participation, fostering dialogue, respect, and trust within the community. It is a process that activates and mobilizes community members, enabling them to play an active role in decision-making. Co-design is a continuous learning process that brings together diverse stakeholders to reach common goals. It empowers vulnerable groups, promotes bottom-up decision-making, and is exemplified by projects such as the "She's Gone" exhibition.

The "She's Gone" exhibition serves as a poignant example within the context of co-design. This art installation is specifically designed to raise public awareness about the global issue of gender-based murders committed by spouses and family members. It symbolizes a collaborative effort involving families affected by this tragedy, artists, organizations, and relevant stakeholders. By creating this project, they aim to shine a light on this pressing issue and mobilize the community for social change. The exhibition not only exemplifies the principles of co-design but also showcases the power of art and creativity as vehicles for addressing and challenging societal injustices. Through the collective efforts of diverse stakeholders, the "She's Gone" exhibition contributes to empowering the community, fostering dialogue, and inspiring action to combat gender-based violence.

Co-design planning is a journey of social learning that integrates scientific knowledge with societal values and experiences.

Benefits and Difficulties of Co-Design

The benefits of collaborative design are numerous and impactful. Firstly, it allows for the inclusion of groups and individuals who may not typically have a voice in negotiations and dialogue, promoting diversity and representation. Additionally, collaborative design enables different stakeholders to take on greater responsibility throughout the project development process, fostering increased motivation and commitment from all participants. The opportunity for extensive discussion and reflection among various stakeholders also arises, leading to richer insights and perspectives. Collaborative design facilitates the establishment of stronger links and networks, improving information sharing capabilities. Moreover, it promotes a dynamic course design process, as new connections and lines of communication are formed, ultimately resulting in higher satisfaction with training programs.

However, collaborative design also poses certain challenges. The sheer size and complexity of involving a large number of stakeholders and design actors can make coordination and management tedious. Collaboration necessitates transparency and extensive communication, which can require significant effort and resources. Social complexities arise due to the diverse personal characteristics of stakeholders and their relationships, including cultural differences and varying levels of knowledge. These factors can hinder effective collaboration. Furthermore, managing collaborative design projects demands specific skills that may not be readily available, as actors may lack prior experience in embracing collaboration and open-mindedness.

Exploring Co-Design Approaches and Innovative Activities

Introduction:

Approaching co-design becomes essential when projects grow increasingly complex, requiring effective and cross-functional solutions. Collaborative design enables diverse perspectives to come together, as individual efforts alone are insufficient to address multifaceted issues. However, managing collaborative design processes poses challenges due to the involvement of numerous stakeholders and organizations with varying competencies. To develop successful co-design practices, key questions must be addressed, such as the meaning of participation in decision-making, identifying relevant participants, providing necessary support, and determining suitable methodologies and tools for the design process. This chapter delves into co-design planning, outlines a sequence of events in co-design, and presents specific innovative activities and techniques for engaging, connecting, and co-designing with communities.

Co-Design Planning:

Co-design planning involves multiple individuals, groups, and communities, each with distinct ideas and goals. This planning process follows a non-linear approach, characterized by cycles of planning, action, observation, reflection, and re-planning. It forms a continuous, cyclical chain wherein each cycle informs the subsequent one, necessitating constant movement between different stages. Designers must be adaptable and willing to navigate these stages to ensure a comprehensive co-design process. Various tools and approaches can support co-design planning, empowering teams to facilitate collaboration effectively. The choice of tools depends on specific factors and contexts, making the toolbox inexhaustible.

Sequence of Events in Co-Design:

The co-design process can be broadly categorized into three stages: initiation, preparation, and realization. During the initiation phase, the groundwork for a collaborative process is

laid, including gathering information, spreading awareness among stakeholders, clarifying process premises, and strategizing. The preparation stage involves making critical decisions regarding content and organization, defining aims and assignments, inviting relevant stakeholders, establishing decision-making frameworks, determining financial aspects and timescales, and addressing logistical considerations. The realization stage focuses on roles and powers clarification, establishing rules for democratic agreements, ensuring smooth information flow among participants and the public, and implementing and presenting the jointly achieved results.

Specific Innovatory Approaches:

To successfully engage, connect, and co-design with communities, a range of innovative approaches can be employed. Activities inspired by those approaches promote creative thinking, constructive dialogue, problem-solving, and community empowerment. Here are some notable examples:

Brainstorming:

Participants generate ideas, opinions, and solutions through associative thinking, fostering creativity and consensus-building.

Concept maps (Mind Maps):

Visual diagrams illustrating ideas with different colors and font sizes, facilitating the exploration and synthesis of concepts.

World Café:

A creative process that encourages dynamic dialogue and the exchange of knowledge and ideas among participants, fostering a lively network of discussion and action.

Think & Listen:

A role-playing method used in the early stages to build trust and partnerships, where participants take turns as speakers and listeners to gather and distill valuable viewpoints.

Conflict Resolution:

A technique for addressing conflicts by identifying their core sources, facilitating group discussions and negotiations to achieve consensus.

Open Theater (Forum Theater):

A participatory form of theater that encourages interaction and explores solutions to problematic situations through collective brainstorming and role-play.

Art Interventions:

Art Interventions involve the use of creative mediums, such as Creative Placemaking and community-based exhibitions, to address community challenges. Creative Placemaking refers to the process of transforming public spaces through artistic and cultural activities to enhance the social, cultural, and economic well-being of a community. It involves engaging artists, community members, and stakeholders to create vibrant and meaningful spaces that reflect the identity and aspirations of the community. Through community-based exhibitions and artistic initiatives, awareness is raised, cooperation is promoted, and innovative solutions to local challenges are inspired. These art interventions aim to bring people together, spark dialogue, and foster positive change within the community.

Creative Hackathons:

Collaborative events that bring together individuals from diverse backgrounds to address specific community challenges, leveraging creativity to devise impactful solutions.

Community Mapping:

Engaging citizens in identifying common issues, recording needs and resources, and facilitating community participation in problem-solving.

Scenario Analysis:
An interactive method involving a group in creating and exploring possible future scenarios to identify feasible options and develop implementation strategies.

Video Documentaries:
Creating awareness of societal and environmental challenges by showcasing inspiring personal or community choices and activities that contribute to community development.

Community Workshops:
Empowering participants to address social and environmental challenges through workshops tailored to specific topics, such as promoting senior creativity or supporting artists affected by substance use.

Zines:
Low-cost, self-produced magazines that serve as platforms for collective identification of innovative solutions and enable discussion and collaboration during workshops.

Artistic Collaborations:
Foster collaborations between artists, community members, and stakeholders to create artistic projects that address community challenges, stimulate dialogue, and inspire innovative solutions.

Participatory Photography:

Engage community members in capturing photographs that reflect their experiences, perspectives, and aspirations. These visual narratives can serve as powerful tools for storytelling, community engagement, and co-design processes.

Creative Workshops and Maker Spaces:
Organize workshops and provide maker spaces where community members can explore their creativity, experiment with different materials and technologies, and collaboratively design solutions to local challenges.

Public Art Installations:
Facilitate the creation of public art installations that involve community members in the artistic process. These installations can serve as focal points for community engagement, reflection, and collective visioning.

Creative Residencies:
 Invite artists to reside in a community and work closely with local residents to co-design creative projects that address community needs, celebrate local culture, and promote social cohesion.

Digital Storytelling:
Empower community members to express their stories and perspectives through digital media, combining multimedia elements such as audio, video, and images. These digital stories can amplify diverse voices and foster community connections.

Conclusion:

These co-design formats not only encourage community engagement and collaboration but also leverage the power of creativity and artistic expression to generate innovative

solutions, promote dialogue, and create a sense of ownership and pride within the community.

Embracing co-design approaches and implementing innovative activities are crucial for effective community engagement and collaborative problem-solving. The chapter explored the intricacies of co-design planning, the sequence of events in co-design processes, and a diverse range of specific innovative activities. By adopting these approaches, practitioners can foster meaningful connections, empower communities, and co-design solutions that address complex societal challenges.

Part II

Examples of Good Practices in Social Innovation and Artistic Community Interventions Organised or Supported by Art Is Us Project Partners

Project: A Community Collaborative Exhibition - New Life

Organization: APIS Institute (Slovenia)

Categories: Community Intervention, Artistic Collaborations, Digital Storytelling, Exhibition for Social Change

Summary:

In the project "New Life" organized by APIS Institute, a community collaborative exhibition was created to provide a platform for Ukrainian artists who sought refuge in Slovenia after the February attack on Ukraine. The exhibition aimed to explore the concept of "New Life" through their artworks, reflecting on their experiences and hopes amidst significant life changes. The exhibition was a collaborative response to the Ukrainian community's request for support in co-designing an artistic event that could authentically represent their views, perceptions, and feelings.

The coordinated exhibition, held in December on the International Day of Human Rights, showcased the artistic expressions and interpretations of these artists. Through their artworks, they shared their stories, emotions, and visions, engaging in a dialogue with the community and giving voice to their experiences of living in Slovenia.

The project served as a space for reflection, connection, and cultural understanding, encouraging the exchange of ideas and perspectives in between newcomers and the local community.

The exhibition not only provided an opportunity for the Ukrainian artists to showcase their talents but also highlighted the significance of promoting human rights, cultural diversity, and the power of art in addressing social issues. By centering the exhibition around the International Day of Human Rights and International Migrants Day, it emphasized the resilience, hope, and universal pursuit of a better future.

