



Breaking Ground Summative Evaluation Report

Children's Discovery Museum of
San Jose
Winter 2017



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Credits

All photos Garibay Group except
pages 18-19: Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose

Overview and Methods

Overview and Methods

Summative evaluation—the focus of this report—examined participants' experiences at the dinners. The summative evaluation also examined the collaboration in order to identify lessons learned. Additionally, evaluators captured information about the co-creation process that resulted in the development of an exhibition and related activities.

Participant Experience

Summative evaluation assessed the impact of the dinners, particularly on the extent to which the experiences facilitated cross-cultural dialogue. Evaluation used two primary methods: surveys and focus groups.

Surveys

Surveys were distributed to participants after the dinners. Both closed-ended and open-ended questions focused on understanding participants' overall experience with Breaking Ground and the value they saw in participation. A total of 40 individuals responded to the survey.

Focus Groups

In order to collect additional qualitative data regarding the participants' experiences with the Breaking Ground program, we conducted three focus groups. One focus group was held at Somos Mayfair with the balance held at CDM. Focus group participants were purposively selected (Babbie, 1998) to ensure data were collected from the range of families who attended the dinner.

Focus group respondents were recruited with the help of each CBO. A total of 20 individuals participated in focus groups.

Collaboration

In order to provide insights on the collaboration, we conducted phone interviews with each community partner. Interviews focused on obtaining partners' perspectives on the project and their experiences in the collaboration.

Exhibit Co-creation

Evaluators also documented the co-creation process for the development of the exhibition and related activities. Using a document review process, we examined the extent to and ways CDM integrated community perspectives and collaborated with community participants.



A series of focus groups were held to deepen understanding of families' experiences at the Breaking Ground dinners.

Overview and Methods

The *Breaking Ground* project at the Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose, funded by IMLS, brought immigrant families together to identify commonalities and develop awareness of and respect for other cultures. Garibay Group led a summative evaluation of the project.

Children's Discovery Museum (CDM) in partnership with three community-based partners—Somos Mayfair, ICAN, AAIC, ICC—brought together members from five immigrant communities in Santa Clara County to develop and pilot test a participatory engagement model intended to create new platforms for cross-cultural interaction. By using food as a universal connector and an expression of culture, Breaking Ground was intended to preserve, adapt and share ethnic traditions and values with the larger public.

This project built on the Children's Discovery Museum's cultural inclusion process and skills in order to create in-depth, intensive community dialogues intended to lead to ongoing programming that would promote cross-cultural exchange and position the museum to expand its reach in the future.

Goals

The main goals of the *Breaking Ground* project was to provide opportunities for caregivers to:

- a) discuss their hopes for their children;
- b) connect to other individuals from diverse immigrant communities;
- c) share their culture and learn more about other cultures.

Primary Evaluation Questions

- To what extent do families enjoy the dinners?
- What are participants' perceptions of the dinners? To what extent and in what ways do they find these valuable?
- Does participation in the dinners provide opportunities for sharing and cultural understanding?
- What was the nature of the collaboration between partners? What are insights of lessons learned?
- What evidence is there that the project resulted in tangible exhibits and/or activities rooted in an authentic community collaboration?

Overview and Methods, cont'd.

Data Analysis

Quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and tests of statistical significance. Descriptive statistics were summarized in tables or charts. (When data are presented in percentages, totals may fall just above or below 100% due to rounding.)

All qualitative data were coded to identify general trends and patterns (Strauss and Corbin, 1990). As patterns and themes were identified, researchers teased out the strengths of these patterns and themes (Miles and Huberman, 1994).

Limitations

The numbers of surveys by organization do not proportionately reflect groups who attended the dinner. Since the majority (61%) of respondents were from Somos Mayfair, Latino families are disproportionately represented in the data. We received no responses from participants recruited through ICC, which means we are not able to draw conclusions about their experiences at the dinners from the survey data. However, focus group data were obtained and interviews with community organizations allowed us to obtain insights from members of all cultural groups who attended dinners.

