

## **Connecting to the Medical Community (Session C), University Classroom**

Session Host and Moderator- Maureen Adams, Gallery Guide, Nasher Museum of Art  
Jessica Ruhle, Director of Education and Public Programs, Nasher Museum of Art  
Stephanie Roses, Reflections Gallery Guide and Duke University Medical Student

### **Jessica:**

- Medical students have been involved with the Reflections Program for the past two years.
  - o They are able to observe abilities and see the relationship with caregivers.
  - o Enables the students to see visitors with Alzheimer's in a normalized environment.
- Support from Duke Family Support Services
  - o Best practices, guiding us (before the program started)
- Medical community didn't buy in initially.
  - o Now, more students want to be involved.
  - o Now, we have spoken to medical staff and at conferences.

### **Other Comments and Discussion:**

- Difficulties when engaging the medical community:
  - o Medical professionals may not have time in their schedules.
  - o You have to find someone who isn't fully engaged in other projects.
- Finding the right partner is key.
  - o Ensure that you have similar goals, and then collaborate on the project.
- Medical community can provide a variety of services.
  - o Referring visitors to your program.
  - o Teaching staff about Alzheimer's Disease and dementia.
  - o Partnering for research.
- As a museum, we can only serve a limited number of people.
- People have health equity issues.
- Cultural and ethnic communities – how do we bring in these other communities?
  - o African Americans are 2x as likely to develop Alzheimer's Disease
  - o Latinos are 1.5x as likely to get Alzheimer's Disease
    - These populations may not be comfortable in museums
  - o Need to contact faith based communities, V.A., and YMCA.