The artworks presented in the exhibition conveyed the ways in which this transformative time has shaped the artists personally and as a community, expressing their interpretations of life and the meaning of "New Life" within the context of their experiences and the challenges they have faced.
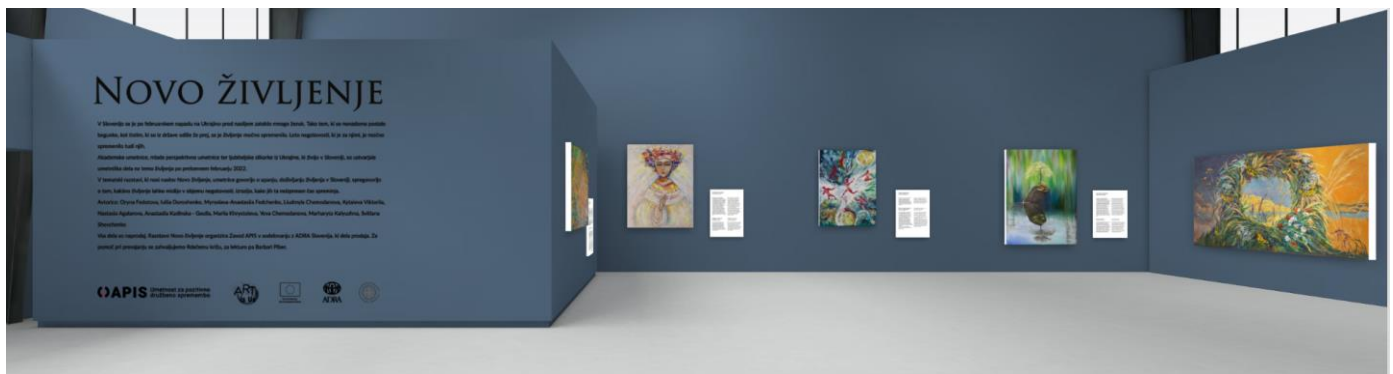
Authors: Oryna Fedotova, Iuliia Doroshenko, Liudmyla Chemodanova, Viktoriia Kytaieva, Nastasia Agalarova, Geulla, Mariia Khrystoieva, Yeva Chemodanova, Marharyta Kalyuzhna, Svitlana Shevchenko.

Virtual exhibition can be accessed on the following link:

https://artspaces.kunstmatrix.com/en/exhibition/11178900/novo-%C5%BEivljenje

Analyses

The project "New Life" by APIS Institute is highly relevant in terms of community co-design, creativity, and the empowerment of vulnerable artists and communities.

Community Co-design: The project exemplifies community co-design by actively involving the Ukrainian artists in shaping the exhibition. The artists co-designed the project, bringing forth their unique perspectives, experiences, and visions. Through their collaboration with the community, they engaged in a dialogue, shared their stories, and contributed to shaping the narrative of the exhibition. The project fostered a space for reflection, connection, and cultural understanding, emphasizing the importance of community engagement and participation in the artistic process.

Creativity: The project highlights the power of creativity as a means of expression and communication, and also as a medium of social inclusion and integration into new environments. The artworks created by the Ukrainian artists showcase their artistic talents and provide a platform for them to express their interpretations of life and the concept of "New Life." Through various artistic mediums, the artists explored their emotions, hopes, and challenges, demonstrating the transformative and expressive potential of creativity, but also expressed their challenges they have been facing in the new localities.

Empowerment of Community/Communities: The project empowers both the vulnerable Ukrainian artists and the broader community. For the artists, it provides a platform to share their experiences and talents, giving them a voice and visibility within their new community in Slovenia. By engaging in the artistic process and co-designing the exhibition, the artists gain a sense of ownership and empowerment over their narratives. For the broader

community, the exhibition serves as an opportunity for cultural exchange, fostering understanding and empathy towards the experiences of refugees and immigrants. It promotes inclusivity, diversity, and the celebration of different perspectives within the community.

Empowerment of Vulnerable Artists: The project specifically focuses on empowering vulnerable artists who have experienced significant life changes as refugees. By providing them with a platform to express themselves through art, the project offers a means of healing, personal growth, and resilience. It acknowledges their artistic skills and provides them with an opportunity to contribute to the community and shape the narrative around their experiences. Through the exhibition, the vulnerable artists are given a space to reclaim their identities and find empowerment through their artistic expressions.

Overall, the "New Life" project demonstrates the transformative and empowering potential of community co-design, creativity, and the inclusion of vulnerable artists. By fostering collaboration, cultural understanding, and the celebration of diverse perspectives, the project promotes community empowerment and the recognition of the valuable contributions of vulnerable artists within society.

Project: Art and Acceptance - School Street Festival

Organization: Ballon Art People (Greece)

Categories: Artistic Collaborations, Arts-Based Activism, Community-Based Participatory Research

Summary

The School Street Festival of Art and Acceptance, organized by Balloon Art People, is an innovative cultural program that takes place in various schools in Attica and the region. The festival aims to create a platform for the educational community, including students, teachers, and parents, to interact with the broader community outside the school boundaries. It seeks to showcase the positive practices happening in Greek public schools related to human rights and anti-discrimination. The festival also aims to bridge cultural differences and bring together diverse communities living and working in the city and country. It recommends and highlights groups, organizations, and artistic collectives that engage with the Greek school system around human rights and discrimination issues or provide services in areas with vulnerable populations, such as refugee reception centers. Additionally, the festival aims to introduce unfamiliar art forms to the participants, foster enjoyment, and facilitate new connections and friendships. The festival is curated by Eleni Karagianni, an artist, coordinator, and advocate for refugee education.

Analyses

The School Street Festival of Art and Acceptance, organized by Balloon People, encompasses community co-design, creativity, and the empowerment of communities in the following ways:

Community Co-Design: The festival creates a platform for the educational community, including students, teachers, and parents, to interact with the broader community outside the school

boundaries. It fosters collaboration and engagement among various stakeholders to co-design and shape the festival's activities and initiatives. By involving community members in the planning and execution of the festival, it ensures that their voices, perspectives, and needs are considered, creating a sense of ownership and inclusivity.

Creativity: The festival embraces art as a means of creative expression and engagement. It introduces unfamiliar art forms and practices to participants, broadening their artistic horizons and encouraging them to explore their creativity. Through artistic workshops, performances, and exhibitions, the festival provides a space for individuals to express themselves, share their stories, and showcase their artistic talents. This emphasis on creativity promotes personal growth, self-expression, and the celebration of diverse artistic forms.

Empowerment of Communities: By highlighting positive practices in Greek public schools related to human rights and anti-discrimination, the festival empowers and celebrates the efforts of educators, students, and communities in promoting acceptance and inclusivity. It brings attention to organizations and collectives working in areas with vulnerable populations, recognizing their valuable contributions to the community. The festival creates opportunities for community members to connect, learn from each other, and form supportive networks, fostering a sense of empowerment and solidarity.

Cultural Bridge-Building: The festival serves as a bridge between diverse communities living and working in the city and country. By bringing together individuals from different backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives, it promotes dialogue, understanding, and appreciation for diversity. The festival acts as a catalyst for cultural exchange, fostering connections and friendships among participants. It provides a platform for sharing experiences, traditions, and stories, promoting intercultural understanding and unity.

Overall, the School Street Festival of Art and Acceptance showcases the importance of community co-design, creativity, and empowerment. Through its inclusive and collaborative approach, it celebrates diversity, fosters creativity, and promotes social cohesion, making a positive impact on the educational community and the broader society.

More links:

https://artschoolfestival.blogspot.com/p/blog-page_2.html

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCblHHmnkjk-o5w7Y0au-tlA

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9YwUozyMJV

Project: Christmas Art Market - Community Intervention

Organization: Jugend- & Kulturprojekt e.V. (Germany)

Categories: Community Co-design, Creativity, Empowerment

Summary:

The Christmas Art Market in the Full Moon Gallery was opened on 10 December 2022. From 10 December to 5 January, numerous exclusive works by local artists were exhibited in the outside windows of the KulturCentrale as part of the Christmas Art Market and were on sale for a small fee. This on the one hand helped the artist community of Dresden to advertise their work and earn money, as well as raised the cultural awareness of the quarter. Thi son the hand supported the community of artists in Dresden to promote their work, and also earn some money for the work they do, and on the other hand fostered community building and cultural awareness.

https://dresdencontemporaryart.com/events/weihnachts%E2%98%85kunst%E2%98%85markt/?lang=en

Analyses:

Overall the Christmas Art Market, realized by Jugend- & Kulturprojekt e.V., was a community intervention that fostered community co-design, creativity, and the empowerment of local artists and the community.

Community Co-design: The Christmas Art Market provided an opportunity for the local artist community in Dresden to actively participate in the design and organization of the event. Artists had the chance to showcase and sell their exclusive works, contributing to the overall experience and atmosphere of the market. By involving artists in the planning and decision-making processes, the project promoted a sense of ownership and collaboration within the community.

Creativity: The Art Market served as a platform for artists to showcase their creativity and artistic expressions. Through the exhibition of diverse artworks, the project encouraged artistic exploration, innovation, and diversity. The market created an environment that celebrated the creative talents of local artists and provided a space for them to share their unique perspectives and creations with the community.

Empowerment of Artists: The Art Market played a crucial role in empowering local artists by providing them with a platform to promote their work and earn income from their artistic endeavors. By offering their artworks for sale, artists had the opportunity to financially benefit from their talent and dedication. This not only supported their artistic practices but also contributed to their overall empowerment and recognition within the community.

Community Building and Cultural Awareness: The Christmas Art Market served as a catalyst for community building and cultural awareness. By bringing together artists and community members, the project fostered connections, interactions, and dialogue. The market created a shared space where people could appreciate and engage with art, fostering a sense of community pride and cultural appreciation. Through the exhibition and sale of artworks, the market contributed to raising cultural awareness and appreciation within the neighborhood.

Overall, the Christmas Art Market exemplified the relevance of community co-design, creativity, and empowerment. By actively involving artists in the planning and execution of the event, promoting artistic creativity, empowering artists financially, and fostering community connections and cultural awareness, the project successfully harnessed the transformative and empowering potential of art within the community.

Project: Christmas in Dresden - Presentation and Study Visit for the Ukrainian Community
Organization: Jugend- & Kulturprojekt e.V. (Germany)
Categories: Cultural Exchange, Community Engagement, Festive Traditions

Summary:

The Dresden historian Stefan May from Jugend- & Kulturprojekt e.V. and the Ukrainian community representative Nastya Kuranda organised a workshop about Dresden's Christmas traditions and the Dresden Striezelmarkt, possibly the oldest Christmas markets in the world. The workshop included a visit to the Kreuzkirche tower that was enabled for free by the Kreuzkirche church community, as well as the tasting of original Dresden Christstollen. The participants were introduced to the many different aspects of Saxon and Dresden Christmas traditions, including Christmas pyramids, Schwibbögen, Räuchermännchen, Pflaumentoffel and many more.

.https://www.jkpev.de/en/2022/12/16/on-the-tower-of-the-kreuzkirche-with-our-ukrainian-neighbours/

Analyses:

The Christmas in Dresden project, organized by Jugend- & Kulturprojekt e.V., in collaboration with the Ukrainian community representative Nastya Kuranda, offered a presentation and study visit focused on Dresden's Christmas traditions. The project aimed to foster cultural exchange, community engagement, and a deeper understanding of festive traditions.

