How to Organize and Run a Human Library

INTRODUCTIONS AND BACKGROUND

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKERS

- Rachel Foyt
  - Santa Monica Public Library

- Chelsie Harris
  - San Diego County Library

- Julie Winkelstein
  - University of Tennessee, Knoxville

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HISTORY OF HUMAN LIBRARY (JULIE)

- What is a Human Library?
  - Books are people
  - Conversations between Readers and Books
- Where did the concept come from?
  - Started in Denmark in 2002: “Stop the Violence”
  - Summer festival
  - Free

HOW A HUMAN LIBRARY WORKS

- Our stories
  - Examples of Human Libraries
  - Benefits to the community
  - Feedback
- Chelsie
- Julie
- Rachel

QUIZ: WHO AM I?

1. Police Detective
   Civil Rights Activist
   Plastic Surgeon
   Living With Mental Illness
   Married Jewish Lesbian Mom
   Animal Rights Activist
   Transgendered and HIV+

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WHERE TO START

Rachel Foyt
Santa Monica Public Library

WHERE TO START

- Pitch
- Human Library Organization
- Humanlibrary.org

TOOLS FOR HOSTING

- Timeline
- Resources
- Budget
- Collection development

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**TIMELINE**
- 5 months prior to event
  - Begin brainstorming
- 3 months prior to event
  - Begin recruitment of Human Books
  - Locate trainer
  - Develop guidelines/rules
- 2 months prior to event
  - Create media plan
  - Develop training guidelines
  - Secure funding

**TIMELINE, CONTINUED**
- 1 month prior to event
  - Two training sessions for Books
  - Implement media plan
  - Event held
- Two weeks after event
  - Thank you lunch
  - Human Book evaluation

**RESOURCES**
Two full-time staff members
- Meet every 2 weeks in the beginning
- Begin to meet weekly about 2 months before the event
- Meet every day as the event approaches
- Divide up portions of the responsibilities

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ONLINE RESOURCES

- ALA Human Library Panel Libguide
  - http://libguides.sau.edu/humanlibrary
  - All materials from panel
- Search for "libguides Human Library"
  - Include Books and information
  - Tompkins Cortland Community College
  - St. Ambrose University
    - http://libguides.sau.edu/humanlibrary
  - Many others

BUDGET

$2,000 grant from the Friends
- Training sessions
- Food for Human Books Greenroom
- Decorations for event
- Thank you lunch and evaluation
- Ads in local papers

$1,400 from budget
- T-shirts
- Photographer

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

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RECRUITMENT AND PROMOTION

Chelsie Harris
San Diego County Library

RECRUITING BOOKS

- Finding Books: Who do you know?
- Screening Books: Are they the right fit?
- Brainstorm Session: Ideas for Books?

PROMOTION

- Target audience
- Media talking points
- Elevator speech
- Press releases
- Photographer
- Flyers
- Photo release waivers
- Develop a media kit

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TRAINING

- 90 minutes
- Human Books meet and practice
- Cover
  - Effective communication techniques
  - Getting the conversation started
  - Diffusing negativity and answering challenging questions
  - Importance of self-evaluation and reflection

HOW TO TELL YOUR STORY

“Storytellers, by the very act of telling, communicate a radical learning that changes lives and the world.” —Chris Cavanaugh

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EVENT LOGISTICS

Chelsie Harris
San Diego County Library

Ambiance
Scheduling and timekeeping
Supplies
Print materials
Refreshments
Guidelines & sample questions
What to do if a Book is damaged

EVALUATIONS, FEEDBACK AND THANK YOUS

Julie Winkelman
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

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- Why evaluate?
  - Book evaluations
    - Examples of responses
  - Reader evaluations
    - Examples of responses
  - Debriefing the Books
  - Thanking the Books

QUESTIONS & COMMENTS?

Thank you!

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- Chelsie Harris, Chelsie.Harris@SDCounty.gov

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