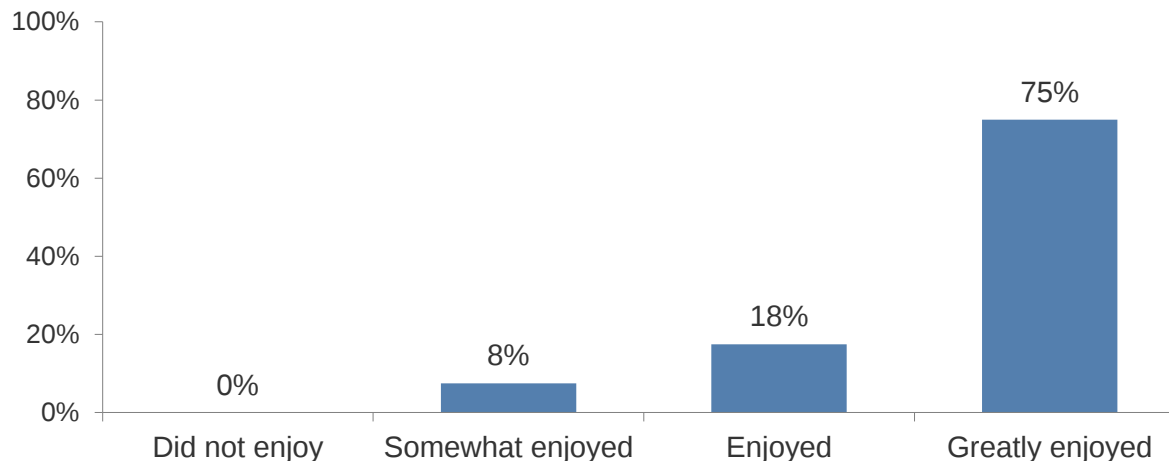
Results



Enjoyment

When asked to rate their level of enjoyment, 93% of survey participants indicated that they either “enjoyed” or “greatly enjoyed” their experiences.

Figure 1. How much did you enjoy the dinner event at the Children's Discovery Museum?



N = 40

I think it's great for the kids, the younger generation, to be around a diverse group of other kids so that way there's no judgment. They see everyone as equal. They're just having fun. So, that's really important.

We came for the first dinner, and continued to come for the remaining of the events as well... We just loved the experience, and being able to share and contribute back.

Good time, good conversation, good food.

There were fun activities, too - I think there were some games and, you know, so - everybody was laughing, having fun.

It felt easy going, just talking to strangers, sharing our backgrounds. Because I think the background is something that happens every day. It's just so normal, I mean, it's just like our daily life, or how we grew up, or how we want to raise our kid.

Participant Experience

Focus group respondents were asked what words they would use to describe the Breaking Ground dinners. The graphic below is a compilation of those words. Participants characterized the dinner as a family experience that allowed them to share their own culture and learn about other cultures.



Note: The size of the word corresponds to how frequently it appeared in the word-association activity.

Participant Experience, cont'd.

When asked how much the dinners they attended helped them learn about the experiences of families from other immigrant communities in San Jose, the large majority of respondents said “a lot” (65%) or “some” (33%). All participants also indicated that participating in the event helped them connect with parents from their own and other immigrant communities, although ratings were slightly more spread out across the scale.

Figure 2. Participating in this event helped me learn about the experiences of families from other immigrant communities in San Jose

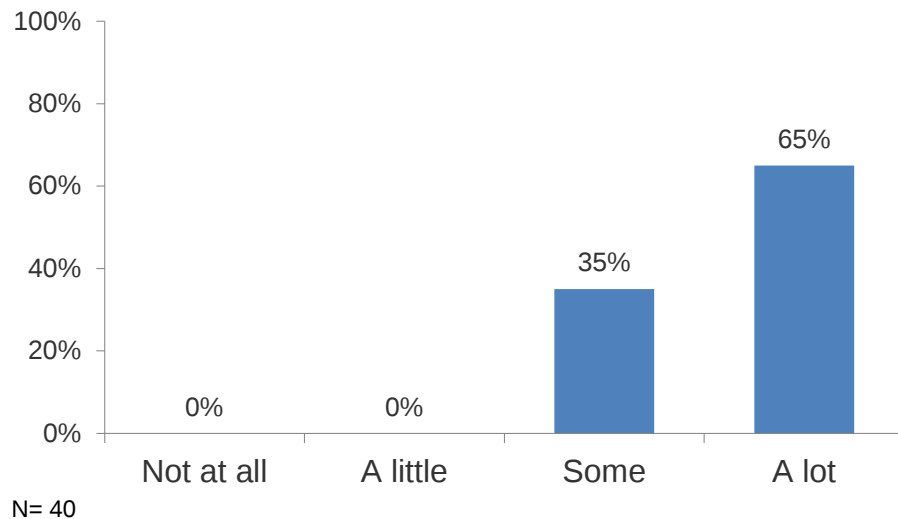
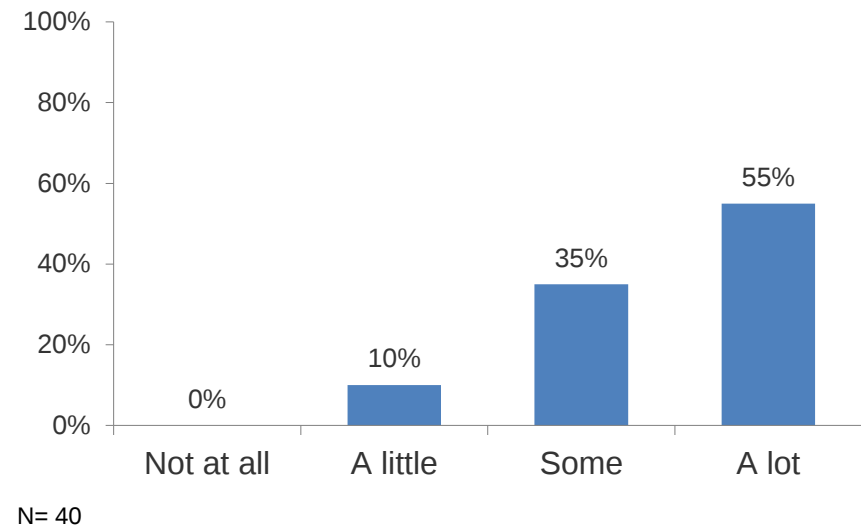