Cultural Exchange: The project facilitated cultural exchange by introducing participants from the Ukrainian community to the unique Christmas traditions of Dresden. Through the presentation and study visit, participants had the opportunity to learn about Saxon and Dresden-specific customs, allowing for a meaningful exchange of cultural knowledge and traditions between different communities.

Community Engagement: By organizing the workshop and study visit, the project actively engaged the Ukrainian community, providing them with a platform to explore and connect with the local Christmas traditions of Dresden. The involvement of community

representatives and the collaboration with Jugend- & Kulturprojekt e.V. demonstrated a commitment to fostering community engagement and creating spaces for cultural interaction.

Festive Traditions: The workshop and study visit offered participants a comprehensive understanding of Saxon and Dresden Christmas traditions. From visiting the Kreuzkirche tower, made possible through the collaboration with the Kreuzkirche church community, to tasting the original Dresden Christstollen, participants experienced the essence of Dresden's festive culture. The presentation highlighted various elements, such as Christmas pyramids, Schwibbögen, Räuchermännchen, and Pflaumentoffel, providing a rich overview of the region's unique holiday customs.

Promoting Cultural Understanding: Through the project, participants had the opportunity to deepen their cultural understanding by immersing themselves in the traditions and history of Dresden's Christmas celebrations. The interactive nature of the workshop encouraged dialogue and discussions, further enhancing the participants' connection to the cultural context.

Overall, the Christmas in Dresden project successfully facilitated cultural exchange, community engagement, and a deeper appreciation of festive traditions. By offering an immersive experience and sharing Dresden's unique Christmas customs, the project contributed to building bridges between communities and fostering cultural understanding and appreciation.

Project: City Tour in Dresden for Ukrainians and their Friends
Organization: Jugend- & Kulturprojekt e.V. (Germany)
Categories: Cultural Exchange, Community Integration, Historical Education

Summary:

As part of the JKPeV project "Support Your Ukrainian Neighbours", our staff member, the historian Stefan May and our translator Anastasiia Kuranda, held a city tour for a group of 25 Ukrainian refugees. This City tour took place with the aim of raising newly arrived Ukranians awareness of Dresden's culture, history, architecture and art. We started at the artesian well in the Neustadt, went through the beautiful Königstraße towards the Japanese palace and from there to the Canalettoview, the Augustusbridge and towards the inner city and ended at the Zwinger. We discussed the history of Dresden from its founding, the baroque age, and the discovery of Porcelain in Europe, but also aspects like Dresden as the capital of Saxony or the Yenidze as example of industry in Dresden. The curious participants were very interested and asked many questions.

https://www.facebook.com/jkpev.de/posts/pfbid0noz6Za68BejrL1nqBYpS6EbwRn eVeiAw3Rm7Tnn1wtSopT5NcqjSVfEvDUoBLKntl

Analyses:

The City Tour in Dresden for Ukrainians and their friends, organized by Jugend- & Kulturprojekt e.V., is a significant initiative that promotes cultural exchange, community integration, and historical education. Led by the historian Stefan May and translator Anastasiia Kuranda, the tour aimed to familiarize a group of 25 Ukrainian refugees with Dresden's culture, history, architecture, and art.

Cultural Exchange: The city tour served as a platform for cultural exchange, allowing participants to explore and gain insights into Dresden's rich cultural heritage. By engaging with the city's landmarks, participants had the opportunity to experience Dresden's unique artistic and architectural contributions firsthand, fostering a deeper appreciation for its cultural diversity.

Community Integration: The tour played a crucial role in facilitating community integration for Ukrainian refugees by providing them with a chance to connect with locals and other members of their community. The shared experience of exploring the city together and engaging in discussions about its history and significance created opportunities for social interaction and the formation of new friendships.

Historical Education: Led by a knowledgeable historian, the tour offered participants an in-depth understanding of Dresden's history. From its founding to the baroque age, the discovery of porcelain in Europe, and its role as the capital of Saxony, the tour covered various historical aspects that shaped the city. By delving into Dresden's past, participants gained valuable historical knowledge, enabling them to develop a deeper connection with their new surroundings.

Curiosity and Engagement: The participants' curiosity and active engagement during the tour demonstrated their interest in learning about Dresden's history and culture. Their enthusiastic involvement, evident through their questions and interactions, showcased their desire to integrate into the local community and develop a sense of belonging.

Overall, the City Tour in Dresden for Ukrainians and their friends successfully fostered cultural exchange, community integration, and historical education. By creating an inclusive and informative experience, the project contributed to the empowerment and integration of Ukrainian refugees while promoting mutual understanding and appreciation between different communities.

Project: Circus Stuff - Promoting Community through Artistic Intervention
Organization: APIS Institute (Slovenia)
Categories: Art Intervention in the Community, Artistic Collaborations, Arts-Based Activism, Community-Based Participatory Research

Summary

The Circus Stuff project, led by the APIS Institute, embodies the principles of social circus, leveraging the personal experiences and expertise of the artists involved to empower vulnerable youth, including those from challenging family backgrounds and refugee backgrounds. The project highlights the transformative power of social circus and its ability to foster personal growth, community engagement, and cross-cultural connections.

Drawing upon their own migration experiences, the artists, Markos Teklu and Camilo Acosta Mendoza, bring a unique perspective and understanding to their work with vulnerable youth. Markos, a refugee who received basic artistic education in social circus as a child in Eritrea, now applies his skills and knowledge to support other refugee kids in Slovenia. His personal journey and familiarity with the challenges faced by refugee children enable him to establish a strong rapport and provide mentorship through the medium of social circus.

Similarly, Camilo, a circus artist from Colombia who migrated to Slovenia, contributes his expertise and artistic talents to the project. His firsthand experience as a migrant allows him to connect with the youth on a deeper level, understanding the complexities of their backgrounds and the potential for circus arts to serve as a vehicle for self-expression, empowerment, and resilience.

Through interactive workshops, the Circus Stuff project embraces the principles of social circus, emphasizing inclusion, collaboration, and skill development. The workshops provide a safe and supportive environment where vulnerable youth can explore their creativity, develop physical and artistic skills, and gain a sense of belonging and self-confidence. By engaging participants in circus activities, such as juggling, and performance, the project cultivates teamwork, communication, and problem-solving abilities, fostering personal growth and social integration.

Moreover, the Circus Stuff project promotes intercultural dialogue and understanding. The diverse backgrounds of the participants, including refugees, migrants, and local community members, create a rich tapestry of experiences and perspectives. Through their shared engagement in circus arts, participants have the opportunity to build connections, challenge stereotypes, and celebrate cultural diversity. The project acts as a catalyst for fostering empathy, breaking down barriers, and promoting social cohesion within the community.

In summary, the Circus Stuff project exemplifies the principles of social circus by leveraging the personal experiences and skills of the artists, who have their own migration backgrounds, to empower vulnerable youth. Through the transformative power of circus arts, the project nurtures creativity, resilience, and cross-cultural understanding, fostering a sense of community, belonging, and personal growth among the participants.

Visual material: https://youtu.be/5NbTNA8GvWo

Analyses

The CIRCUS-STUFF project exemplifies the power of artistic community intervention in promoting social inclusion, intercultural dialogue. Furthermore, activities fostered a sense of belonging, empowered at-risk youth, and stimulated positive change within the community. This case study highlights the significant role that creativity, art, and community design play in fostering social cohesion, breaking down barriers, and building bridges between individuals from different backgrounds. By embracing the transformative potential of circus arts and promoting intercultural dialogue, the CIRCUS-STUFF project successfully nurtured a sense of belonging and unity while supporting the community's overall well-being and collective growth. The Circus Stuff project is highly relevant in terms of community co-design, creativity, and the empowerment of both the community and vulnerable artists. Here's how:

Community Co-design: The project embraces a participatory approach by involving the community in the design and implementation of the workshops. The artists collaborate with community members, including vulnerable youth, to co-create the content and activities. This ensures that the project addresses the specific needs, interests, and aspirations of the community, fostering a sense of ownership and active engagement.

Creativity: The Circus Stuff project harnesses the power of creativity as a tool for self-expression, personal growth, and empowerment. Through circus arts, participants are encouraged to explore their creative potential, think outside the box, and develop unique skills. The artistic nature of the project allows individuals to express themselves authentically, fostering a sense of agency and confidence in their abilities.

Empowerment of Community: By providing a platform for vulnerable artists and community members to showcase their talents and contribute to the project, Circus Stuff empowers the community as a whole. The project recognizes and celebrates the diverse skills, experiences, and cultural backgrounds within the community, promoting inclusivity and a sense of belonging. Through their active involvement, community members become agents of change and advocates for their own artistic and social development.

Empowerment of Vulnerable Artists: The project specifically focuses on empowering vulnerable artists, including those with challenging family backgrounds and refugee experiences. By providing these artists with opportunities to share their skills and mentor others, the project enhances their sense of purpose, agency, and professional development. The artists' personal experiences of migration and resilience serve as inspiration and role models for the vulnerable youth they work with, creating a supportive and empathetic environment for growth.

Overall, the Circus Stuff project embodies community co-design, creativity, and the empowerment of both the community and vulnerable artists. It fosters a sense of

ownership, nurtures creativity, and provides platforms for the community and artists to share their stories, talents, and aspirations. Through the transformative power of circus arts, the project promotes community resilience, social integration, and personal empowerment, creating a positive impact on individuals and the wider community.

Project: Co-Designing With Georgians In Diaspora

Organization: APIS Institute (Slovenia)

Categories: Community Co-Design, Cultural Exchange, Social Inclusion

Summary:

"Co-Designing with Georgians in Diaspora," centers around the vibrant Georgian community residing in Slovenia. The project is led by Nino Bektashashvili, a talented photographer, who started applying the community co-design approach to her work within the scope of Art is Us project.

This project focuses on the Georgian diaspora living in Slovenia, aiming to foster social inclusion, cultural exchange, and social cohesion. Through a carefully crafted two-stage approach, the project shines a spotlight on the exceptional artist, Lasha Orjonikidze, while also building a closely-knit community of Georgians in Slovenia. With a steadfast goal of fostering social inclusion, cultural exchange, and social cohesion, this project takes a thoughtful two-stage approach. Each stage of the project ended with exhibition and presentation of the results to the public.

