

Capacity building for participation

Chandan, can you share with us
some examples of skilling up
community participants?

The Museum of London
actually had a way of collecting
material and content
and user generated material
to do oral history.

One of the big projects,
The Refugee Oral History project,
was also a partnership
with London Metropolitan University
and with the Evelyn Oldfield Trust,
over a couple of years.

There were individuals who were then trained
to use all the equipment,
who were trained how to do
interviews and collect material.

There were also individuals
who knew each of their communities really well,
so they would then actually work within their communities
to identify participants,
to collect that history, that intangible
sort of heritage of those individuals.

And a lot of those individuals also took part
and became trained as tour guides.

So there was a lot of training
but a lot of the stories
that were represented and everything
came from them and they chose which bits
of their community that they wanted
to be represented in that display.

So, you know, actually, I think that was
such important learning for the organisation
because they had to hand over
all those kind of decisions
that were made about
what stories were to be collected,
what objects were to be collected.

And how were the community participants
involved in decision-making?

They were very much involved
in the whole process of how each of those displays
were going to represent different individuals.

And also they were involved
in planning a lot of the events
and the public programmes
that went with the exhibitions.

I think that was a really important project
in terms of, I don't know
if you can call it co-production
but it was about how you could work
with those communities to develop skills

within those communities
and also for them to then go on
and do their own projects
as well as obviously the core material
that was then collected
and featured in the exhibition.

Those organisations have gone on
and got further funding
to do a much bigger project
within their communities.

And also one of them was trained
and took a key part in collecting
that material from the Somali community,
who then went on and got a job
as an oral history curator.

So he's now doing that as a full-time job.