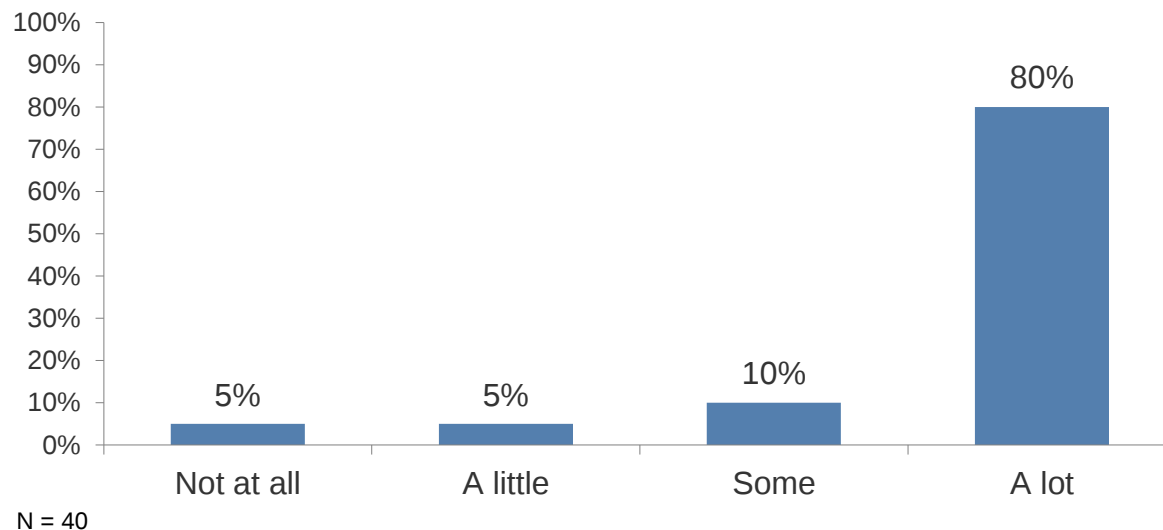
Figure 3. Participating in this event helped me connect with parents from my and other immigrant communities



Participant Experience, cont'd.

The majority of survey respondents (90%) said that that participating in the *Breaking Ground* dinners gave them “a lot” or “some” opportunities to share their stories and traditions and hear about the stories and traditions of others.

Figure 4. How much did this event give you opportunities to share with other parents my experiences, dreams, and hopes for my children as well as challenges?



Perceived Value

Participants greatly valued their experiences at the dinners. They most often cited the cultural exchange as the most valuable aspect for their families. Other aspects respondents named as especially valuable were opportunities to meet other families, visiting and learning about CDM, and having family time together.

Caregivers highly valued the opportunity to share stories with members of other cultural groups at the Breaking Ground dinners and the culture exchange the dinners afforded. They also appreciated the opportunities to share their cultural traditions with others. Participants also valued the opportunity to meet and get to know other families and enjoyed spending time and connecting with them. Of special note, a number of participants commented on how much they enjoyed the food because it added to the overall cultural experience provided.

Respondents also greatly valued being able to visit and learn about CDM. They especially enjoyed being able to explore the Museum with their children. For many participants, this was their first visit to CDM and they were excited about learning more of what the Museum offered. Many caregivers also appreciated the family-focus of the events and noted that they especially enjoyed being able to come to spend time together as a family.

A few participants also provided more general comments of gratitude to CDM for hosting the dinners and remarked positively on the overall quality of the event. They especially appreciated the transportation provided and museum membership.

Overall, participants were enthusiastic about the program, with more than a third of all respondents requesting that the CDM host similar events in the future.

