

# **THE FLOOR IS YOURS**

## **Learnings and recommendations**

**museum van  
boijmans beuningen**

**mumok**



The project **The Floor is Yours** is a two-year public programme (April 2023-March 2025) and a collaboration between Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen (Rotterdam, Netherlands) Mumok, MUseum MOderner Kunst Foundation Ludwig (Vienna, Austria) and Mart, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art of Trento and Rovereto (Italy). **The Floor Is Yours** is an experimental, community collaboration project with the aim of exploring new ways to be more inclusive.

The learnings and recommendations in this document could be useful for museum professionals who want to work more collaboratively with community partners around public programming.

## MOTIVATION AND COMMITMENT

A community collaboration project like The Floor is Yours only works with the right motivation from all partners. Projects developed with and for people will only work if those involved find the project meaningful and are committed to its goals, approaches, and outcomes.

**Ensure all parties genuinely interested and committed.**

## RELATIONSHIPS FOR THE LONG TERM

As in any relationship, investing in building a deeper connection builds a foundation for a long term sustainable collaboration. At the end of almost 2.5 years of The Floor is Yours, it feels like we have now established this and are ready to together build for the future.

**Take the time to build connection, trust and equality within a collaboration.**

## AN OPEN MIND

As a museum, it is important to be open to new ways of working as well as thinking. It is important to let go of certain expectations of what a programme should look like, be flexible and be prepared for unexpected events and outcomes.

**Approach collaborative projects with an open mind. Be ready to learn and explore new working methods and forms of public programming.**

## DEEP LISTENING AND DIRECT RELATIONS

Deep listening ensures events and communications are designed from the perspective of the communities and allows room for creativity. When working with different groups, each group's viewpoint should be genuinely heard and reflected.

**Listen to one another and maintain direct contact with partners and participants.**

## TAILOR TO EACH COMMUNITY AND EMPOWER ITS EXPERTS

As every community has distinct needs and interests, a one-size-fits-all method falls short. Involve trusted community figures from the start and invite them to shape roles and responsibilities.

**Get to know each community and design and develop projects together.**

## COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD HAVE A SEAT AT THE TABLE

Rather than being an external add-on, community representatives should be involved in decision making processes. This helps avoid mismatched expectations and conflict, keeps communication direct, and leads to more genuine and sustainable impact within projects and the organisation.

**Embed community members in museum structures.**

## COMMITMENT ACROSS ALL MUSEUM DEPARTMENTS

Welcoming new audiences into the museum isn't just an education or outreach issue, it requires buy-in from every department, at all levels. Only with full institutional commitment can the museum become more inclusive—moving away from superficial and tokenistic work to truly engaging diverse communities.

**Establish commitment throughout the organisation.**

**THE FLOOR IS YOURS**



Co-funded by  
the European Union

**museum  
boijmans** **van  
beuningen**

**mumok**



Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or EACEA. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.