YOUPART

Engage. Connect. Empower

GROUP MURAL PAINTING

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GROUP MURAL PAINTING

FACTS

Age of participants: 15+
Number of participants: 5-20
Duration: Depends on size and other circumstances. Count at least with four meetings (1 hour long on average) for planning meetings; 2 - 5 hours for the painting itself

GOALS

- Raise awareness of a specific topic.
- Strengthen participants' cooperation and group feeling.
- Make sadly boring wall beautiful again.

MATERIALS

Broom, ruler, air level, chalk, masking tape, paint, brushes, buckets, cleaning supplies (rags, water, brush soap, paper towels) protective supplies (masking tape, gloves, newspapers or other material to protect floor). You may also use a ladder.

PREPARATIONS

Amongst the first things to prepare are:

- Choosing the topic
- Creating a sketch of the mural / graffiti
- Looking for a good spot
- Distributing the roles
- Getting the paint and other material
- Invite local media or send them text about your action with pictures so that they can make an article about it

PREPARATIONS

First meeting (Choosing the topic and goal / 1–1,5h)

Creating a mural or graffiti with group of people can be inclusive and empowering.
The best is if the group chooses the topic. They can think of anything from environmental topics (climate crisis, pollution, biodiversity loss...), social and economical topics (peace, violence, equality, debt), or various local topics (discrimination, homelessness, sexism, ageism, homophobia...).
Use rain of ideas method (brainstorming) to gather all ideas to possible topics. Then allow the participants to discuss why they think that the topic they suggested is important. As a next step, especially if the list of topics is too long, you can facillitate the multivoting to narrow the list of topics.
We suggest not to use multivoting as a way to choose the final topic. It is much better to encourage discussion and look for consensus in choosing the topic of the art piece. Let's make this process as democratic as possible to achieve a good vibe and strong ownership of the project in the group.
When you have the topic, discuss the goal. What you want to achieve by painting the mural, how should it raise the awareness about the topic? How will it affect the people? Would you like it to be shocking, informative, metaphorical...? Should it involve the passerby people during the creation?
At the end of the first meeting, ask the artists in your group to start thinking about how to picture the chosen topic. Ask them to create sketches for a possible mural.

Second meeting (Looking for a good spot / 1h)

Next important step is choosing the right place for the art piece. Discuss the possibilities together (e.g. local youth centre, wall of the local school, etc.).
Another possibility is to ask for legal public space by asking the municipality in advance. Empower the participants to request a legal spot but be prepared that they might need your help with negotiations.

Third meeting (Choosing a picture / 1h)

At the beginning the artists can present their sketches. Appreciate all and continue with a discussion. Take in consideration whether the participants want the mural to be rather artistic or informative. You should consider together the realisability of the sketch in big format. You may also imagine yourself being a random passerby and look at the proposed sketch from this perspective. Choose the sketch collectively.
TIP*: If you can't find anyone with sufficient skills, you can get some local artists for cooperation.*

Fourth meeting (Distributing the roles / 0,5h)

In general, not everyone feels like a talented artist. But the method proposed below is suitable for everyone that can hold a brush and also it is good for a bigger group to participate. You can adapt the activity to the size of your group, e.g. in smaller group participants can have more than one role.
Distribute the roles and form working groups for different tasks (depending on how big your group is). Ideally let the participants choose their favourite role/working group.

Roles/groups to prepare for the action:

- Localisation: responsible for looking for a right place (1 -3 people)
- Logistics: responsible for getting all the material (2 - 5 people)
- Artists: responsible for the sketch (1 - 3 people)
- Catering: preparing snacks for others (1 - 3 people)
- Media group: asking local media to come and report about the action (1 -2 people)

Roles/groups during actual painting:

- Painters: they paint (3 - 6)
- Overview: It's good if somebody has the overview and look at the process from distance to guide the others who paint (1 person)
- Photography: capturing the process of painting on camera; possibly streaming (1 - 2 people)

Number of people needed for different groups/roles can vary and depends on actual circumstances (e.g. difficulty to find the right spot, size of your group, size of the painting, etc.).

Getting the paint and other material

One of the most important materials is the paint of course. To choose the right type of paint suitable for you you can ask a local merchant. Take into consideration the type of surface you will paint on, the weather conditions.
If you will choose the method below you will need also broom, primer, ruler, air level, chalk, masking tape, brushes, buckets.
Don't forget to bring cloths and water to wash your hands and buckets with water to clean the brushes.
It might be helpful to get also a ladder if you planned to have a rather large painting. It might be useful to have some material (e.g. newspapers) to protect the floor from paint droppings.

INSTRUCTIONS

There are many possible methods. One of which you can get inspired from was used in Olomouc (Czech Republic) by the local Climate Coalition. They wanted to raise awareness that there is only one habitable planet for us and we should take care of it. They painted (see photo below) a picture of the Earth with the slogan: “beZEMĚ NEPŘEŽIJEŠ” – meaining: Without me (the Earth) you can’t survive. Here is a video.

1. Apply the protecting material to the floor if needed.
2. Clean the wall of dust and dirt (use broom or wash it with water and detergent if it is too dirty). Let it dry.
3. Use ruler and air level to measure the position of words/parts of the picture and mark it with chalk or pencil.
4. Use masking tape to cover the parts where you need straight lines and you will not be able to use it with free hand.
5. Paint together!
6. Remove the masking tape

Source: https://klimatickakoaliceolomouc.cz/

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR FACILITATORS

- Use a ladder if you want to paint the picture large. Be cautious! Always have someone down to hold the ladder!
- Check also the instructions on wikihow.

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