Participants also made several suggestions about future events. A number of participants were interested in broader community building efforts that could use the Breaking Ground dinners as a foundation. These respondents wanted to maintain the relationships they had started at the dinners, build on them, and extend them to the greater San Jose community. In particular, these participants thought dialogues that included more groups reflecting the San Jose Community (e.g., African American, Caucasian) would be useful.

Other suggestions included:

- Having more translators available during the event;
- Allowing for more time at events for families to explore the Museum together and/or having more activities for parents and children.
- Hosting events at different times when traffic and other scheduling conflicts would be lessened.

{[I appreciated] being together with people from different cultures and sharing information from their traditions, such as cooking... Bringing the whole family to hear about the different cultures from various countries.

Learning about other cultures, seeing that we live in a country where we aren't all Mexican -- we are from different cultures. Having this opportunity with other families, to learn their traditions, their customs, their way of being, it really got my attention and it motivated me. And my kids were excited, too.

[My] four year-old and then my one year-old still find [the Museum] very interesting...we just keep coming back year after year...we love this Museum, obviously.

I remember [at] the dinner they served different cuisine...Chinese, Mexican, or Indian, and then there's Vietnamese, and then just different dishes for you to taste. And some of them we never had before. Very interesting to taste [food from] other cultures. Because sometimes you know like, tacos are from Mexico, but there's a lot more dishes other than tacos that people eat. That was interesting.

Thank you very much for inviting us.

For the first time I got to see the museum with my children and with Spanish speaking staff.

I literally started coming to museum after the dinner.

Perceived Value, cont'd.

Although participants, overall, greatly valued the events, there were some indications that the overall goals for these events were not clear to all respondents.

Some focus group participants said they did not have a clear sense of the goals or desired outcomes of the overall project. Moreover, participants wanted to keep contributing to CDM in some way and follow up on the connections they had made, but following the conclusion of the dinners did not know how to do that.

Additionally, some participants wanted to see concrete outcomes from their participation in the dinners. These participants wanted to understand how their participation in Breaking Ground would translate into exhibitions, activities, or events.

Some caregivers who participated in focus groups also acknowledged CDM's interest in being accessible to different groups and wanted to help CDM become even more accessible to the diverse communities in San Jose. For instance, they wanted to learn to become ambassadors for the CDM in their own communities.

Finally, there were some indications that participating in focus groups for the evaluation provided respondents with additional time to come together and reflect on the experiences at the dinner, which they appreciated. At least two respondents said it provided a type of “closure” for them. In the future, it may be helpful in future events to consider ways to provide opportunities for reflection that might help serve a similar purpose.

Impact of Breaking Ground Dinners

This evaluation found that the Breaking Ground dinners positively impacted families. We identified four main outcomes: the project built cultural understanding, fostered a sense of validation of participants' own culture, increased a sense of connection, and built comfort in connecting to others from different cultural groups.

Outcome 1. Built cultural understanding among participants.

The dinner conversations helped participants explore and learn about other cultures and share traditions and stories from their own cultures. Most participants commented on how much they were able to connect to others through sharing stories of their lives and hearing about each others' experiences, values, memories of their home countries, or even through learning about more tangible aspects of culture such as foods and common household objects.

Most participants also noted that they discovered they had much more in common with one another than anticipated. Participants noted that they shared many values with other caregivers, regardless of cultural background. The values they mentioned included the importance of family, the challenge of holding onto traditions while also embracing life as Americans, and the importance of their children's education. Many focus group respondents were visibly moved by the experience.

All participants shared an investment in their children's learning and future and they noted that this was a major point of connection with others. Caregivers shared many stories, for

example, about differences in the educational systems—both positive and negative—of their home countries and the U.S. One person, for example, shared that she felt children in her home country might be more advanced academically in a specific grade but that in the U.S., children were encouraged to think more freely and creatively.

Conversations also deepened connections between participants. Specifically, participants observed that the conversations with others were useful in humanizing different cultures. Listening to others' stories added a personal dimension to cultural artifacts and information found in the Museum.

Additionally, participants said that it was important to them to expose their children to people from different backgrounds and help them understand the importance of not judging other cultures for having different customs or doing things differently. Thus, they shared that the dinners also helped their children learn more about other cultures.

I mean, sitting at my table, it was awkward at first, and you don't know anyone...but once the stories started happening, and people started talking, you're like, wait—I had a similar experience, too. And then, it's just like, we were all just like talking, and everyone [is] expressing their feelings,. So, just, it was nice. It was like as if we were, like, friends forever kind of thing.

I'd just say [it was] heart-warming—just hearing people talk about how they—that was something that their grandma used, or their aunt and uncle had...It [was] nice to hear them talk about it and remember those good times.