Portraying a Georgian Artist Living in Slovenia

The initial stage of the project focuses on showcasing the life and artistic talent of Lasha Orjonikidze, a Georgian painter residing in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Through a series of black and

white photographs, the project offers a glimpse into Lasha's world as an artist. The photographs capture the intricate details of his work and highlight the inspiration he draws from his mother and wife. This stage aims to celebrate Lasha's exceptional talent and raise awareness of his presence as a hidden gem within the foreign land.

Co-designing and Portraying the Georgian Community in Slovenia

Building upon the success of stage 1, the project progresses to a more comprehensive and long-term endeavor. It shifts its focus to the broader Georgian community residing in Slovenia. Led by Nino Bektashashvili, a talented Georgian photographer, the community members gather to share their stories and experiences in an informal and comfortable environment. This stage aims to foster a sense of unity among Georgians living in a foreign country by emphasizing common values, cultural heritage, and unique aspects of their backgrounds.

Some aspects of Co-designing through Creativity and Art with Communities:
This project exemplifies the expert use of co-designing principles in fostering community engagement and collaboration through creativity and art. By involving the Georgian diaspora community in Slovenia, the project taps into the diverse cultural contributions of

its members. It recognizes the value and importance of cultural exchange, allowing different perspectives and traditions to intertwine.

Analyses:

The project empowers the creative members of the diaspora by providing a platform for them to showcase their talents and share their stories. By highlighting the artistic abilities and accomplishments of individuals like Lasha Orjonikidze, the project not only acknowledges their creative contributions but also promotes their recognition within the broader community. This empowerment fosters a sense of belonging and strengthens the social fabric of the community.

Furthermore, the project contributes to greater social inclusion of newcomers by creating an environment where their voices are heard and their experiences are valued. By providing a space for dialogue and collaboration, it enables individuals to connect, form bonds, and overcome potential feelings of isolation or displacement. Through the project, the diaspora community members can build relationships and establish a support system, leading to a more inclusive and cohesive social environment.

The project's approach to co-designing emphasizes the importance of common values, culture, and unique details shared among the Georgian community members. By recognizing and celebrating these elements, it establishes a sense of identity and unity among the participants. The use of photography and art as mediums for storytelling and

self-expression enhances the emotional and cultural resonance of the project, making it accessible and relatable to a broader audience.

Overall, this co-designing project effectively combines creativity, art, and community engagement to promote social inclusion, cultural exchange, and social cohesion. By valuing and amplifying the contributions of different cultures, it establishes a platform for dialogue, understanding, and collaboration, enriching both the participants' experiences and the broader society.

Visual material:

https://www.facebook.com/ZavodAPIS/posts/pfbid0bg36J1y9ojQdsVjJZ7pu3qQsFAGh8GdWmY9ERQt3ZYoxYvzsQbJhR83Egdm3ENeel

https://www.facebook.com/ZavodAPIS/posts/pfbid02iAbLAq31ESuFNEK5WbQETtxTUwRsVHrZKXJ68nEpmJhDyz8VGyigvYANTA9Y75n4l

Project: Contemporary Creative Spaces, Urban Regeneration, and Participation - SPACE Tor Pignattara
Organization: Melting Pro (Italy)
Categories: Artistic Collaborations, Public Art Installations, Community-Based Participatory Research

Summary

SPACE Tor Pignattara, developed by Melting Pro, is a creative initiative focused on urban regeneration through culture and creativity. The project took place in the Tor Pignattara district on the outskirts of Rome, using street art as the artistic language. Young artists under 30, guided by a professional artist and partners, explored the neighborhood and its various dimensions, including urban, cultural, sociological, artistic, religious, and gastronomic aspects. The artists engaged with the local communities, both Italian and non-

Italian, and reflected on the concept of fragility in urban art, suburbs, and contemporary society. The outcome of their collaboration was a mural called "Herbarium," which symbolizes the multicultural nature of the neighborhood through plants and spices. The mural, reminiscent of ancient scientific plant representations, became a new landmark in the community. The project fostered community engagement and representation, as all the artists involved contributed to the mural, creating a sense of ownership and connection among community members.

https://meltingpro.org/en/projects/national/space-tor-pignattara/

watch the video on youtube: https://youtu.be/iWjDXgLTlYU

Analyses

The SPACE Tor Pignattara project, developed by Melting Pro, is highly relevant in terms of community co-design, creativity, and empowerment. Here's how the project contributes to these aspects:

Community Co-Design: The project actively engages the local communities of the Tor Pignattara district in the artistic process. Young artists collaborate with community members to explore the neighborhood's various dimensions and reflect on its unique characteristics. Through this collaborative approach, the project ensures that community voices are heard and incorporated into the artistic expression. The mural creation becomes a co-design process where community members have a say in representing their neighborhood's identity and multicultural nature.

Creativity: The project embraces street art as a creative medium to regenerate urban spaces and foster community engagement. The young artists involved in the project utilize their creativity to explore the neighborhood's cultural, sociological, and artistic aspects. By

reflecting on the concept of fragility in urban art and contemporary society, they bring fresh perspectives and artistic expressions that inspire dialogue and reflection within the community. The mural, named "Herbarium," becomes a creative symbol that celebrates the diversity and multiculturalism of the neighborhood.

Community Empowerment: Through the project, the local communities are empowered to take ownership of their neighborhood and cultural identity. By actively participating in the artistic process and contributing to the creation of the mural, community members gain a sense of pride, representation, and connection to their surroundings. The project provides a platform for community members to express their perspectives, engage with artists, and contribute to the revitalization and transformation of their urban environment. It empowers community members to become active agents in shaping their community's narrative and future.

Urban Regeneration: The project focuses on urban regeneration through culture and creativity. By utilizing street art as a medium, the project brings new life and vibrancy to the Tor Pignattara district. The mural becomes a focal point for community engagement, reflection, and collective visioning. It serves as a visual representation of the neighborhood's diversity and cultural heritage, contributing to the overall revitalization and positive transformation of the urban landscape.

Overall, the SPACE Tor Pignattara project exemplifies a community co-design approach that combines creativity, empowerment, and urban regeneration. By engaging the community, embracing street art, and fostering a sense of ownership, the project revitalizes the neighborhood, celebrates its multiculturalism, and empowers community members to actively shape their environment and cultural identity.

Project: Culture Jam Sessions @ KulturCentrale

Organization: Jugend- & Kulturprojekt e.V. (Germany) Categories: Music Community, Cultural Cohesion, Musical Collaboration, Art Intervention

Summary

An initiative by the musician and musical therapist Izabela Modrzewska whcich turned into a weekly gathering of musicians a nd music and music enthusiasts.. The Culture Jam Sessions bring together musicians and people interested in music every Thursday 18:30 – 21:00 in the KulturCentrale in Dresden, Germany. This initiative fosters community cohesion and gives the opportunity to musicians, amateurs, professionals and people who loves musica to interact with each other musically. People bond over music, become friends and some even start musical projects together.

https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=570266621355327

Analyses

Here is how the Culture Jam Sessions @ KulturCentrale project is relevant in terms of community co-design, creativity, and empowerment of community and vulnerable artists:

Community Co-design: The project actively engages the community by providing a platform for musicians and music enthusiasts to come together and interact musically. Through the weekly gatherings, participants have the opportunity to collaborate, share their musical talents, and even start musical projects together. The sessions foster a sense of community ownership as individuals contribute to the development and success of the initiative. By involving the community in the design and organization of the sessions, the project creates a space that reflects the interests and needs of the participants.

Creativity: The Culture Jam Sessions encourage creative expression and exploration. Musicians from different backgrounds and skill levels come together, bringing their unique perspectives and styles to the sessions. This diversity of musical influences sparks creativity and inspires participants to experiment with new sounds, genres, and improvisation. The project provides a supportive environment where artists can push their creative boundaries, collaborate with others, and find inspiration for their own musical journeys.

Empowerment of Community/Communities: The project empowers the community by giving individuals a platform to showcase their musical talents, regardless of their level of expertise. Amateurs and professionals alike are encouraged to participate, fostering a sense of inclusivity and equality. The Culture Jam Sessions also create opportunities for personal growth and skill development, empowering individuals to enhance their musical abilities

and confidence. Through collaboration and connection, participants feel empowered to contribute to the vibrant music community and pursue their artistic aspirations.

Empowerment of Vulnerable Artists: The Culture Jam Sessions provide a safe and supportive space for vulnerable artists to express themselves and connect with others who share their passion for music. The project breaks down barriers and promotes inclusivity, ensuring that all individuals, regardless of their background or circumstances, can participate and contribute. Vulnerable artists have the opportunity to showcase their talents, collaborate with fellow musicians, and build a network of support within the music community. The project empowers these artists by recognizing their abilities and providing a platform for their voices to be heard.

Overall, the Culture Jam Sessions @ KulturCentrale project demonstrates the power of community co-design, creativity, and empowerment. It brings people together through music, fostering collaboration, personal growth, and a sense of belonging. By providing a space for community members and vulnerable artists to connect, create, and empower one another, the project contributes to the cultural vitality and social fabric of the community.

Project: Fostering Intercultural Dialogue through Music - Basma-Orwa-Atanasovski Concert
Organization: APIS Institute (Slovenia) Categories: Artistic Community Intervention, Intercultural Exchange, Music Performance

Summary

The Basma-Orwa-Atanasovski concert, organized by APIS Institute in collaboration with the local community and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Ljubljana, Slovenia, was a local cultural event that was part of collective vibrant musical celebration that aimed to foster cultural exchange and enrichment between the South and North Mediterranean regions.

The concert served as part of the Mediterranean Day celebration, joining 36 simultaneous events across 25 Euro-Mediterranean countries, highlighting the rich diversity of the Mediterranean and fostering stronger mutual ties. Music served as the creative medium for this transformative experience.

Cultural Exchange and Enrichment: The concert created a unique opportunity for cultural exchange and enrichment by bringing together artists from different cultural backgrounds. The collaboration between Basma, Orwa, and Atanasovski showcased the blending of musical traditions and influences from the South and North Mediterranean regions. Through their performances, the artists presented a fusion of diverse musical styles, instruments, and vocal techniques, promoting cultural exchange and mutual understanding among the audience.

