

SAMPLE Public Value Stories

Halloween was the last day of the show and kids and teens had a blast learning face painting... and danced to the Thriller amid the Monument pieces. The fact that this project engaged our community's youth as well as our adults and elders was important because it connected us at a time when so many are feeling disconnected from each other and from people of other generations. This project provided a positive way for us to build bridges and strengthen connections among our community members.

One of our artist teams was a family of youth who recently immigrated from Afghanistan. It was wonderful to see them participating in this community event. Their work won second place in the People's Choice Voting. This project provided a chance for our community to welcome in these new members in a simple but powerful way, and provided a chance for these new members to show that they have talents to share with the larger community.

We capture this quote: "I'm especially grateful that my daughter had the opportunity to participate in this performance because it is not something I could normally afford to provide for her. Even though I know how valuable these kinds of experiences are for her, and although I would give almost anything to be able to give it to her, the cost of classes and costumes is just not in the budget. That's why (this project is)...such a gift."

Our leadership team took an entire day to meet with Milwaukee Public School International Baccalaureate educators in the arts programs. In attending their sessions, the Executive Director was met with tears from educators, thrilled that through one of our programs they could, for the first time, support their students to complete the IB requirements of an exhibition and the arts professional development portion of meeting with a curator. This was especially true for educators who worked in schools with smaller IB programs. It was also at this time, that it was requested that the program grow to support elementary schools. Educators were thrilled that the program could expand beyond Rufus King High School, and seized the opportunity to meet with our team.