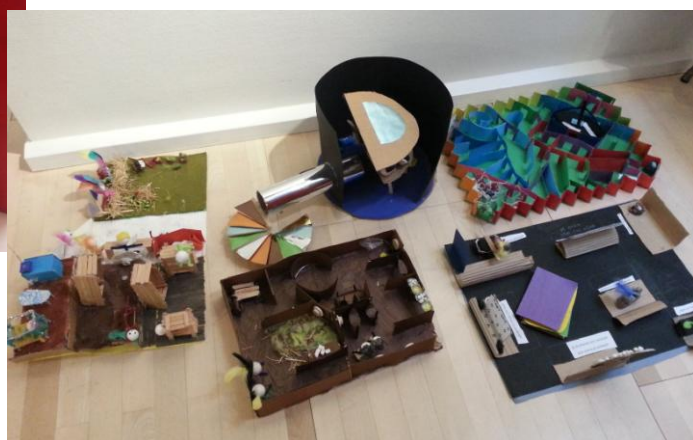
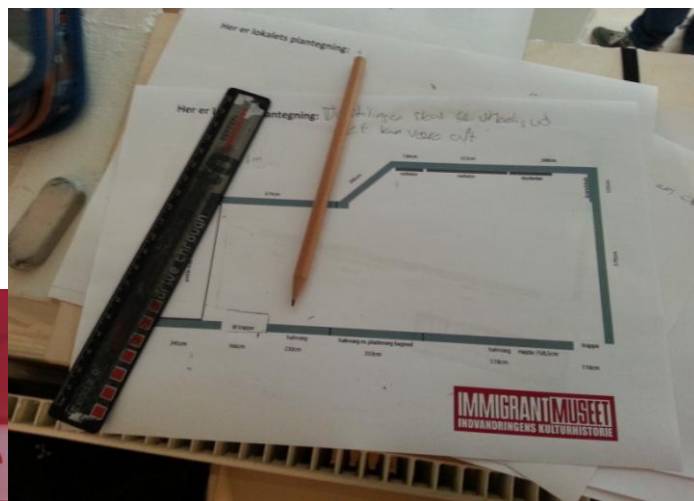


CURATOR FOR A DAY



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The Danish Immigration Museum

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Introduction

Curator for a Day is an educational workshop targeted schoolchildren living in Farum Midtpunkt, a social housing area in Farum in Furesø Municipality.

The workshop was developed as a part of the Danish Immigration Museum's participation in Culture in Action and has now become fixed part of the Museum's educational program. The workshop aims to give schoolchildren the opportunity to curate a special exhibition, giving them a sense of belonging and connection to the museum and making it *their* space, while allowing the museum to "tap into" the schoolchildren's thoughts and wishes.

Objectives

- To create a feeling of ownership of the museum amongst the schoolchildren via co-creation
- To discover what kind of museum the schoolchildren would like to visit
- To compile new ideas for future exhibitions

Target audiences

Local audience

3rd-6th-formers from Lyngholmskolen (many of whom live in Farum Midtpunkt).

Regional audience

Children from schools in the Furesø municipality and other municipalities.

Artists

N/A

Funders

The Danish Immigration Museum

Partners

State schools in the municipality of Furesø.

Process

A school class was invited to come to the museum. The class was given a short tour of the permanent exhibition followed by a talk about the job of curator. This first part of the visit to the museum was to establish how the curating of exhibitions at the museum is currently done.

Next, to provide the schoolchildren with practical knowledge of curating, they were given a plan of the museum's special exhibition space and a list of the tools and materials that are available to a museum curator.

The schoolchildren then spent a few hours talking in groups, brainstorming, and coming up with ideas for how they would like to present a historic topic at the museum. During this part of the workshop the schoolchildren were encouraged to focus on the possibilities of the museum space. The motto was: *No ideas are too crazy.*

The schoolchildren returned to their school to work further on their plans for the exhibition.

A few days later they returned to the museum and presented their ideas and models for the exhibitions to the museum's curators who then gave them feedback.

Challenges

- “Fitting” the workshop into the targets of a new national school reform that focuses on innovative ways of teaching, but also limits the time that school classes are able to spend on transportation/time outside the classroom.
- “Letting go” of curatorial power/thinking outside the “curatorial box”.
- Transforming the schoolchildren’s ideas into actual exhibits.

Outcomes

So far, the museum has guided a few hundred schoolchildren go through the workshop. The experience was that the schoolchildren took the workshop very seriously and enjoyed being “in charge”.

Following the motto that no ideas are too crazy, some schoolchildren came up with the idea that they wanted to turn the exhibition space into a 4D cinema, hovering over a large pool of water.

While some of the ideas were impossible to realise as actual exhibits, a lot of the ideas provided by the schoolchildren have proven very useful.

A specific idea that will be turned into an actual exhibition in the spring of 2016 is an idea developed by two 5th-formers. The idea is to cover the exhibition floor with a grass carpet, installing a soccer goal, and telling the story of foreign soccer players who are currently living in Denmark and playing on Danish soccer teams.

Letting the schoolchildren take over the museum invested them with a certain connection to the museum and the cultural history that the museum purveys: a connection they might not otherwise have had.

The museum is continuously using feedback from both schoolchildren and teachers to improve the concept of the workshop.

Key points

Primary learning points:

- Experiencing a different way of disseminating the history of immigration to Denmark (active learning).
- Seeing the curator’s role in a different – and inspiring light.
- Getting amazing and actual useful ideas from the schoolchildren.

Contact and links

Furesø Museums / The Danish Immigration Museum: www.furesoemuseer.dk / www.immigrantmuseet.dk

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