I realized that all of us have the same concerns for our families and that we want the best for our children.

Every parent from all different cultures are afraid that their children will lose valuable traditions/ culture living in the U.S.

What it made me feel was ...lots of pride. Because of the opportunity to share about our efforts in this community, and for the opportunity that it gives us to educate others about our contributions to the community. [They] need to understand that all Latinos are not the same, and we don't have the same opportunities. That we are working hard, not leaving any stone unturned. It's really difficult.

Impact of Breaking Ground Dinners, cont'd.

Outcome 2. Fostered a sense of validations of participants' own cultures and traditions.

The ability to share their stories, cultures, and traditions was a very positive experience for participants. They greatly appreciated the opportunity to share memories and stories, talk about their traditions, and dialogue about their experiences as immigrants.

Many shared that they felt validated through this process. One participant, for example, shared that as an immigrant one often suppresses their own culture in order to blend into more mainstream American culture. The dinner conversations, on the other hand, allowed participants to bring their whole selves to table. In a sense, these events signaled to participants that their lived experiences, traditions, and cultural background mattered. This was an incredibly powerful experience for many participants.

Caregivers discussed the importance of ensuring that their children develop a positive cultural identity and felt that the dinners also positively impacted their children.

The act of discussing and sharing their culture in the context of the Breaking Ground dinners fostered cultural pride in parents, which some felt transferred to their children as well. They felt that it was important to develop pride in their heritage, while also learning to appreciate the cultures of others.

Outcome 3. Created a sense of connection that helped participants feel less isolated.

The opportunity to talk with others also helped participants feel less isolated. They shared that the conversations helped them feel that they were less alone because they realized that other immigrants from different cultural backgrounds shared many of the same experiences, particularly in terms of assimilating to life in the U.S.

For example, many conversations revolved around the challenges of maintaining their cultural traditions while also embracing U.S. traditions. Participants also discussed the importance of passing on the traditions and customs of their home countries to their children while also helping them to participate in U.S. traditions.

Some shared the challenges they felt with making sure their children held on to some of their cultural traditions and could take pride in their cultural heritage. Many caregivers felt relief in learning that they were not alone and that others struggled with the same issue.

Sometimes you're alone, and you're thinking okay, maybe I'm not doing the right thing - but then you hear other people who come from a different culture or background who have like, for example, extended families that are really important - and hearing them say that, I have that struggle, too, and that this is what I'm focusing on. It's like okay - in a way, it kind of normalizes my own experiences.

And more often than not, you have to suppress your own culture in order to blend in. So coming into adulthood, a lot of us getting used to that...it sometimes becomes very uncomfortable to bring—you know—[to] bring out, this is my culture. So we were among other people who also shared and felt comfortable sharing what we've been suppressing.

I think it was comforting, because you're able to share your experiences, and also realize hey, I'm not the only one, or it's something similar, or, you know, someone else's experience was a little bit more wilder in a way where it's like, wow—they had it more tough.

It [the dinner] allowed for people to break down their initial apprehension to talk to each other. And then you discovered some commonality, things we shared, you know, and type of food, growing up in San Jose, and the same experiences immigrants that, you know, no matter where they were, went to the same things. So I thought that was awesome.

I felt like it was this opportunity to come to terms with, and embrace yourself.

Impact of Breaking Ground Dinners, cont'd.

Outcome 4. Built comfort and confidence in connecting to others from different cultural groups.

The experiences and conversations at the dinners also helped participants feel more comfortable interacting with others from different cultural groups. Respondents noted that as a result of dinners, they felt more confident in talking with others and some were even more motivated to engage with others.

One participant, for example, shared that she had never talked with her Chinese neighbor (other than waving hello), but that the event spurred her to do so. Another caregiver shared that since attending the Breaking Ground dinner, her daughter had been speaking more with children from different cultures. She regarded this as a positive outcome of the experience at CDM.

Participants felt that their own exposure to different cultures was beneficial as well. It enabled them to give informed answers to their children's questions about classmates from other cultures, thereby enhancing their ability to prepare their children for life in the diverse U.S.

Differences in Impact

Although, overall, outcomes documented held true for most participants who were first generation (immigrants), there appeared to be some differences in experiences for participants based on generation and socio-economics.

The dinners included not only immigrants, but also second-generation participants. While those in the latter category said they did not have the same situations and experiences as immigrants, they did value the discussions because they provided insight into the experiences of their family members. For example, second-generation participants shared that the conversations helped them reflect on their parents' experiences, which they may not previously have considered as strongly. A few second-generation participants also had immigrant spouses who shared that they learned how different their experiences were from those of their spouses.