Analyses

Description of the Creative Approach: The innovative approach of this concert focused on showcasing the collaboration between a successful Slovenian musician with a migrant background and two Syrian refugees. By challenging prevailing stereotypes that depict refugees as uneducated and unable to contribute to society, the concert aimed to demonstrate that when cultures engage in dialogue, they can create new and innovative outcomes. This collaboration exemplified the power of intercultural exchange, fostering a deeper understanding and promoting collaboration among diverse communities.

The Role of Diversity and Interculturalism: The music group, comprised of Basma, Orwa, and Atanasovski, embodies the essence of diversity and interculturalism. Not only does the trio represent a harmonious collaboration between musicians from different backgrounds, but it also reflects the historical migration from North Macedonia to Slovenia. Atanasovski, a second-generation migrant and accomplished musician, has significantly contributed to Slovenia's music scene, advocating for diversity through his work. The inclusion of Syrian

musicians within this trio further reinforces the efforts to promote diversity and foster intercultural understanding.

Supporting the Community of Refugees and Migrants: The concert provided a platform for artists who were refugees and migrants themselves, such as Basma and Orwa, to showcase their talents and contribute to the cultural fabric of the community. By highlighting their artistic abilities and sharing their unique stories, the project empowered these artists and helped break down stereotypes and biases often associated with refugees and migrants. Their participation in the concert demonstrated their resilience, creativity, and valuable contributions to society.

Representation and Empowerment: By featuring musicians with migrant and refugee backgrounds, the concert offered a platform for these artists to showcase their talents, break stereotypes, and be recognized as valuable contributors to the cultural landscape.

Integration and Social Cohesion: Through the collaboration between musicians from diverse backgrounds, the concert promoted social cohesion by bridging cultural divides and fostering a sense of belonging and unity within the community.

Cultural Exchange and Dialogue: The concert facilitated meaningful intercultural dialogue by creating an environment where different artistic expressions, traditions, and narratives converged. This exchange of cultural experiences led to increased understanding, appreciation, and respect among community members.

Visibility and Recognition: The project provided visibility to the talents and experiences of refugees and migrants, challenging negative perceptions and emphasizing their positive contributions to society. This recognition served as a catalyst for fostering empathy and inclusivity.

Conclusion: The Basma-Orwa-Atanasovski concert exemplifies the power of artistic community intervention in supporting the community of refugees and migrants in Europe. Through intercultural dialogue, the project created opportunities for representation, empowerment, integration, and social cohesion. By challenging stereotypes and promoting diversity, the concert fostered a more inclusive and empathetic society. This case study demonstrates the transformative potential of community design and intercultural dialogue through creativity and art.

In addition to the Basma-Orwa-Atanasovski concert, a round-table discussion was organized to commemorate the Day of the Mediterranean on November 28, 2022, at Cankarjev dom in Ljubljana. The round-table discussion served as a platform for engaging in a meaningful dialogue about the significance of intercultural exchange in the Mediterranean region and the unifying power of art. Journalist Kristina Božič skillfully moderated the discussion, which commenced at 18:30. Distinguished panelists included Ambassador Mateja Prevolšek, Head of the Department for Africa and the Middle East at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jerneja Penca, PhD, Head of Academic Affairs at the Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI), Ervin Hladnik Milharčič, journalist, and Orwa Saleh, a Syrian musician. This enlightening conversation further enriched the overall experience, providing insightful perspectives on the subject matter.

Visual material:

https://youtu.be/6iRVZvraWVc   https://youtu.be/e-ke0JLSJw4
https://youtu.be/S2qhnF75Mu0

Project: "HANNAH - Jewish Life in Dresden" Documentary
Organization: Jugend- & Kulturprojekt e.V. (Germany)

Categories: Video Documentaries, Arts-Based Activism, Storytelling and Oral Histories, Community-Based Participatory Research

Summary

This short documentary about Jewish Life in Dresden is part of the documentary series of the project "HANNAH - Challenging and Debunking Antisemitic Myths" which focuses on Jewish history, culture, and life, the phenomenon of Antisemitism and different approaches on combatting it in five European cities: Athens, Dresden, Hamburg, Krakow and Novi Sad. This episode gives the opportunity to the viewers to experience a short journey through the history of the Jewish community of Dresden with the historian Daniel Ristau. The second part of the documentary is dedicated to the culture, religious life, and celebrations of the Jewish community in Dresden as well as the current challenges that the Jewish community in Dresden is facing today. Finally, the phenomenon of antisemitism in Dresden and the State of Saxony is analysed by Dr. Thomas Feist, whereas different strategies and practices on combatting antisemitism are presented by representatives of civil society organisations, the Municipality of Dresden, the Jewish Community and the Saxon State Government for Jewish life.

https://youtube.com/watch?v=wGc5Fdf8hPQ www.hannah-project.eu

HANNAH - Jewish Life in Dresden - Documentary

Bombing of Dresden
13 - 15 February 1945

wird die jüdische Gemeinde im selben Jahr neu begründet.

Analyses

Community Co-design: The documentary is part of the larger project "HANNAH - Challenging and Debunking Antisemitic Myths," which focuses on Jewish history, culture, and life, as well as combating antisemitism. By involving multiple stakeholders such as historians, representatives from civil society organizations, the Municipality of Dresden, the Jewish Community, and the Saxon State Government, the project fosters a collaborative and co-design approach. These various actors contribute their perspectives, strategies, and practices, creating a more comprehensive understanding of the challenges faced by the Jewish community and enabling the development of effective countermeasures.

Creativity: The documentary provides a creative platform to explore and showcase Jewish life in Dresden. Through storytelling, visuals, and interviews with community members, it presents the culture, religious life, celebrations, and historical journey of the Jewish community. The creative elements of filmmaking enhance the viewers' engagement and emotional connection, allowing for a deeper appreciation of the richness and diversity of Jewish culture.

Empowerment of the Jewish Community: By highlighting the challenges faced by the Jewish community in Dresden, the documentary empowers the community by raising awareness and promoting dialogue. It provides a platform for community members to share their experiences, perspectives, and aspirations, fostering a sense of visibility, resilience, and empowerment. The inclusion of strategies and practices to combat antisemitism further empowers the community by showcasing proactive approaches and encouraging community participation in shaping a more inclusive and tolerant society.

In summary, this documentary on Jewish Life in Dresden contributes to community co-design by involving multiple stakeholders, promotes creativity through storytelling and visual representation, and empowers the Jewish community by raising awareness, fostering dialogue, and presenting strategies to combat antisemitism. It serves as a valuable tool for education, understanding, and the promotion of a more inclusive and harmonious society.

Project: Lecture: Venice – Safe Haven by Avery Gosfield with Potluck Dinner

Organization: Jugend- & Kulturprojekt e.V. (Germany)

Categories: Community Co-design, Cultural Exchange and Diversity, Empowerment of Community, Meaningful Connections

Summary:

Avery Gosfield, director of the annual happening Jewish Week in Dresden spoke about a topic dear to her heart, the history of he Jewish community of one of her favourite cities, Venice, and how this connects to todays stories of community, flight, emigration and questions of cultural exchange and diversity and how this was expressed in the different strands of Judaism and through music. The event was introduced by a cozy potluck dinner, where people had brought Jewish inspired foods, like a Noodle Kugel, Herring under a fur coat, homemade hummus and flatbread, a vegetable salad, vegan spreads and baguette as well as fresh fruit. The evening ended with the participants listening to music while having food and drink and lively discussions.

https://www.jkpev.de/en/2022/11/17/lecture-venice-safe-haven-by-avery- gosfield/

Analyses:

The project "Lecture: Venice – Safe Haven by Avery Gosfield with Potluck Dinner" reflects guiding principles of community co-design, creativity, and the empowerment of communities, including vulnerable artists. By organizing a lecture and potluck dinner, the project creates a space for meaningful community engagement and collaboration.

Community Co-design: The potluck dinner, where participants contribute Jewish-inspired foods, fosters a sense of co-design by involving the community in the event planning and execution. The collective effort in preparing and sharing meals creates a shared experience and strengthens community bonds.

Cultural Exchange and Diversity: The lecture by Avery Gosfield explores the history of the Jewish community in Venice and its connection to contemporary stories of community, flight, emigration, and cultural exchange. By delving into the diverse strands of Judaism and their expression through music, the project promotes cultural understanding and appreciation of diversity.

Empowerment of Community: The project empowers the community by providing a platform for individuals to share their knowledge, stories, and experiences. The lecture allows participants to gain insights into the historical and cultural context of Venice and its relevance to contemporary issues. By engaging in lively discussions and connecting through food and music, the project empowers individuals to actively participate and contribute to the dialogue.

Meaningful Connections: The potluck dinner and shared experience of listening to music create opportunities for individuals to form meaningful connections. Through these connections, participants can forge new friendships, collaborate on creative projects, and support one another in their artistic endeavors. The project nurtures a sense of belonging and community, fostering an environment where vulnerable artists and community members can thrive.

Overall, the project's emphasis on community co-design, cultural exchange, empowerment, and meaningful connections makes it a valuable endeavor in promoting creativity and the well-being of the community.

Project: One and Infinity: The Digitalisation of the Human Mind
Organization: Jugend- & Kulturprojekt e.V. (Germany)
Categories: Art Residency, Artistic Collaborations, Digital Storytelling

Summary:

This is an art intervention realized by Jugend- & Kulturprojekt e.V. (Germany).Under the theme The Full Moon Gallery presents the exhibit ONE AND INFINITY: THE DIGITALISATION OF THE HUMAN MIND from 05 November 2022 to 03 December 2022, featuring artworks from international artists created as part of the DIGITAL ART RESIDENCIES project. With the

use of digital collaboration software, ten artists with widely different international backgrounds (refugees from Ukraine and Venezuela, migrants from South Korea and Israel, artists from Germany) worked together on and offline over a period of five months.

The Jugend- & Kulturprojekt e.V. opened the exhibit with the participating artists towards a public. Art prizes are awarded in the categories NICEST AUDIOVISUAL CREATION, FINEST Graphic Composition And Favorite Collaboration produced by: Jugend- & Kulturprojekt e.V. Visitors had the opportunity to vote via an online tool. At the finissage, the award ceremony took place in the presence of the international artists of the DIGITAL ART RESIDENCIES. The added value was to familiarize artists with the tools of digital art and improve their skills in that specific innovative field.

