Weaving Stories

Storytelling and Patchwork
An Intercultural Project

Weaving Stories

This project took place in collaboration with the Obra Social Caja Madrid and also with the THAM in Hoyo de Manzanares, Madrid. Woman from a variety of different cultures living in Hoyo de Manzanares participated in this project over a period of 2 years..

Introduction

Stories can unite crossing cultural, generational and time barriers to help us connect with ourselves, our community and our shared humanity.

In Weaving Stories, the participants were invited to revisit uplifting scenes from their life. As these scenes were recreated on cloth squares, the participants shared their life stories. in a natural way. The individual squares were united to form a collective work of art and a new story that symbolized the crossing of the life paths of all the participants confirming that we all have the same basic needs .

Objectives

- Give visibility and a voice and to all the participants
- Provide an opportunity to express oneself through art
- Exchange of ideas, skills and abilities. Peer learning.
- Creation of a community of women.
- Sharing life stories and finding common connections.
- Empowerment of women

Method

- Storytelling and life stories
- Visualization exercises and art therapy dynamics
- Simple sewing techniques.
- Creation of a collective patchwork

Contents

- Traditional stories from around the world and life stories
- Creation of patchworks using recyled materials.

The Girl and the Gingko Biloba

An uplifting collective story full of hope and community inspired by a sensory visualization exercise.
The 9 individual pieces of art were created by women of different nationalities living in Hoyo de Manzanares, Madrid for an exhibition to celebrate International Woman's Day

Building Bridges

Summary:
A collective story of a woman on a quest to find more meaning in her life. On a mysterious mountain she meets a playful horse and a local fisherman who become the allies on her journey.

We discover how the mixed culture relationship of the fisherman abruptly ended and how nature helped in his healing process.

His story of resilience inspires our protagonist to connect with her life purpose: to help build bridges between people of different cultures. and help them resolve their differences peacefully.

Where Love Resides

Summary

A collective story of passion and the ups and downs of first love. Inspired in the true story of one of the participants, Marisa finds guidance in the cycles of the Moon in the most difficult moments of her relationship with her first love.

And the Moon is there to guide both of them in the most challenging moment of all; when their little baby is born severely handicapped and helps them discover where love really resides.

The House of Memories

Summary

A sensory visualization exercise inspired us to journey to the positive moments of our childhoods, there we connected with moments of joy, and playfulness,

Women from several different cultures created an image of a positive memory of childhood on cloth squares. From the 16 squares we created the collective story “A House of Memories” which reminds us of a time where reality and fantasy merged together, a time when anything was possible.