Those first generation participants of a higher socio-economic level were less focused on how the dinners impacted them. Their goal was to contribute to the Museum's process in creating an experience for all families. While they enjoyed the conversations and had good experiences, they did not see the dinners as serving a social need for them personally.

I think it's great for the kids—the younger generation—to be around a diverse group of other kids so that way there's no judgment - they see everyone as equal. They're just having fun. So, that's really important.

Each time we go into a multicultural experience, we expose our culture ... we walk away with confidence that we have a piece of information. Next time you meet somebody who's different than you, you can relate...Then that could be transferred down to the children when they go to school, and they see someone and say, where are you from? Oh, Korea - oh, I know...and they could just bring up some ...dishes that they had before, and that brought about a connection - just open people's eyes. I think that's the ultimate. That that's the end product.

My parents are from Pakistan, and people at my table...were all Indian, so we all have a similar culture...they were all first-generation immigrants, and I'm first-generation American, so everything they were explaining was - oh, my family would do that, my mom did the same things and, my dad would... do the same thing, and what you guys are going through. Even though I hear it every day from my parents, it was nice to hear that from other people.

Impact of Breaking Ground Dinners, cont'd.

Visits to CDM

Dinners also gave families opportunities to learn more about Children's Discovery Museum (In fact, the free memberships to CDM were often cited as an initial motivation for attending the dinners). To date, nearly half (46%) of the 109 families tracked used their membership to visit CDM. Of families who used their membership, almost all (92%) visited more than once, with the number of visits ranging from 2–40 times.



Spotlight Story from Focus Groups: Connections

Juliana recounted a story about finding common ground in the brief yet powerful communal energy she felt while on the bus ride home following the Breaking Ground dinner. “In these trips there was a solidarity of communities, however brief.” During this time, it was discovered that it was the birthday of one of the people on the bus who was Vietnamese. This spurred spontaneous group celebration.

The Spanish speakers began to sing the “Mañanitas”—the birthday song in Spanish—followed by the Vietnamese group singing the birthday song in their language. Juliana reflected on this moment, “So I think that, in these spaces...[are where] you see really that these [families] are like us.” She added that she really enjoyed connecting and said, “I’d like to see more or that.”

Community Collaboration and Co-development

After the Breaking Ground dinners, CDM further engaged a subset of participants in an extensive co-development process in which participants volunteered ideas and then helped the CDM team develop these ideas as experiences for the exhibit floor. Document review conducted by evaluators found that CDM's process authentically engaged and integrated community members' perspectives into the final exhibits.

The co-development process consisted of three additional dinners hosted by CDM. Participants were those who had expressed an interest and willingness in the process. The first dinner included a facilitated process for brainstorming exhibit and program ideas. At the second dinner, the results of the brainstorming were presented back to the participants as well as a list of the ideas from the first dinner that CDM had already implemented. Finally, at the third dinner, participants worked in small groups to develop further some of the ideas they had contributed. These small groups focused on four ideas that would eventually be incorporated into the World Market, the World Theater, the Ideum Table, and the Museum's Garden.

The World Market

Two ideas that emerged from the brainstorming dinner would eventually converge in the World Market exhibit. These ideas were displaying similar cooking items and utensils from different countries and a video documentary of participants sharing their experiences as immigrants.

A CDM staff member who had video experience was intrigued by the video idea and suggested conducting group interviews as a way to develop the idea. This staff

member conducted three sets of interviews: one at Somos Mayfair with participants from the Latino community, one at CDM with participants from the Vietnamese community and one at CDM with a single participant from the Indian community. The interviews at CDM were audio-recorded. In addition to understanding participants' experiences at the dinners and as immigrants, the staff member used the sessions to build rapport with potential video participants.

As follow-up, CDM conducted a videotaped group interview of participants from all of the immigrant communities in order to further identify video participants and to gain their insights into a cooking item-related exhibit. During this interview, participants shared information about their cultures' cooking items and talked about the similarities between items cross-culturally. CDM identified this cross-cultural discussion as a potential direction for the exhibit experience and gauged the participants' support for it as well as their willingness to participate in a video that would demonstrate the cooking utensils.

Afterwards, primarily using cooking items discussed in the videotaped interview, the program/exhibit development team created the exhibit experiences. There was evidence that staff spent much time carefully



Families interact with exhibit components in The World Market. This exhibit was created using a strong co-development process between CDM and community members who had previously participated in Breaking Ground. The resulting World Market exhibit featured interactive experiences with five cooking items, each of which was accompanied by a non-audio demonstration of its use by participants.