Artists: Mia-Ann Böhm (Germany), Augusto Gerardi Rousset (Venezuela), Jakyeong Jeong (South Korea/Germany) Belal Kalash (Israel), Oleksandra Kulikovska (Ukraine), Anna Mukhanova (Ukraine), Laura Michelle Schubert (Germany), Michael Siegmund (Germany). https://www.facebook.com/events/444814920953985/

Analyses:

Co-design: The project facilitated a collaborative and inclusive process by bringing together artists from diverse backgrounds, including refugees and migrants, to work together on and offline. The use of digital collaboration software allowed for the co-creation of artworks and the exchange of ideas, fostering a sense of collective ownership and participation in the creative process.

Creativity: The project embraced digital art as an innovative medium, providing artists with the opportunity to explore new techniques, tools, and platforms. By working with digital art, the project encouraged artists to think creatively, experiment with different approaches, and push the boundaries of traditional artistic practices.

Empowerment of Communities: The project empowered communities by involving them in the exhibition and award selection process. Visitors had the opportunity to view the artworks and participate in voting for their favorite pieces. This active engagement fostered a sense of agency and empowerment among community members, as their opinions and preferences were valued and considered.

Empowerment of Vulnerable Artists: The project specifically engaged vulnerable artists, such as refugees and migrants, providing them with a platform to showcase their talents and contribute to the artistic discourse. By participating in the digital art residencies and exhibiting their works, these artists were empowered to express their perspectives, share their stories, and overcome barriers they may face in the art world.

Overall, the project promoted community co-design by facilitating collaboration and shared decision-making, fostered creativity by exploring digital art as a medium, and empowered both the community and vulnerable artists by providing them with opportunities for expression, engagement, and recognition.

Project: P.arch - Playground for Community Architects

Organization: Organization: Melting Pro and Numero Cromatico (Italy)

Categories: Community Workshops, Creative Workshops and Maker Spaces, Community-Based Participatory Research, Public Art Installations

Summary

"P.arch - Playground for community architects" It is a project created to counter the growing level of educational poverty among young people in primary and secondary schools through art and creativity and with the participation of the whole community.

P.arch is a project selected by 'Con i Bambini' within the framework of the Fund for fighting educational poverty and dropout school.

The essence of the project is encapsulated in the words that make up its name:

PLAYGROUND (playground) because P.arch is an extremely dynamic, physical place, but also ideal for fun, experimentation, teamwork, passion and creativity. In the schools involved, outdoor and indoor spaces were regenerated thanks to the participation of children, adults and creative people.

ARCHITECTS because of the planning, skills and future and long-term vision that the project brought to the suburbs of some cities. the children were trained during architecture workshops to better understand the spaces in which they live.

COMMUNITY because it is based on dialogue and relationships between children, communities and territories. communities are involved in all project activities.

Three small neighbourhood collective Museums were opened with the project to tell the stories of the local communities and create a space for dialogue open to all.

https://meltingpro.org/en/news/lets-start-with-p-arch/

Analyses:

The P.arch - Playground for community architects project is highly relevant in terms of community co-design, creativity, and the empowerment of communities, including vulnerable artists. Here's how the project contributes to these aspects:

Community Co-Design: The project actively involves the community in the design and revitalization of outdoor and indoor spaces in schools. By engaging children, adults, and creative individuals, the project encourages collaboration, participation, and dialogue. Community members have the opportunity to share their ideas, perspectives, and needs, ensuring that the spaces reflect their collective vision. This co-design approach empowers the community by giving them a sense of ownership and agency in shaping their environment.

Creativity: P.arch nurtures creativity by incorporating art and creative practices into the project. Through architecture workshops, children are exposed to artistic expression, design thinking, and innovative approaches to understanding their surroundings. The project encourages participants to think imaginatively, explore new ideas, and experiment with different materials and techniques. By fostering creativity, P.arch unlocks the potential for self-expression, problem-solving, and personal growth within the community.

Empowerment of Community/Communities: P.arch empowers the community by providing them with the tools, skills, and knowledge to actively participate in the project. Children, adults, and creative individuals are given the opportunity to contribute their insights and perspectives, strengthening their sense of belonging and influence within their community. Through engagement in the revitalization of spaces and the opening of neighborhood collective museums, community members become active agents in shaping their

community's narrative and identity. This empowerment fosters a sense of pride, ownership, and responsibility, leading to greater community cohesion and resilience.

Empowerment of Vulnerable Artists: The project recognizes and includes vulnerable artists within its activities. By involving artists from diverse backgrounds, including refugees and migrants, P.arch creates an inclusive and supportive environment for artistic expression. The project provides opportunities for these artists to showcase their talent, share their stories, and collaborate with others, fostering a sense of belonging and recognition. Through workshops and engagement with the community, vulnerable artists can gain skills, build networks, and increase their visibility, empowering them to overcome barriers and access new opportunities.

Overall, the P.arch project demonstrates a strong commitment to community co-design, creativity, and the empowerment of both the community and vulnerable artists. By combining these elements, the project creates an inclusive and participatory environment that celebrates community voices, promotes artistic expression, and fosters social and cultural empowerment.

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Project: Petrykivka Workshop - Community Workshop

Organization: Jugend- & Kulturprojekt e.V. (Germany)

Categories: Art Intervention, Cultural Preservation, Community Empowerment

Summary:

Art intervention for the Ukrainian community in Dresden. Anna Mukhanova, a performance artist, singer and painter from Odesa, Ukraine, lives now as a refugee in Dresden. As part of a planned series of workshops about Ukrainian traditions and culture, she held a free of charge workshop about Petrykivka painting, a traditional Ukrainian decorative painting style, that was used to decorate house walls or household items, but now develops also as a modern art form. The first part of the

workshop was a lecture about the art form, while in the second part the participants were able to paint for themselves. In the end, all participants learned how to paint Petrykivka, instructed by Anna Mukhanova, making one or more paintings to take home with them.https://www.facebook.com/events/2172701089557793/

Analyses:

The Petrykivka Workshop, organized by Jugend- & Kulturprojekt e.V., offered a community workshop focused on the traditional Ukrainian decorative painting style known as

Petrykivka. The project aimed to engage the Ukrainian community in Dresden, promote cultural preservation, and empower participants through artistic expression.

Art Intervention: The Petrykivka Workshop served as an art intervention within the Ukrainian community in Dresden. Led by Anna Mukhanova, a talented performance artist, singer, and painter from Odesa, Ukraine, the workshop provided participants with an immersive experience in Petrykivka painting. Through the art form, participants were encouraged to express their creativity, learn new techniques, and connect with their cultural heritage.

Cultural Preservation: The workshop aimed to preserve and promote the traditional Ukrainian decorative painting style of Petrykivka. Through a lecture about the art form, participants gained insights into its history, techniques, and significance within Ukrainian culture. By providing a hands-on painting experience, the workshop allowed participants to actively engage with this cultural tradition, contributing to its preservation and ensuring its continuation.

Community Empowerment: The Petrykivka Workshop empowered participants by providing them with the tools and knowledge to create their own Petrykivka paintings. Under the guidance and instruction of Anna Mukhanova, participants learned the techniques and intricacies of the art form, enabling them to express their creativity and personal experiences. By creating their own paintings, participants gained a sense of accomplishment and ownership over their artistic creations, fostering personal empowerment and self-expression.

Cultural Exchange and Connection: The workshop created a space for cultural exchange and connection among the Ukrainian community in Dresden. Participants had the opportunity to come together, share their experiences, and learn from each other in a supportive and collaborative environment. Through the act of painting and exploring Petrykivka,

participants connected with their cultural heritage and formed meaningful bonds with fellow community members.

The Petrykivka Workshop successfully combined art intervention, cultural preservation, and community empowerment. By engaging participants in the traditional Ukrainian decorative painting style, the project fostered a sense of cultural identity, self-expression, and connection within the Ukrainian community in Dresden.

Project: The Xénos Project

Organization: Ballon Art People (Greece)

Category: Arts-Based Activism, Community-Based Participatory Research

Summary

The Xénos Project, realized by Ballon Art People, is an arts-based activism initiative that uses visual art to shed light on marginalized social groups in Greek society, including immigrants, the elderly, and sex workers. Through events and art exhibitions, the project aims to challenge stereotypes, stigma, and social marginalization. Inspired by the character of the "Stranger" in Albert Camus' work, the project emphasizes the importance of truth and rejects falsehoods. By highlighting the experiences of different social groups, the Xénos Project encourages a deeper understanding and empathy within the community.

Source: http://xenos-project.blogspot.com/p/who-we-are.html

Analyses

The Xénos Project by Ballon Art People is highly relevant in terms of community co-design, creativity, and the empowerment of both the community and vulnerable artists. Here's an analysis from each perspective:

Community Co-design: The project involves the community in its design and implementation, fostering collaborations between artists, community members, and stakeholders. By addressing community challenges and promoting dialogue, the Xénos Project ensures that the voices and experiences of marginalized social groups are heard and included in the artistic process. The community actively participates in shaping the project, making it more relevant and impactful.

Creativity: The Xénos Project utilizes visual art as a creative medium to convey powerful messages and challenge societal norms. Through art exhibitions and events, the project encourages artists and participants to think creatively, pushing the boundaries of artistic expression. By exploring the experiences of marginalized groups through art, the project opens up new perspectives, stimulates dialogue, and fosters innovative solutions.

Empowerment of Community/Communities: The Xénos Project empowers the community by giving a voice to marginalized social groups and shedding light on their experiences. By challenging stereotypes, stigma, and social marginalization, the project aims to empower these communities by raising awareness, fostering empathy, and promoting social change. The project creates a platform for community members to express themselves, share their stories, and challenge societal norms, fostering a sense of empowerment and agency.

Empowerment of Vulnerable Artists: The Xénos Project provides a space for vulnerable artists to showcase their work, skills, and perspectives. By collaborating with artists from marginalized social groups, the project empowers them to express their creativity, challenge stereotypes, and contribute to positive change within their communities. Through their involvement in the project, vulnerable artists gain recognition, build confidence, and become agents of transformation, inspiring others and fostering a sense of empowerment.

Overall, the Xénos Project demonstrates its relevance in terms of community co-design, creativity, and the empowerment of both the community and vulnerable artists. Through arts-based activism, the project promotes inclusivity, challenges societal norms, and empowers marginalized social groups. By fostering dialogue, empathy, and social change, the project contributes to a more inclusive and empowered community.

