

# My culture is...



## Brief description of the activity

The “My culture is..” project is a public ritual that invites the community to consider the things which connect us.

## My culture is...

### Topics:

“My culture is..” wall is an exhibition made by random people that can interact with a wall with just a sentence: “My culture is...”. It is responsibility of the people to complete the sentence in a free way, describing how they see their own culture.

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### Objectives:

The objective is to share with unknown people our thoughts about our own culture.

### Methodology:

The methodology is interactive street art exhibition.

### Duration:

No limits

### Costs:

Most of the costs are only related with the material, basical-

ly paint and brushes.

### Location:

A wall from an abandoned place, building or house that is easily accessible to all the community.

Anywhere which has a high public footfall is ideal - market places, city squares etc.

### Materials:

- Paints. Culture doesn't have a specific color; you are free to paint as you wish!;
- Brushes;
- Paper to make the stencil for the phrase: “My culture is...”
- Chalks
- White spray paint

### Staff needed and eventual specific skills required:

Volunteers from the community that can support you on the

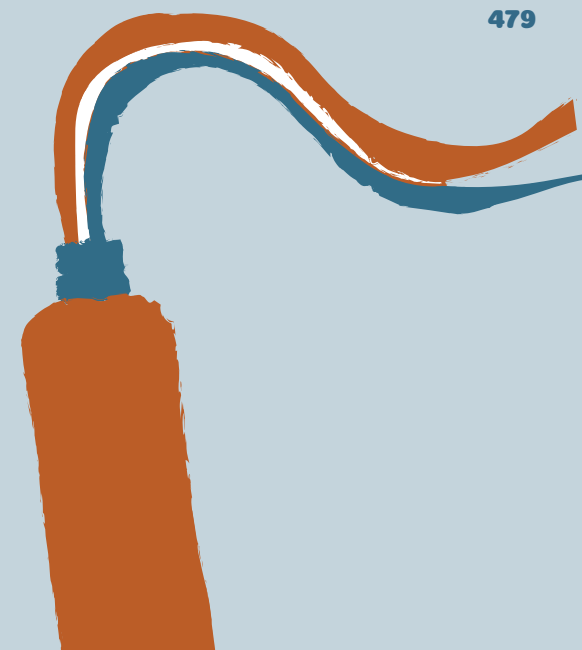
creation of the wall.

No specific skills are required.

**Participants involved:**

Local Community at large

Anyone walking by could pick up a piece of chalk, reflect on culture and life, and share their personal thoughts in public.



## Steps:

### Before

Look for a spot where you would like to paint the interactive wall. It is better if it is accessible for most of the community. For example, think of that building next to the supermarket that has been in construction for many years or at that abandoned house that is in plain sight.

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Go ask permission. Houses, buildings look abandoned, but most of the time they do have a owner. If it is private property, ask directly to the owner (if possible), if it is a public one ask for permission to the City Hall. If you receive a negative answer, do not give up! Ask for another place that could be used instead of that one. People help people!

After receiving permission, paint the wall. As culture does not have a specific color, you can give space to

your imagination and use a base color that can be written over with chalk. Then stencil it with a grid of the sentence, "My culture is \_\_\_\_\_."

### During

Passers-by could pick up a piece of chalk, reflect on their lives, and share their personal aspirations or bucket list.

### After... or not...

There is not a specific timetable for this initiative.

You can implement it in two ways:

- That it becomes permanent
- Temporary. In this case it is preferable to share with the community the period in which the wall will be available.

In both cases try to create:

A media channel where you can share the sentences. Try to create it in a way that also explains why the wall exists. For example: the wall will help us to get to know aspects of our culture that we never thought about..

## Innovative aspects for the promotion of intercultural

This is an activity to celebrate the meaning of intercultural reality through an interactive exhibition made by the community. A “My culture is..” wall should offer freedom of expression to people. It is easy to get caught up in the day-to-day and forget what really matters to you and to others. For this reason, this activity proposes to go back to discover the meaning of culture in intercultural way, giving the opportunity to mix and “shake” visions and perspectives with the purpose of building an interrelation between many cultures. Everybody knows of an abandoned, knows an abandoned house/ building that had been collecting dust and graffiti for

years. This gives the change for this building to have a voice. People can use an unused place for a reason: promotion and celebration of an intercultural reality.

This kind of street art can also respond to the problem of an unsafe and unpleasant neighbourhood giving different shapes and colours to a wall that normally only collects hate and a sense of oppression.

## Possible follow up or link with other activities

The scheme here proposed can be applied to many other question related to the encounter of cultures, by using other open questions that trigger passers-by to intervene in what is a collective street art work.

This activity can be followed up by Anti-rumor short story contest and One day, One culture as well as Bring intercultural inside and Cultural Forum.

## Bibliography

Inspired by “Before I die...” project:

<https://beforeidieproject.com/story>