Community Collaboration and Co-development, cont'd.

deliberating and considering how to implement the ideas so they authentically reflected the communities' perspectives and voices. For example, reflecting on the process, one staff member said, "Much discussion by staff occurred about whether or not we were trying to showcase items from a country that were similar to those from other countries or to showcase items that were distinctly from one country. The staff discussions were often quite difficult."

In addition to the co-creation process with Breaking Ground participants, community input was further integrated in this exhibit through consultation with staff members on the Breaking Ground project, who represented Mexican, Vietnamese, and Chinese heritage or who worked closely with the Indian and Filipino communities.

The World Theater

Another idea from the community members that was explored by a small group was an experience with costumes and outfits from different countries. Discussions about this idea informed The World Theater exhibit in which visitors can try on outfits, dance to music and see objects from different countries. The five countries featured in exhibit are those that were represented in the immigrant groups participating in Breaking Ground. The country highlighted changes every six to eight weeks with each of the five countries showing up twice per year, usually



A woman and child play with fruits and vegetables in the World Market. In addition to advice about cooking utensils to include in the exhibit, community members also advised the CDM team on the fabrics to use as awnings to distinguish each country.



A child interacts with the kudkuran ng niyog (coconut grater). A particular strength of the World Market is the way it provides hands-on experiences with material culture. Previous evaluations have found these physical interactions provide memorable experiences that can foster cultural learning and understanding (Garibay Group, 2015).



The India component in World Market featuring three ways to engage with the okhli-musal (spice grinder): a video of its use, a display of two made of different materials, and an interactive one. While some participants were videotaped at CDM, others, such as this Indian couple, allowed CDM to videotape them in their homes using their own utensils.

Community Collaboration and Co-development, cont'd.

in conjunction with a festival such as Diwali, Three Kings, Children of the Dragon, or Lunar New Year.

Participants from the Breaking Ground dinners, as well as CDM staff and members of community-based organizations and community groups helped select the costumes, items for the display cases, and decorative features for the theater (e.g., papel picado from Mexico or fabric from India). Staff reported that visitors enjoy having the opportunity to try on the distinctive cultural outfits and dance to the music.

The Ideum Table

A third idea from the brainstorming session that was developed by a small group was technology solutions for helping share voices, experiences and images of different countries and cultural groups. CDM had developed the Ideum Table, which included maps, photos and descriptions of different iconographic experiences in Vietnam, linked to exhibit experiences, for the exhibit Voyage to Vietnam. Based on the small group discussions, there are plans to expand the Table experiences to all other countries represented in Breaking Ground (China, India, Mexico, and the Philippines).

The Museum's Garden

Finally, the fourth small group focused on the idea of the Museum's Garden reflecting the Breaking Ground countries and which seeds to plant. Although the Garden expansion project has been delayed, the participants' discussion will ultimately inform what is planted.

Partner Collaboration

Although there appeared to be differing levels of understanding about the project's overall goals, all partners felt they were able to positively contribute to the Breaking Ground project, particularly through their recruitment of families. All partners said they would consider being part of more dinners.

Three of the four partner sites tended to see the goals as: a) fostering dialogue among immigrant communities and empowering participants to share their stories; b) exposing families to CDM resources; and c) informing a CDM exhibit or program in the process. One organization saw the primary goal as families contributing to a CDM exhibit/program.

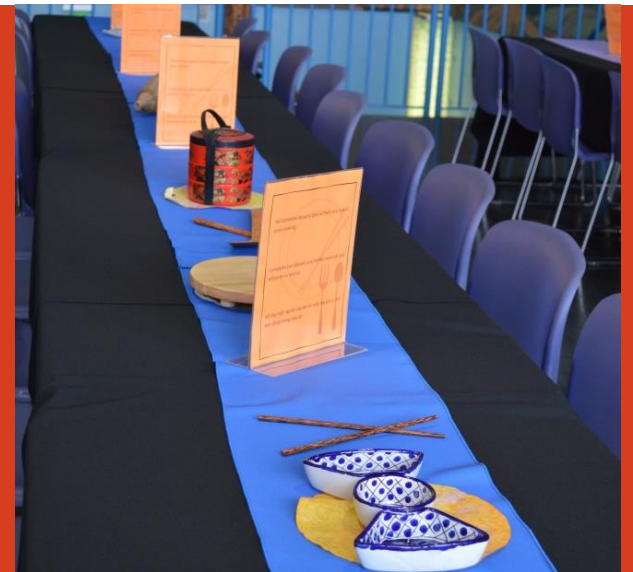
While all organizations believed the project was worthwhile, a range of perspectives existed about how beneficial the dinners were for participants. Some believed the dinners had lasting impact on families while others were not sure of much impact beyond the event itself. The level of involvement by partner staff at the dinners themselves, and their conception of the project's goals, seemed to influence their perception of the value to families.