Project: Uartist - Building a Supportive Network for Ukrainian Artists

Organization: Anna Miklashevich with support from APIS Institute (Slovenia) Categories: Artist Mentorship, Community Engagement, Knowledge Sharing, Community Development, Cross-Cultural Collaboration

Summary:

Anna Miklashevich, a Ukrainian artist who migrated to Slovenia in 2017, has since established herself as a self-employed painter and mentor-art educator in her new home. During her collaboration with APIS Institute within the scope of Art is Us Project she decided to respond to the war in Ukraine in a way to support Ukrainian artist with her knowledge. She initiated the Uartist community with the aim of supporting Ukrainian artists both in the diaspora and within Ukraine. This artistic community primarily consists of painters, but also includes illustrators, photographers, and sculptors. Utilizing online platforms such as Youtube, Instagram, Telegram and Zoom, the community serves as a knowledge library, safe community support online group, and virtual meet-up space. Within the community, Anna offers valuable insights and practical knowledge regarding career development and the art business, particularly in relation to the challenges posed by the war. She also extends emotional support to fellow artists who experience stress and turmoil due to the conflict. By sharing her expertise and creating a nurturing space for artistic growth, Anna actively engages

in co-designing with the community, empowering artists to navigate the art market, adapt to new environments, and find solace in shared experiences.

Analyses:

Uartis community building project Anna initiated demonstrates several approaches used in co-designing with communities:

1.   Empowering Knowledge Sharing: Anna leverages her expertise as an artist and art educator to share practical insights and hands-on knowledge with community members. By offering guidance on navigating the art market, particularly in the challenging times of the war, she equips artists with valuable information to support their careers and adapt to new circumstances.

2.   Online Community Building: Through the use of online platforms, Anna creates a virtual space for Ukrainian artists to connect, collaborate, and share experiences. This approach overcomes geographical limitations, allowing artists from different locations to come together and form a supportive community.

3.   Emotional Support and Well-being: Recognizing the emotional toll of the conflict on artists, Anna provides a safe and understanding environment where artists can seek emotional support and share their struggles. This approach acknowledges the importance of nurturing well-being and resilience within the community.

4.   Inclusivity and Support: Anna's initiative extends support to a diverse range of artists, including those who decided to stay in Ukraine and those who became refugees in European countries. By embracing inclusivity, the community becomes a platform where artists from different backgrounds can find support, share their stories, and build connections.

5.   Personal Engagement and Advocacy: Anna's personal connection to Ukraine and her emotional involvement in the conflict drive her determination to support fellow artists. Her advocacy for Ukrainian artists demonstrates a commitment to preserving and celebrating their cultural heritage, even in challenging circumstances.

Uartist on Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/@uartist

Uartist on Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/uartist83/

Video   about   Anna   Miklashevich   and   Uartist:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C95BC2U0fdQ

Project: Urban Art Ventures Project
Organization: Jugend- & Kulturprojekt e.V. (Germany)

Categories: Public Art Installations, Arts-Based Activism, Community-Based Participatory Research

Summary:

Urban Art Ventures project seeks to reactivate and revitalise urban spaces of Thessaloniki through street art and cultural activities and give to the local people and the international participants, a chance to explore the possibilities of engagement in the cultural life and the development urban landscape of Thessaloniki.

35 urban artists and street performers as well as urban art educators from Serbia, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Spain and the United Kingdom were gathered in Thessaloniki, Greece from 20 to 29 September 2015 to share their experiences, best practices and knowledge regarding the use of urban art as a medium to promote active participation, understanding, respect for the other as well as for public spaces

and to contribute to the urban art of Thessaloniki by creating their urban artworks in collaboration with local urban artists from 22 to 27 September.

Their diverse background secured different aspects on the topics of project and fosters a multifaceted solution process.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-ZsvO6lFfE

Analyses

The gathering of 35 urban artists, street performers, and urban art educators from various countries in Thessaloniki, Greece, for the purpose of sharing experiences and knowledge regarding the use of urban art, is highly relevant in terms of community co-design, creativity, and the empowerment of both the artists and the local community. Here's how it relates to these aspects:

Community Co-design: By bringing together artists from different countries and backgrounds, the project created a space for collaboration and exchange of ideas. The artists had the opportunity to work with local urban artists, fostering a co-design process

where diverse perspectives and approaches were incorporated into the creation of urban artworks. This collaboration allowed for the integration of local knowledge, experiences, and community input, ensuring that the artworks resonated with and represented the local context.

Creativity: Urban art is inherently creative, and the project provided a platform for artists to express their creativity in public spaces. The diverse backgrounds of the participating artists brought unique artistic styles, techniques, and inspirations, resulting in a rich and vibrant tapestry of urban artworks. Through their creations, the artists explored innovative ways to engage with the urban environment, challenge conventions, and communicate messages of social relevance.

Empowerment of Communities: Urban art has the potential to empower communities by transforming public spaces and inviting active participation. By involving local urban artists in the project, the community members were able to contribute to the creative process and have a sense of ownership over the artworks. The project aimed to promote understanding, respect, and active engagement with public spaces, empowering the community to reimagine and shape their urban environment.

Multifaceted Solution Process: The diverse backgrounds of the participating artists ensured a multifaceted solution process. Each artist brought their unique perspectives, cultural influences, and artistic approaches, enriching the dialogue and fostering a more comprehensive exploration of the topics at hand. The exchange of experiences and best practices allowed for a collaborative problem-solving approach, generating innovative solutions and promoting continuous learning and growth within the urban art community.

In summary, the gathering of urban artists and art educators in Thessaloniki promoted community co-design, creativity, and empowerment through the collaborative creation of urban artworks, the engagement of local artists and community members, and the diverse

perspectives and solution process facilitated by the participants' varied backgrounds.

Project: Virtual Art Residency - Connecting Ukrainian Artists with the Global Community

Organization: Collaboration between Uartist & APIS Institute (Slovenia)

Categories: Artist Collaboration, Cross-Cultural Communication, Virtual Gallery, Virtual Collaboration, Cultural Preservation

Summary:

The virtual art residency program was hosted by APIS Institute and coordinated by an initiator of the artist community, an Ukrainian artist living in Slovenia, Anna Miklashevich. It provided a virtual platform for five Ukrainian artists who continue to create in Ukraine despite facing extreme circumstances. The program served as a form of support for these artists, granting them a voice and an opportunity to express themselves. The outcomes of the art residency were presented in a virtual gallery and showcased in the Art is Us Exhibition held in Ljubljana. The chosen theme for the residency, as described by the participating artists themselves, was "RE:CONNECTION." This project aimed to revive the cultural heritage of their ancestors and foster communication with peoples around the world through the unique language of painting.

The artists sought to rebuild bridges with Slavic nations in Europe that had been severed during the Soviet Union era. The initial step in this process was the revival of the Ukrainian language and the incorporation of ornamental motifs as a cultural code representing their nation. "RE:CONNECTION" symbolized the rebirth and reinterpretation of their heritage within the context of contemporary circumstances, while emphasizing the intrinsic value of their cultural identity.

It is worth noting that the group of artists involved in this project showcased exemplary unity and solidarity. Although they were born in different parts of Ukraine, including Kyiv, Crimea,

Kharkiv, and Mykolaiv, they united under a common vision and purpose. The "RE:CONNECTION" project sought to engage both Ukrainians and individuals from other countries, emphasizing the importance of preserving one's roots, language, and culture. The artists aimed to convey to the world that neglecting one's cultural heritage would lead to the disappearance of a nation, highlighting the significance of cultural continuity and appreciation.

An approach to co-designing through creativity and art with communities in this project specifically focuses on the Ukrainian artists participating in the art residency program. The project demonstrates several key elements of co-designing:
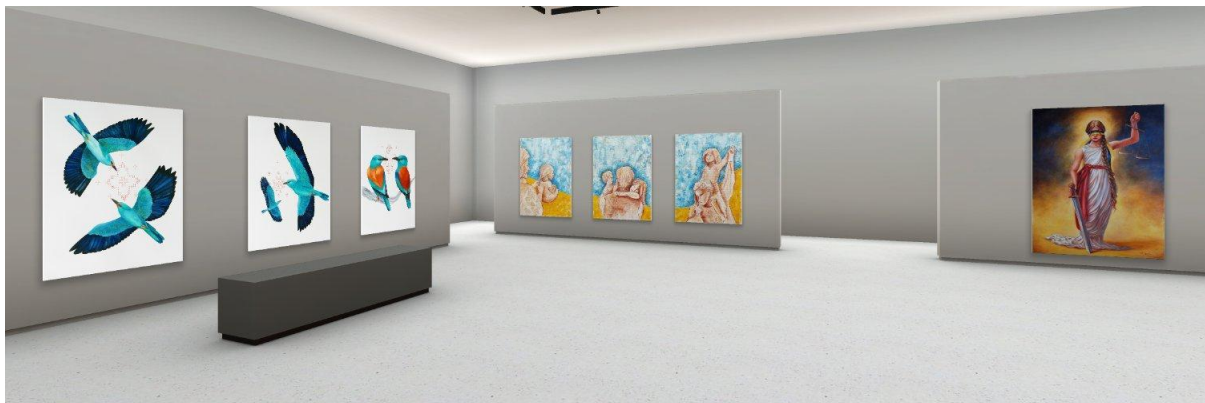
Visit the online virtual gallery: https://assets.artplacer.com/virtual-exhibitions/?i=7944

Analyses:

1.   Empowerment: The art residency program provided support and a platform for the Ukrainian artists to express themselves and share their experiences. It empowered them to reclaim their cultural heritage and convey their message to a global audience.

2.   Collaboration and Solidarity: The artists from different regions of Ukraine managed to collaborate despite the numerous challenges related to war in Ukraine, uniting under a

common idea and purpose. Their collaboration showcased the power of unity and solidarity in preserving cultural identity.

3.   Cultural Exchange: Through their chosen theme of "RE:CONNECTION," the artists aimed to rebuild bridges with Slavic nations and communicate with people from diverse backgrounds. The project facilitated cultural exchange, fostering understanding and appreciation between different communities.

4.   Giving Voice - Being Heard: The project aimed to involve not only Ukrainians but also citizens from other countries, highlighting the importance of cultural preservation for all individuals. It promoted social inclusion by acknowledging and celebrating diverse cultural heritages.

