

## Partnering with New Communities Best Practices

### Indiana Arts Commission - Teaching Artists

#### Daniela's group:

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#### Clark's group:

- Store managers when working with a retail location to share your art form were key in addressing issues
- Know who manages social media!
- Be sure participants know WHY you're there to build trust, that you have their best interests in mind and will be responsive to their wants and needs
- Reinforce that participants are capable of achieving the goals, even when approaching a new art form or genre within an art form
- Don't forget about the collaborative aspect of creative aging arts education classes, make clear throughout that participant input is wanted and needed, it'll increase participants' confidence
- Temper your initial excitement and energy to not overwhelm participants, ramp them up to the fullest expression of your art form in class
- Don't let your insecurities or feelings of alienation get the best of you
- Keep the focus on the participants!

#### Annie's group:

- Join a group or club that might connect you to the new community.
- Encourage friends to join together.
- Make opportunities to try the class before you commit to signing up.
- Different registration processes for accessibility.
- Talk to the folks within that community about what is already happening there.
- Being clear about what your program is about.
- Finding a person within the community that can advocate for your work..
- Having conversations with the community about what they are interested in.
- Connect your programs to their events and cultures.
- Don't take on more than you can do - balance work. Less is more - pace yourself.
- Be clear with what your needs are and ask for what you need from your partners.
- Don't try to do everything on your own - ask for help.

#### Dane's group:

- Ask open questions and LISTEN
- Overcoming my OWN shyness also helped them be more open around me.

- Meeting in another context, socially, and roles are different, helped change our perception of status
- Find your ‘pack.’ Your allies.
- Learn to articulate your intentions. Ask for what you need, without blaming.
- Being willing to adapt curriculum/ program. “On the Spot.” Transparency.
- Building community through conversation that may not be directly relevant to the task at hand, but build rapport and trust.
- No Judgment. Be willing to learn and adapt.
- Educating yourself on the culture you are entering and respecting it

**Lynda’s group:**

- Cold call orgs you are interested in. Join if possible.
- Ask how you can help out, what are their needs?
- Connect as a professional artist and educator
- Step in slowly – find out about the community
- Can introduce self through email to director, generally will be led to program director through email, but then a site visit with program director
- Understand organization to offer a respectful but fresh perspective
- May begin with a volunteer activity
- Understand the professionalism of self as an artist and how you offer your skills as an artist educator. Initial volunteer work as marketing.
- Find people with common interests in the organization to connect to
- Understand the mission and culture of the organization and your objectives within that mission