

Community partner expectations

In the very beginning

I think you've got to expect from them discussion.

It's certainly a two-way process.

I would expect that any gallery
would treat their community partners
with complete respect.

Acknowledge the fact
that their community partners
may not understand much
about the world of galleries and museums
and to listen to their partners about what they want
and not focus on what the galleries needs are.

This is one of the difficult ones.

We did get the poet who turned up who thought
he could do readings in the art gallery
and publish a book and sell it in the shop.

And that was, you know, unrealistic.

So this has got to be upfront
on what the community partner should expect.

I think the community partner should expect
that the museum is open and honest
about what can be achieved,
what's possible with the project,
what the limitations are.

Just to sort of be equal within that partnership arrangement.

I just think it's quite simple,

they just need to listen to the community partners.

I think a community partner can expect to be really valued.

I think that's been really important

even little things like an email

to thank you for your input

and the verbal thanks at meetings and that kind of thing.

So feeling really appreciated and valued

and the feeling that you are really making a difference.

The community partner should expect support

in the sense of project management,

time management and all of those things,

because those skills don't necessarily...

aren't really automatic within the team.

Providing the resources, the facilities,

the time, the staff and to make clear

what the partnership organisation

is getting out of the process.

The end journey should be

that both organisations' needs are met.

And take on our expertise, which they did.

Community partners coming into this arrangement

will expect to be valued for what they're bringing

to the deal as it were and they'd also expect

to get something back in exchange

and I've often asked myself

what is it I'm getting back in exchange

and it's quite hard to think of anything tangible

but what I'm getting is a sense of being valued,
a sense that if I pay attention to the things
I've got the opportunity to learn,
I could be improving myself.

Community partners should expect
from their host organisation
to be valued, respected,
integrated into the process.

You are actually key to the process,
you're not just an add-on. It's not lip service.

You are there to make a difference.

And unless both you and the host organisation
have that commitment to proper integration
then it's not gonna to be...

it's not gonna achieve what it should achieve.