

Young people's participation

Hi Nina, I'm Rick. Great speech.

My background is actually youth work,
so I'm just interested in how you've managed
to engage young people in your programme
or the museum, more likely.

Yeah. Thank you for asking that.

Actually, we have this amazing teen programme
that started with a teenager who wrote
a comment on the comment board
saying that she wanted to do
a 'by girls for girls' film festival at the museum.

And we worked with her and realised,
gosh, there was so much
more opportunity there.

So we have a teen programme
called Subjects to Change.

It's youth leadership programme about using art
to make social change in our community
and so it works like a lot of these
more intensive participatory projects.

There are 15 kids from across our county
who meet here weekly on Thursday afternoons
and they do a lot of different things
around art and leadership training,
but then they produce these teen nights
that happen here and at other sites around the county,

and they do some partnership with lots
of other youth development groups.

So we're blessed in our county, you know.

We have a youth group called FoodWhat
that does farming and social justice with teens.

There's a group called Grind Out Hunger
which is skateboarding kids
working on hunger issues.

And so, we make sure that we are a part of that bigger context,
so it's not just a museum youth programme,
but really looking at what's happening
across youth programmes in our community,
how can we be a part of that?

And really, the thing that came out
that we were surprised by
was that there wasn't really a space
where teens could go at night
and have a cool experience.

So these teen nights have been totally fascinating to me
because the teens are always picking
themes related to social issues.

They did a teen night on public safety,
they did a teen night on gender issues,
and I'll always remember
the first time the staff member
who works with them came to me and said
"So they want to do a teen night

on public safety," and I said,

"Who's going to want to come?"

That sounds like the most boring thing ever!"

And then, of course, there were 300 teenagers

in the museum and it's crazy and terrific.

So, again, it's a teen-led programme

where we are creating that facilitated space

for them to thrive and working with them

to create the avenues for that.

One of the things that's been interesting,

it's now just been running for a year,

so some of the teens are graduating out of it

and we have to figure out

where their next opportunity is.

And it's actually pushed us to build social justice

into more programmes at the museum

so that there are more internships and jobs

we can lead teens to that really build

on the work they've done for Subjects to Change.

And the next step for that is working with other

youth development programmes in town,

we're trying to really chart out

who works with whom.

For example, there is one group

that really does an amazing job,

Barrios Unidos, in juvenile detention.

And so, when kids graduate out of juvenile detention

what programmes exist for them next?

And what programmes exist for them after that?

And thinking about how we can help teens

and how we can help youth build their skills

across these programmes instead of them having

to figure it all out by themselves.