

## **Community Partnerships (Session B), University Classroom**

Session Host and Moderator- Sandy Beeman, Gallery Guide, Nasher Museum of Art

Angela Johnson, SPARK! Coordinator, Madison Children's Museum

Janeli Smith, MSW, Duke Family Support Program

Stefanie Kahn, Gallery Guide, Nasher Museum of Art

### **Angela:**

- Madison Children's Museum- "the museum you don't outgrow," actually has many adult programs.
- SPARK! Program funded by Helen Bader Foundation- alliance of 23 museums working on programming for people with dementia.
- Nine month planning period in which we consulted with doctors, community members, nursing home directors
- Programs are 30/30/30 model- 30 min tour, 30 min create, 30 min reception (for socializing).

#### Partnerships:

- Partners with the Aging and Disability Resource Center for staff training in exchange for participants.
- Weekly program for 12 weeks based on Veterans Print Project. MFA students conversed with a patient and made an artwork that reflected that person.
- Partnered with Girl Scouts- 1 on 1 partnered patient with scout and make art together
- Partner with local art gallery to bring participants to real art.
- Annual conference of SPARK! Alliance

### **Janeli/Stefanie:**

- Nasher Museum works with Duke Family Support Center (group of patients living at home with caregivers who get together regularly); Nasher began partnering with them on ground floor and developed program as a pilot for this particular group; monthly tour with lunch, designed for caregiver as much as for patient.
- 60 minutes in galleries, 30 min either art making or music, gallery guides work together in pairs.
- Duke Family Support is a statewide resource (NC) for people with Alz/Dementia and their caregivers; strong early stage group for people just diagnosed- program continued to grow but original group remained (they had bonded as original members).
  - o This makes facing challenges in the museum easier (like bathrooms, drop-offs, etc.) because participants are familiar with each other
- Reflections program reduces isolation.
- Nasher guides are well trained on how to handle individuals with dementia- most have personal experiences with loved ones.

## **Questions and Answers**

**Q:** Being a Children's Museum, have you had any push back from administration?

**Angela:** Not from admin, but sometimes from people we are marketing to because we are a children's museum

**Q:** What is the SPARK Alliance?

**Angela:** Museums using same partners, standards of training, consistent branding, advocates together, site visits to each other. Alliance was created to maintain consistency across programs.

**Q:** How does working with Alz/dementia patients cross into working with people suffering vision or hearing loss?

**Angela:** To cater to these visitors, we use enlarged prints and engage other senses.

**Q:** What makes a program appealing to an outside organization?

**Janeli:** Offer free parking, staff assistance with patient drop-off, golf cart assistance (Nasher Museum), print out of images to pass around, tactile objects, sensory experiences.

**Q:** How did partnership start?

**Janeli:** Nasher approached, discussed ease of parking and cost when deciding to partner (Nasher program is free).

**Group:** Contact Geriatric Centers- ask for training in return for tours and programs  
"Find a partner that cares as much as you do." Meet continuously with partner orgs and discuss what works, what doesn't; get feedback- what do *you* want?

**Q:** How can we work with students?

**Group:** Medical students, and grads/undergrads can be used in a variety of ways. Partner with medical students as guides, or have undergrads assist as volunteers (setting up and cleaning up art activities, moving chairs, etc).

- See ENGAGING UNIVERSITY STUDENTS session notes