

Community partner fears

That people would expect too much from you
that, you know, you might have this written contract
that you will only meet every three months
but then you get drawn into doing a little bit more
and a little bit more and the next thing you know
it's 24 hours 7 days a week.

My fear was quite a simple one really.

I was worried that this was a simple tick box exercise.

That there was a pot of funding available
and the project would go forward
and maybe my involvement
would be minimal but I was really happy
to be so disproved of that notion.

We were continually involved
in the process feedback was given and received
and it was honest and open.

I don't feel as though we were simply...
it wasn't tokenistic, tick this box and walk away.

It became a conversation.

My main fear was being disappointed.

My main fear would be that this would be a talking shop
that we will get people of interest
involved in this arcade working group
and at the end of the process
the negatives would still be left in the cupboard.

My fears as a community partner

was that I wouldn't be listened to

and I would probably be judged

because I have a colourful background,

that's why I do the job that I do.

Also my fears were probably that my clients

wouldn't feel that the museum

was a place for them and that they mightn't want

to volunteer somewhere as prestigious.

Maybe they had some sort of fears, and that did happen.

And so we rectified that by 'I would support'.

So for the first few sessions

that they attended I came with them.

My fear like most community partners

was that people wouldn't want to get involved

that they'd see it as something outside their world.

You know, the world of culture

and museums can appear a bit scary.

When you walk past the school

or drive past the library you've got a vague idea

of what might go on there but sometimes walking

past a gallery or museum people might think,

"I wonder what goes on in there?"

I think some fears developed initially

because things seemed...

took a long time to get beyond

the purely theoretical

and a lot of talking about definitions

and I guess the biggest fear was
that we'd get stuck in the talking phase
and there would not be enough action
to benefit the people with whom we work.