

Thematic Jam Session



326

Brief description of the activity

This intercultural jam session is an activity that offers us the possibility to know different cultural expressions from different geographies of the world. An opportunity to share knowledge horizontally, where all participants can contribute through their musical skills. Each youth center will organize a night dedicated to music in its space, offering a meeting place for artistic expression.

Thematic Jam Session

Objectives:

Get an efficient and fluid intercultural communication.

To awaken the interest in the students so that, through music, the intercultural relations are favored as a bridge towards the improvement of social relations.

Break with the belief and stereotype that Western culture presents as the only or the most relevant culture.

Generate a horizontal meeting space between different cultures

Meet with songs, rhythms and instruments from other cultures.

Methodology:

A music session to share rhythms and music of different cultures, showing the similarity and differences between different cultural manifestations.

It is important to present the different cultures and cultural expressions trying to value all of them, from an epistemolog-

ical horizontal perspective, understanding the contribution that each one makes to the knowledge of humanity. Letting go of stereotypes and prejudices, focusing on the fun and enriching experience of sharing music and playing together, in the opportunity of learning different kinds of music and instruments and the option of mixing them.

Duration:

The activity can last from 2 to 3 hours. However, it is possible to adapt it to the needs of each youth center. It can last more or less time.

The duration of the preparation of the activity will vary depending on whether the participants in the jam session are regular users of the youth center or if the call is more open. If the participants are regular users who already know that they want to participate, we will not need to communicate much of the activity in an open call, so in a week we can organize everything we need: music, space, snacks, etc. If the

participation is open to everyone we will start preparing the activity two weeks in advance.

Costs:

Drinks and snacks for the activity: 50 €

Poster printing (optional): 20€

328**Location:**

Your youth center.

This is an activity that can be carried out both indoors or outdoors. If time and conditions allow, it is always enriching to do outdoor activities whenever possible the use of and plugs in your outdoors the space.

Materials:

Space to do the session. A big space where there is a "stage" area (even if it is not an elevated stage, it is necessary to define a space for it) and an area for the public who wants to see the

session.

It may be useful to have material to enlighten the musicians. Some focus, light spots, led strips, etc. that we can place directed towards the stage. This will help us delimit the perimeter where the musicians will be.

Chairs placed facing the stage so that the audience can sit.

A table to place the snacks and drinks that we have purchased for attendees and participants.

Sound equipment.

PC to organize the registrations and do communication work on social media.

Camera to record the activities.

Staff needed and eventual specific skills required:

Coordinator: no specific skills needed. Just organizational and management basic skills. This person will launch the participation call and manage the registrations.

The coordinator will also make sure that all the material needed for the activity is set in place: lighting, snacks, chairs, sound

equipment, etc. If needed, he/she will also print and stick posters of the jam session on the walls of the youth center and surrounding area.

Participants involved:

This activity can be approached in different ways to make it suitable for different groups.

It can be organized with regular users of the youth center, with a group of music fans with whom we work regularly and who can organize a jam session of improvised intercultural music for the other youth of the youth center, who can attend as an audience.

On the other hand, it can also be organized as an open activity, enabling the local community to get to know the youth center and offering a way for people to get involved. We can organize a small call for the musicians of our town or city to come and play the day of the jam session together with the musicians of our youth center who want to participate, explaining that this is an activity that reinforces interculturality which will mix

musical expressions of different origins. In the same way, the jam session can be open to everyone to attend as public: users of the youth center and citizens from all around.

Steps

330

Step 1: Look for a space in your youth center where you can carry out the activity. The space must be big enough and with access to a sound system where you can put music. This is an activity that can be carried out both indoors or outdoors so if you can find a nice spot in your youth center with everything needed (electricity, plugs, etc.) go ahead.

Step 2: If you (the coordinator of the activity) have identified the place, you can start working on the call. Design a simple poster where the activity is explained and make a few publications on social networks such as Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. Don't forget to mention the special characteristics of this jam session: its objective is to promote interculturality, work on music from different origins of the world, etc. It challenges the public to dare to try new rhythms and styles even if they are not used to them. Also remind the partic-

ipants that each one will have to bring their musical instruments, even if the youth center has basic sound equipment and lights.

In the call that you have launched, do not forget to clearly mention the day and time of the activity. Also the deadline to sign up.

Step 3: When the registration deadline has ended, you can prepare the final list of participants in the jam session.

At this time, you can start announcing the activity on your social networks and perhaps print new posters announcing the date of the activity, aimed at the public who will come to see it, not the participants.

Advertise it as an intercultural jam session, innovative compared to other examples of jam sessions, this activity will have the added value of generating reflection on the common work between different cultures. Be sure that the date and time is clear, and don't for-

get to mention that there will be snacks and drinks for everyone.

Step 4: The activity. Check in advance that the sound equipment is working correctly and agree with the musicians the sound and lighting of the space, also other requirements that may exist. It is advisable to take photos or videos of the activity with the consent of the participants. At the beginning of the activity it is advisable to present the musicians who sign up to play, and also the intercultural aim of the activity, the challenge of mixing and creating music improvisation with different kinds of music types. Say a few words about how the activity went when the jam session is finished.

When the project is over, it takes time to assess how the activity went. How did the participants feel, did they learn something new, etc. Review the work done to detect what could have been done better.

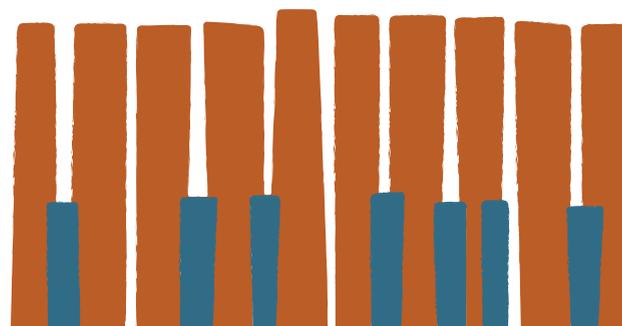
It is also advisable to make a press release to send to

local media, with photos and videos of the jam session. Also share in your social media those photos and videos and spread the work done in your youth center.

Do's and don'ts

Try to emphasize the value of this activity to the participants, challenge them to take risks and to experiment and get to know musical styles and genres that they normally do not play.

We should recognize the geographical origin of each cultural expression. Avoid being overly simplistic. Take advantage of music to talk about interculturality: cultural expressions, cultural appropriation, cultural hierarchies, etc.



Innovative aspects for the promotion of interculture

332

Through the varied musical resources of all cultures, we believe that effective intercultural communication can be achieved, at least from the point of view of musical diversity. The breadth of fields that music offers us: songs, rhythms, instruments, body sounds, games and stories, among others, have constituted a set of activities for the beginning of the knowledge of some differences between cultures, as well as the recognition of the multiple similarities that exist between them.

The action of playing instruments in a group generates a collective feeling of artistic construction. Improvisation is also an exercise in creativity with a lot of potential, considering that the participants will try to mix rhythms and musical expressions from different cultures. This activity shows us that from difference and elements that seem incompatible, intercultural collec-

tive creation is possible.

This activity can be innovative if we try to avoid the exotic gaze and we do not stay in a superficial approach to the cultural expressions and cultures. We should always keep in mind the objective of learning how to respect and give value to cultures and origins that are not Western. In addition, we should take advantage of and recognize the geographical origin of each cultural expression: although there are musical styles and rhythms that are highly integrated in Western culture, this activity can be a good opportunity to learn about their origins and contexts.

This exercise involves putting the hierarchy of knowledge and cultures in check, it is an exercise that leads us to question our place and position in the world. It is difficult but very enriching.

