

Street art for solidarity



Brief description of the activity

Street art can be a tool to express ideas about cultural diversity, integration, active participation, connection and solidarity. It will empower the participants to use their cultural roots as starting points to learn more about different cultural backgrounds, political views and social livings. They will focus and transform their experiences, creating a new environment in social institutions of their own communities, to show the public a new, creative, modern and a forward-looking international youth.

Street art for solidarity

Topic:

Integration, promotion of youth responsible participation, fight against youth prejudice and learn more about local culture.

Objectives:

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- Give young people, “space” and tools to express themselves in their own community;
- Support the social entities in recover their own buildings thanks to the art works of the young people involved in the street art making;
- Fight against youth prejudice by raising awareness about the difference between vandalism and street art;
- Promote local culture and traditions;
- Encourage team work between the participants;
- Stimulate imagination, creativity, innovation and problem solving.

This activity is suitable for all the youth (from 10 to 25 years old) facing isolation or in a difficult situation (who have left behind friends and family, who have social media addiction, etc...)

Methodologies:

- Street art (graffiti, stencil, painting)
- Non formal education (combining art work with some role plays, team buildings, etc.)
- Team work

Duration:

From 2 days up to 7 days

Costs:

Material: depends on the size of the wall or space in which the intervention will occur.

Logistics: insurance, meals for participants, transportations

Cofunding: as this action has a straight social aim there are many ways to involve stakeholders, community, associations and sponsors to contribute in raising money for all the costs related to the art intervention.

Location:

The artistic intervention generally takes place in structures that do not have the financial capacity to make interventions to improve their structure (more colorful residential centers for minors, recreational center for the elderly with memorials of local traditions, etc.).

Investigating your own community, you can easily understand to which centers to propose this intervention.

Materials:

- Paint (accordantly to the type of surface need to be painted)
- Paint brushes
- Caps

- Gloves
- Stencils
- Pens and pencils
- Surface to paint

Staff needed and eventual specific skills required:

- Coordinators of the group: 2
- Expert in art street: 1 or 3 (depend the size of the group).

Tip:

Encourage and involve local street artists in the coordination of the art intervention making.

Participants involved:

Size group: from 5 up to 10 people

Steps:

Before

Setting up the activity and location

Research:

To understand if there is a real need to be able to develop "Street Art for solidarity". To understand this, one could contact institutions, social entities that appear visibly degraded or devoid of decorative elements. Another way could be to promote the initiative on the youth center's/organization's social media in order to invite institutions, social bodies to request support.

Funding of material and recruitment of volunteers:

- Understand who in the community could support the initiative. For example you could open a crowdfunding to the community in which the work will take place, contact companies that sponsor the initiative, ask for support from your municipality, collect material through social media by asking for brushes,

wall paint, spray cans, etc. To be successful in raising funds, the objective of the project must be made clear, paying attention to clarify the solidarity and social interest of the initiative.

- This initiative has a voluntary mission. Those who participate in the decoration will do it voluntarily without asking for money in return. In order to have volunteers you could opt to advertise the call on social media, contact three local young people known in the graffiti or art sector, ask for the collaboration of an art school to have the support of students, take the opportunity to develop a solidarity project with local and/or international young people who are participating in a project, etc.

During

Once you have found the institution to help, funding for materials and volunteers then you are ready to:

- Organize a meeting between volunteers and repre-

representatives of the institution to understand what kind of decoration, what theme they would like to see represented;

- Design the project and verify that all the required materials are present;
- Organize the hours and days in which the volunteers can enter the social institution in order to paint;
- Paint until the project is complete.

TIP: remember to make the work visible on social media, in order to give an identity to this initiative and guarantee future action.

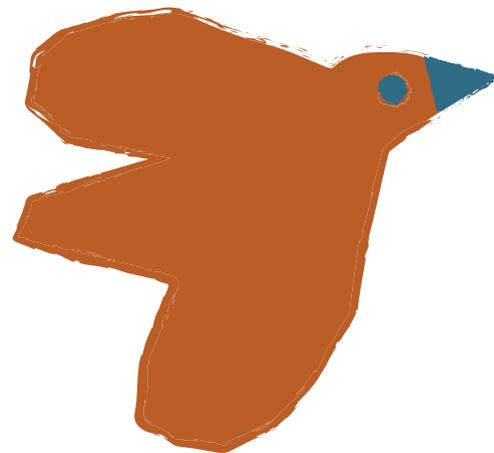
After

After you have finished the project, do not forget to organize an inauguration. In a solidarity project it is always important to involve the people who have been part of the whole project. For this, while organizing the inaugu-

ration event remember:

- invite volunteers, sponsors, funders, institution managers and users;
- invite local journalists, take photos and videos in order to make the initiative visible on social media.

The project is not finished! There is always a local institution and social association looking for art and help ... start everything from the beginning!



Innovative aspects for the promotion of interculture

There is no culture without art and there is no art without culture. This is reason enough to explain why Street art for solidarity is a powerful instrument to foster intercultural understanding, communication and appreciation of diversity.

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The target group of this activity is mostly young people facing difficult situations who have a hard time hanging out with peers or put into action their talents.

The benefits of this activity are not only for the “artists”, but also on the beneficiaries (social institution, school, hospital, youth center), because it helps the users of the building to interact with a more vibrant and colorful environment.

Street art for solidarity puts into contact many different realities: isolated young people with disabled, el-

derly people with kids, etc.

This activity allows to approach the unfamiliar and broaden our comfort zone in order to learn more about different cultural backgrounds, political views and social livings.

Bibliography

<https://www.sensepublishers.com/media/2716-art-and-intercultural-dialogue.pdf>