



StEPs-UT INTERPRETATION MODULE

ASSIGNMENT | Prepare for a Community Partnership

Preparing to collaborate with partners on interpretation requires planning that looks outward to your community and inward to create an organizational structure and culture that support successful partnerships.

ASSIGNMENT: **Draft guidelines for building a meaningful relationship with a community partner that could impact your museum’s interpretation.**

Looking Outward to your Community

- 1) Identify a voice that you should add to your interpretation to make it more inclusive. Why is it important to include this voice?
- 2) Identify who you could reach out to in your community to add the new voice. How could you get to know this community better?
- 3) Prepare to meet your potential partner:
 - a. Review the OF/FOR/BY ALL Partner Power meeting video [5:00 minutes]:
<https://www.ofbyforall.org/updates-feed/2018/12/10/partner-power-a-technique-for-building-more-authentic-community-partnerships-right-from-the-start>
 - b. Review the OF/FOR/BY ALL Partner Power Worksheet (attached).
 - c. Review the School for Advanced Research Guidelines for Collaboration video [4:19 minutes]
<https://guidelinesforcollaboration.info/>
 - d. Review the School of Advance Research (SAR) *Guidelines for Collaboration Between Museums & Native Communities* (attached).
 - e. How can you adapt these approaches to work for you? Given what you know of your partner:
 - What questions would you ask in your Partner Power meeting? Adjust the sheet with your own question ideas to include in your guidelines.
 - What elements of the SAR guidelines make sense for your museum? Adjust as needed.

Looking Inward to your Organization

- 4) With the appropriate team at your museum, discuss the ways your museum can prepare for committing to partnerships as integral to your interpretation process. Draft guidelines with steps you could feasibly take in the near term, such as:
 - a. Articulate a commitment to collaborative interpretation in your museum vision, strategic plan, or interpretation policy.
 - b. Operationalize that commitment by specifying collaboration with partners as a goal in annual plans, project plans, or interpretation procedures.
 - c. Anticipate the areas of your organization that will be impacted by collaborative interpretation and how you will facilitate expected changes (e.g., exhibition development, public programming, collections care and documentation, fundraising, publicity, etc.)
 - d. Build funds for partnerships into your budget (e.g., pay honoraria or travel costs; funds for a celebration with your partner in a project budget; funds for treating partner to lunch.)
 - e. Create buy-in with your board and key stakeholders (e.g., are there current stakeholders who will be uncomfortable adding a new perspective? How will you engage with them?)

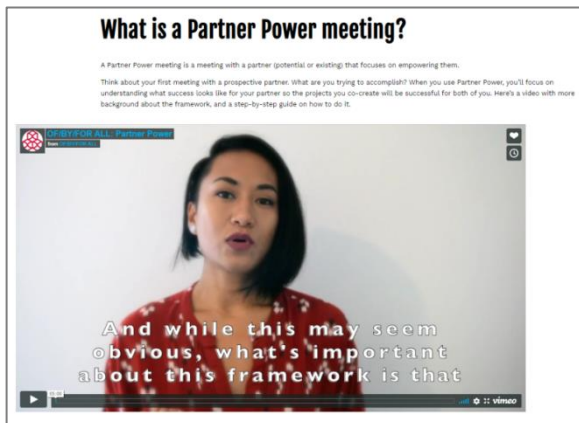
Check out these resources suggested for Month 1 INT workshop:

- Catlin-Legutko & Klingler, *Small Museum Toolkit, Book 5: Education, Programs, Exhibits*, 2012.
- Clay, Makeba, “The Transformative Power of Inclusive Storytelling in Museums,” *AAM Blog*, <https://www.aam-us.org/2020/02/05/the-transformative-power-of-inclusive-storytelling-in-museums/>
- Faherty, Anna, “Why do stories matter to museums and how can museums become better storytellers?,” *Museum Next*, <https://www.museumnext.com/article/why-do-stories-matter-to-museums-and-how-can-museums-become-better-storytellers/>
- *Partnerships for Impact Workbook* <http://power30icbos.blogspot.com/2018/10/the-partnerships-for-impact-workbook-is.html>
- Simon, Nina, *The Art of Relevance*, 2016 <http://www.artofrelevance.org/>

HANDOUTS IN YOUR MAILED PACKETS |

- Facing Change: Insights from the AAM’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Working Group*, 2018
- Glines & Grabitske, *Telling the Story: Better Interpretation at Small Historical Organizations*, AASLH, 2003.

ASSIGNMENT RESOURCES |



- Benetua, Lauren, “Partner Power: A Technique for Building More Authentic Community Partnerships Right from the Start,” *OF/BY/FOR ALL*, 2018 <https://www.ofbyforall.org/updates-feed/2018/12/10/partner-power-a-technique-for-building-more-authentic-community-partnerships-right-from-the-start>
- OF/BY/FOR ALL Power Partners Worksheet* (attached and at this direct link) <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1B8KMcadd0g4tLbRIB7OU1dGq4sDwU0S/view>



- School for Advanced Research, Indian Arts Research Center, *Guidelines for Collaboration*, 2019 <https://guidelinesforcollaboration.info/>
- Guidelines for Collaboration Between Museums & Native Communities* (attached and at this direct link) <https://guidelinesforcollaboration.info/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Guidelines-for-Museums-62519.pdf>