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 Musuem 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