At two partner sites, caregivers had an opportunity following the dinners to discuss and reflect on their experiences together. While not necessarily a formal process, these casual conversations did seem to help participants process their experiences.

At one partner site, participants even discussed ways that families might visit CDM again as a group. The nature of the relationship between partner sites and the families they serve seemed to influence whether this occurred. Those organizations with more contact time with families (e.g., they hold events that families routinely attend) seemed to have more opportunities for this type of follow-up than those that might be more "membership"-type organizations.

More than one partner expressed the need for more communication, more clarity about roles and responsibilities, and clarified criteria for recruiting families.

Conclusions



Conclusions

Overall, this evaluation found that Breaking Ground accomplished its goals of providing opportunities for caregivers to: a) discuss their hopes for their children; b) connect parents from diverse immigrant communities; and c) share their culture and learn more about other cultures. Caregivers saw great value for their families in having participated. Furthermore, this evaluation documented that the dinners and the subsequent process CDM used to gather community perspectives authentically engaged participants and resulted in four exhibit experiences.

The vast majority of participants (93%) greatly enjoyed the dinners and had positive experiences. Participants characterized the dinners as a family experience that allowed them to share their own culture and learn about other cultures.

The large majority of participants also felt that the dinners helped them learn about the experiences of families from other immigrant communities in San Jose and helped them connect with parents from their own and other immigrant communities. Furthermore, respondents also felt they had opportunities to share their stories and traditions and hear about the stories and traditions of others.

Participants greatly valued their experiences and most often cited the cultural exchange as the most valuable aspect for their families. The evaluation documented four main and significant outcomes from the dinners:

- Built cultural understanding among participants;
- Fostered a sense of validations of participants' own cultures and traditions;

- Created a sense of connection that helped participants feel less isolated;
- Built comfort and confidence in connecting to others from different cultural groups.

Many respondents were visibly moved by the experience of connecting with others and in discovering many similarities with others in terms of their experiences as immigrants and parents. One of the most powerful outcomes was the way in which these conversations helped individuals feel less isolated. Additionally, there was evidence that there were lasting effects from dinner experiences, particularly in helping develop comfort in connecting with individuals from other cultures.

It was also interesting to note that there appeared to be some differences in experiences for participants based on generation and socio-economics. For second-generation participants, dinners provided insights into their parents/spouses experiences. There appeared to be less impact for immigrants of higher socio-economic status, perhaps because they

had other sources of support or connections. This finding bears further investigation.

Finally, document review also found that the process on which CDM embarked following the dinners was effective in further engaging community members to co-develop exhibit experiences. Ultimately, CDM authentically engaged community members and reflected their perspectives.

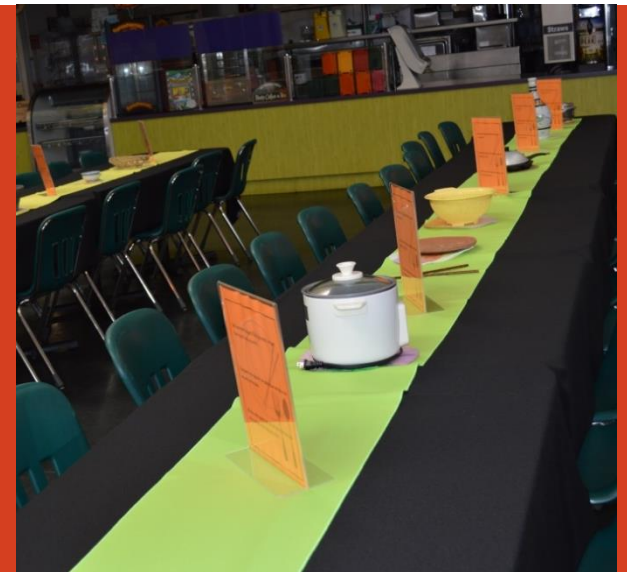
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Appendix



Appendix A: Survey Respondents

Survey data were collected from 40 individuals, which represented 11 different zip codes, with over half (62%) from 95116. Nearly three-quarters (69%) of respondents were of Latino/Hispanic ethnicity, with about 20% Vietnamese.

Table X. Participant Zip Codes

Zip Code	n=40	%
94089	2	5%
94539	1	3%
95008	2	5%
95035	1	3%
95051	1	3%
95112	1	3%
95116	24	62%
95122	2	5%
95128	2	5%
95135	1	3%
95137	2	5%

Table X. Participant Ethnicities

Ethnicity	n=40	%
Latino/Hispanic	27	69%
Vietnamese	8	21%
Filipino	3	8%
Chinese	1	3%