

Emotional art exhibition



Brief description of the activity

This is a proposal that seeks to work on relationships and intercultural empathy through the format of the artistic exhibition. The exhibition will be composed of objects contributed by people (who are) interested in participating. They will be personal objects, significant for the participants, that serve as a channel to express cultural and personal characteristics.

Emotional art exhibition

Objectives:

Get an efficient and fluid intercultural communication.

Favour the intercultural relations as a bridge towards the improvement of social relations through an artistic context.

Generate a horizontal meeting space between different cultures.

336

Make part of ourselves known by reflecting on those objects that represent us and say something about our culture. In turn, observe, learn about the objects of others. Generate conversation.

Methodology:

The methodology will be to make use of an artistic context, but avoiding the traditional format of artistic exhibitions.

Participants do not have to be artists or have knowledge of artistic expressions. What will be valued as an artistic object or an object worth exhibiting, in this case, will be a personal object of each participant.

Through this personal object, the participants will expose something intimate, a piece that is representative of their lives and their context, that speaks of them, their culture and their baggage.

The public that will enjoy the exhibition will be able to discover new cultures through personal objects that tell stories. It is a way to personalize, humanize interculturality, make it close, give it a first and last name.

Duration:

The duration of this activity can be adapted to the needs of each center. The exhibition can have a variable duration: one day, two weeks, one month, whichever is better. The idea is that it is available so that people can go see it.

It is recommended to organize an activity to open the exhibition. The duration of this activity can be 2 hours. Present the objectives of the exhibition and let the participants who wish to do so talk about their objects and generate conversation.

Costs:

Drinks and snacks for the activity: 50 €

Poster printing (optional): 20€

Total budget: 70€

Location:

Your youth center.

Try to search in your center for a nice and spacious space where you think objects can be placed in an aesthetic way.

Materials:

Space to do the session. Try to search your center for a nice and spacious space where you think objects can be placed in an aesthetic way.

It is recommended to have lights in your space that illuminate the pieces appropriately.

You will need different materials depending on the type of objects that the participants are going to give you. If they

bring you a framed picture or photograph you will need to hang them on the wall. You can find easy hanging systems through glue in hardware stores. On the other hand, if they bring objects that you have to pose like a sculpture, try to place them at a certain height so that they are better appreciated. To do this you can use bases for exhibitions, if you have them, or stools, tables, shelves, etc.

A table to place the snacks and drinks that have been purchased for attendees and participants for the inauguration activity.

A printer to print posters to announce the opening of the exhibition is recommended, but not essential.

PC to organize the registration 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 organization and management basic skills. This person will launch the partici-

pation call for the exhibition and manage the registration. Will also make sure all the materials needed for the activity are set in their space: exhibited objects properly located, lighting, snacks, etc. If needed, he/she will also print and stick posters of the exhibition on the walls of the Youth Center and surrounding area.

338

Finally, he/she will be in charge of taking photos and videos to document the activity.

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 with whom we work regularly and who can organize an emotional exhibition 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, being also a way for the local community to get closer to the youth center and get to know it. We can organize a

small call for people of our town or city to come to share their personal objects in an emotional exhibition. We could, if they exist in our context, contact collectivities and groups of different origins, migrants, refugees, etc. to invite them to participate and make the group more heterogeneous.

In the same way, the exhibition can be open to everyone to attend as public: users of the Youth Center and citizens from all around.

Steps:

Step 1: Look for a space in your youth center where you can carry out the activity. The location should be spacious. Depending on the space you have, you can decide how many people will be able to participate in the exhibition. Keep in mind that the pieces of the exhibition must have their space, not be piled up, so that they can be appreciated well. Also, make sure that a table can enter the space, to place snacks and drinks at the opening for participants and the public (optional).

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 exhibition: its objective is to promote interculturality, share personal object and stories, etc. It challenges the public to dare to open to other people and

share their intimate thoughts and memories. Make clear that people have to bring an object of their own, that tells something about them, that is meaningful for them.

In the call that you have launched, do not forget to clearly mention the day and time of the inauguration of the exhibition and how long it will be open to public. Also the deadline to sign up.

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

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 emotional art exhibition, innovative compared to other examples of art exhibitions, this activity will have the added value of generating reflection on the common work between different cultures. Be sure that the date and time of the inauguration day is

clear, also how long it will be open to the audience, and don't forget to mention that there will be snacks and drinks for everyone.

Step 4: The inauguration day. You should go ahead to the space to prepare everything: depending on how many people have registered to participate you will need more or less time. Keep in mind that you have to arrange all objects in the room, so do it in advance. Also you should display the table with snacks and drinks for participants and audience. 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 aim of the emotional exhibition and the participants involved. After this, The participants who so wish will be able to present their objects and talk about them, allowing the conversation to unfold. If interesting discussions do arise, help guide them, encourage them. Offer a few words about how the exhibition went when it finishes.

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 workshop. Also share in your social media those photos and videos and spread the work done in your youth center.

Do's and don'ts

Each piece of the exhibition must have its own space, not be piled up, so that each of them can be appreciated well.

Innovative aspects for the promotion of interculture

This activity promotes interculturality by generating an artistic meeting space between people of diverse origins and life experiences. It invites us to approach intercultural

work by appealing to intimacy, to the personal aspects that all human beings have and share with others.

By exhibiting objects that tell something about the participants in an artistic exhibition, people present themselves as human beings with memories, ambitions, dreams, etc. However, cultural aspects that are part of the identity construction of each one come to light. It is about sharing that identity among the participants and the public and doing it by sharing intimacy.

This activity invites people who do not need to have artistic experience to participate in a context that traditionally belongs to the sphere of art. When we build an exhibition based on personal objects of the people who participate, who choose the object they want to show themselves, we break the strict dynamics that place the decision of what is or is not an artistic object in an elitist high sacred position

It is about carrying out an exercise of democratization of

the artistic context, of openness, where the value of the contributions of all the participants is recognized and it is understood that everyday objects that are part of intimacy can be worthy of being admired listened to. Furthermore, adding intercultural encounters to the equation, the richness of sharing increases, encompassing new learning.

Possible follow-up

Try to involve the participants in the re-thinking of the spaces of your youth center. An artistic committee that is in charge of bringing ideas to change the center in a way that it is, even aesthetically, more welcoming and open to diversities (by adding carpets, wall decorations, paintings...) can be organized by them.

342