5.   Revitalization of Heritage: The artists aimed to revive and reinterpret their cultural heritage in contemporary circumstances. By incorporating the Ukrainian language and ornamental motifs, they aimed to restore the cultural code of their nation and reaffirm its value.

Overall, the project portrays an effective utilization of co-designing principles by empowering artists, promoting collaboration and solidarity, facilitating cultural exchange, encouraging social inclusion, and revitalizing cultural heritage. Through the medium of art and creativity, the project creates a platform for dialogue, understanding, and connection between communities, fostering a sense of unity and shared cultural appreciation.

You can watch the video HERE: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Pe4JtT0Tv0

Project: World Café

Organization: Melting Pro and Numero Cromatico (Italy)

Categories: Participatory Mapping, Arts-Based Activism, Creative Workshops and Maker Spaces

Summary

The World Café event, organized by Melting Pro in collaboration with the art collective Numero Cromatico, was part of the Abc- Art for Building Community initiative, a free online training course promoted by the European project Art is Us - Art for local innovators. The event aimed to foster art, cultural participation, and community engagement. Participants were actively encouraged to share their perspectives on daily life in the urban and cultural context. In the second part of the event, Numero Cromatico shared their experiences and projects with the community. They then led a group of citizens on an Urban Route in Visual Deprivation, an unconventional exploration of Rome's Tor Pignattara neighborhood. Guided by the artists, participants experienced the neighborhood blindfolded, exploring the urban environment without relying on sight. This sensory-deprived experience heightened their perception of reality, allowing other senses like sound, touch, and smell to manifest with different intensities. The sensations and perceptions of the participants were collected and processed into video and audio products, capturing their unique journey. Through this creative and co-design approach, the event aimed to deepen community connections and challenge conventional perceptions of the urban environment.

Analyses

The World Café event organized by Melting Pro and Numero Cromatico is relevant in terms of community co-design, creativity, and community empowerment because of these aspects specifically:

Community Co-Design: The event provides a platform for community members to actively participate in shaping the discussion and sharing their perspectives. By creating a space for dialogue and exchange, participants are encouraged to contribute their ideas, insights, and experiences related to daily life in the urban and cultural context. This co-design approach ensures that community voices are heard and that their input informs the direction of the event.

Creativity: The event fosters creativity by incorporating artistic and sensory experiences into the exploration of the urban environment. Through the Urban Route in Visual Deprivation, participants engage in a unique and unconventional exploration of Rome's Tor Pignattara neighborhood. By experiencing the environment without relying on sight, participants are encouraged to tap into their other senses and perceive the urban landscape in new and creative ways. This stimulates their imagination, enhances their sensory awareness, and promotes a deeper connection with the surroundings.

Community Empowerment: The event empowers the community by providing a platform for cultural participation and engagement. Participants are actively involved in sharing their perspectives, experiences, and stories, allowing them to have a voice and contribute to the collective narrative. Through the Urban Route in Visual Deprivation, participants are encouraged to challenge conventional perceptions of the urban environment and explore alternative ways of experiencing and understanding their surroundings. This empowers

community members to actively shape their environment, challenge societal norms, and create new possibilities for community development.

Sensory and Experiential Engagement: The event provides a unique sensory experience through the Urban Route in Visual Deprivation. By exploring the neighborhood blindfolded, participants engage their senses of sound, touch, and smell, which heightens their perception of reality and offers a new perspective on the urban environment. This experiential engagement stimulates creativity, empathy, and a deeper connection with the community and the surrounding spaces.

Overall, the World Café event exemplifies a co-design approach that integrates creativity, community empowerment, and sensory engagement. By providing a platform for dialogue, encouraging artistic exploration, and offering unique sensory experiences, the event fosters community connections, challenges perceptions, and promotes active engagement in shaping the urban and cultural landscape.

https://artisus-project.eu/community-cafe-italy

Project: "You and I – We Are Not So Different" Zine Workshop

Organization: Jugend- & Kulturprojekt e.V. (Germany)

Categories: Zines, Creative Workshops and Maker Spaces, Arts-Based Activism, Storytelling and Oral Histories

Summary:

Within the framework of the European project „You are Welcome" and the Metamorphosis. Human stories project – a cooperation between Armenia, the US and Germany.

The zine workshop was held at Hellerau coordinated by the Ass. Prof. Mariana Smith (Stockton University, USA), the German artist, Stephanie Lüning (Hfbk Dresden, Germany) and the Armenian artist, Eva Harut (HfBK, Dresden, GER).

The participants, coming for all over the world, created "Zines". The mini handmade magazines – Zines are easy to create as their based on the collage technique and drawing and can easily. It is a creative way to tell and share a story without necessarily using language but photos, images, illustrations and words. Marianna Smith stressed out the purpose of the Zine: the crafting activity serves the story telling and what does really matter is to share our stories altogether. In a friendly and relaxed atmosphere, the participants sat around the tables full of different kinds of magazines and newspapers and created their own Zines.

Once the first folding was done, the Zines were covered by photos, drawings and writings. At the end of the session, each Zine was opened, scanned and printed and was given to each participant as a memory of their stories and of this nice afternoon. Each participant could present their zines and share with the rest of the group their stories. Some really interesting, and touching Zines were created during this workshop but we especially keep in mind that we shared our stories!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SjdqwRas_gY

Analyses:

he zine workshop held at Hellerau was a creative and inclusive project that fostered community co-design, creativity, and the empowerment of participants through storytelling and sharing. Here's how it relates to these aspects:

Community Co-design: The workshop was coordinated by Ass. Prof. Mariana Smith, German artist Stephanie Lüning, and Armenian artist Eva Harut. By bringing together artists from different backgrounds and facilitating their collaboration in creating zines, the workshop promoted a co-design approach. The participants had the opportunity to contribute their unique perspectives, experiences, and creative skills to the collective storytelling process, shaping the workshop's outcomes collectively.

Creativity: The zine workshop provided a creative outlet for participants to express themselves through collage, drawing, and storytelling. Zines, as mini handmade magazines, allowed participants to use visual elements such as photos, images, illustrations, and words to communicate their narratives. This creative process encouraged participants to explore

their imagination, experiment with different artistic techniques, and find unique ways to convey their stories. The emphasis on creativity created an inclusive and engaging environment that inspired participants to express themselves authentically.

Empowerment of Participants: The workshop empowered participants by giving them a platform to share their stories. The crafting activity served as a means of storytelling, allowing participants to communicate their experiences and perspectives without relying solely on language. By creating their own zines, participants gained a sense of ownership and agency over their narratives. The final zines, printed and given to each participant, became tangible representations of their stories and served as a lasting memory of their shared experience. The opportunity to present their zines and share their stories with the group further empowered participants, fostering a sense of connection, validation, and mutual understanding.

In summary, the zine workshop at Hellerau promoted community co-design by bringing together artists from different backgrounds, facilitated creativity through collage and storytelling, and empowered participants by providing a platform to share their stories. It created an inclusive and supportive environment where participants could express themselves creatively and connect through the power of storytelling. The workshop's emphasis on sharing stories fostered mutual understanding, empathy, and a sense of community among the participants.

Project: Zero Waste Cultural Exchange Hackathon challenge

Organization: Center Rog and APIS Institute (Slovenia)

Categories: Artistic Community Intervention, Sustainability, Intercultural Dialogue

Summary:

The Zero Waste Nomadic Living Room project by Olga Senatorova Tisler focuses on the use of recycled materials to create a Kazakh living space within Slovenia. With a vision to promote cultural dialogue and exchange knowledge through art, Olga utilizes discarded materials to bring elements of the nomadic lifestyle from Kazakhstan to her new home. Collaborating with mentors Alja Drame and Tomo Perr, the project showcases the transformation of these reclaimed materials into a Kazakh living room, featuring traditional Kazakh and Slovenian patterns. From the Korpeshka pillows made from second-hand materials to the little carpets crafted from old blankets, every aspect of the room exemplifies the possibilities of zero waste design. The table, adorned with laser-cut ornaments filled with thread remnants, symbolizes the connection between people, while the old lamp becomes a striking centerpiece with the addition of an old knitted shawl. The chapan, a traditional Kazakh outerwear, beautifully merges traditions from both countries with a zero waste approach. Through this project, Olga demonstrates the potential of combining sustainability, cultural preservation, and artistic expression.

By merging the traditions of both countries through the chapan, a traditional Kazakh outerwear, Olga successfully showcases the potential of cultural preservation and artistic expression. The project not only creates a visually stunning living space but also serves as a platform for promoting sustainability, cultural dialogue, and community engagement. The incorporation of traditional patterns and cultural elements fosters a sense of belonging and promotes cultural exchange.

The use of recycled materials not only reduces waste but also empowers the community to rethink their consumption habits and embrace sustainable practices.

Analyses

The Zero Waste Cultural Exchange Hackathon challenge by APIS Institute serves as a remarkable example of how art and design can foster community co-design, inspire creativity, and empower both the community and vulnerable artists. By utilizing recycled materials and merging traditional Kazakh and Slovenian patterns, this project creates a living space that embodies the principles of sustainability, cultural exchange, and artistic expression.

Here's the analysis:

Community Co-design: The project actively engages the community in the co-design process by involving local artists, mentors, and community members in transforming recycled materials into a Kazakh living room. The collaborative nature of the project allows for shared decision-making, input, and creative contributions from various stakeholders, fostering a sense of ownership and inclusivity within the community.

Creativity: The project demonstrates the power of creativity by repurposing discarded materials and integrating traditional Kazakh and Slovenian patterns into the design of the living room. By exploring innovative approaches to zero waste design, the project encourages artists and community members to think creatively, pushing the boundaries of artistic expression and sustainability.

Empowerment of Community and Vulnerable Artists: The project empowers the community and vulnerable artists by providing them with a platform to showcase their skills and talents. Through their participation in the project, vulnerable artists gain recognition, build confidence, and contribute to the cultural dialogue and exchange. The use of recycled

materials also highlights the potential for resourcefulness and self-sufficiency, empowering the community to embrace sustainable practices and reduce waste.

Overall, the Zero Waste Cultural Exchange Hackathon challenge promotes community co-design, stimulates creativity, and empowers both the community and vulnerable artists, fostering a sense of belonging, cultural exchange, and sustainability.

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