Destigmatize Addiction Disorder: Fostering Museum Partnerships for Systemic Change

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HOPES
What are your hopes about engaging with the recovery community?

Concerns
What are your concerns about programming connected to addiction disorder?

Fold the index card in half

KINDNESS
Turn and Talk
Share some of your hopes and concerns about connecting with the topic of addiction disorder at your organization with those sitting close to you

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Why addiction disorder?
Why the recovery community?
Why arts activism?
Why Remember Love?
The Remember Love Recovery Project is an arts activism nonprofit 501(c)3

MISSION:

Destigmatize Addiction Disorder through art, education and human connection
Why addiction disorder?
Why the recovery community?
Destigmatize: to remove associations of shame or disgrace
Over 100,000 lives lost annually to overdose in USA.
“For Americans (USA) age 18-45, the leading cause of death is fentanyl overdose.”

- Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) of United States government

https://www.getsmaraboutdrugs.gov/media/dea-administrator-record-fentanyl-overdose-deaths
My son, Ryan Bode Moriarty died of an accidental heroin overdose in June 2018.
the opposite of addiction is connection
The war on drugs has criminalized BIPOC communities disproportionately resulting in catastrophic incarceration rates.

https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/pie2022.html
pharmaceutical companies lied about medical research...
Why arts activism?
Writing

Super Moon
Super moon nearing apogee
Or is it zenith?
Force flows from orbit
Round earth feeling pull
Yawn
Human capacity
Ovoid explanation
Under land seas
Sailing alone, no
Motive nor question
Selfless inclusion
Acme lit path
Surrounds and protects
Open locked gates to
Discover new tracks
Below, as on high
Super moon sharing
Ancient Son's light

Dark Sweater
She showed up one evening
In a ratty dark sweater
She said she'd clear up my mind
Severe pains if I let 'er
We strolled through the night
Clouds parted from sight
Until morning's song woke
The bird was a nester
Refusing to leave
We relished the day
In the comfort of walls
With nothing to say
Eyes contact in water
No person the smarter
Then came the time
To separate ways
Left me and all that was
Right became wrong
All I remembered was
Nothing no songs
Family and friends
Forgotten again
Footprints and visions
Were all that would listen
So I sent her a text
She appeared in the air
Spontaneous blessed
Shed every care
Caresses and kisses

Fulfilled unknown wishes
Truth was immediate
Couldn't leave if I dared
Scared I was not
She appeared in dreams
Made our own movies
She cut all the scenes
Costume designer
Couldn't feel higher
Stocking lose footing
She's darning the seams
Left me and all that was
Right became wrong
Only remembered
Her one morning song
Family and friends
Forgotten again
Footprints and visions
Refuse to listen
Left in the morning
That astral dark sweater
Reminded me of
All the pain cause I let 'er
We strolled through the night
Clouds forming from fright
Until morning's song broke
New wounds to fester
No joking
No jester
Why Remember Love?
To remember love is to affirm the human dignity and worth of people with addiction disorder and the family and friends who care about them.
to reproduce
To Remember Love is Reproducible
RECOVERY FLAGS
A Case Study of Fostering a Museum Partnership for Systemic Change:

Remember Love Recovery Project at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center
Sheboygan, Wisconsin

- City Population ~50,000
- County Population ~118,000

https://picryl.com/media/map-of-wisconsin-a137f0

https://www.flickr.com/photos/cmhpictures/6567574533
https://foxcitiesmagazine.com/departments/worth-the-drive-sheboygan/
John Michael Kohler Arts Center and Art Preserve, Sheboygan, WI

- Mission: To generate a creative exchange between artists and the public
- “known for promoting the understanding and appreciation of the work of self-taught and contemporary artists through exhibitions and commissioned works of art.”

The Art Preserve of the John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, WI. Photo: Durston Saylor
Social STUDIO

A space for fostering community through creativity, conversations, and collaboration.
Midsummer Festival of the Arts

“This highly anticipated free event brings thousands of festival goers and artists together. The Festival features up to 100 juried artists—including returning award winners from last year—offering original works of art in a wide variety of categories, including ceramics, painting, photography, metal, fiber, watercolor, wood, jewelry, and others.

The weekend also includes live music and performances, exhibitions, hands-on art making, demonstrations, food, and fun. The emerging artist area for up to five invited artists offers an opportunity for collegiate and rising artists to learn about business in the arts.”

https://www.jmkac.org/engage/programs/midsummer-festival-of-the-arts/
Annual events with high attendance provide an accessible opportunity for amplifying community voices

RCS Empowers and ARTS for ALL Wisconsin at the Midsummer Festival of the Arts, 2022
Emerging Artists at Midsummer Festival of the Arts
February 2023

NALOXONE (NARCAN®) TRAINING
The Lighthouse Recovery Community Center offers training on the administration of Narcan by trained staff using the curriculum provided by the Wisconsin NARCAN® Direct Program to train others on how to administer NARCAN®. NARCAN® is a medication that reverses an opioid overdose by restoring breathing. NARCAN® begins working in 2 -3 minutes and continues working for 30 – 90 minutes; enough time for you to call 911 and for help to arrive.

*When naloxone was first approved to reverse opioid overdoses, its brand name was “Narcan.” There are now other formulations and brand names for naloxone, but many people continue to call all of these products “Narcan.”

https://lighthouserecoverycommunitycenter.org/

A program can come together quickly with organizational and community support

February 2023
- Indie Lens screening of *Love in the Time of Fentanyl*

April 2023
- National Art Education Association Conference in San Antonio
- Initial conversations between Patty and JMKAC staff

May 2023
- Solidified plans for dates of summer programming and connection with current JMKAC exhibition theme *Ways of Being*
- Initial conversations with community organizations

June 2023
- Material preparations and advertisements

July 2023
- Community outreach three days leading up to Midsummer Festival of the Arts
- Midsummer Festival of the Arts

Ben and his mom at the Remember Love Recovery Project, Midsummer Festival of the Arts, Sheboygan, WI
Arts Activism as Lived Experience:

A Case Study of Museum Partnership for Systemic Change

JMKAC + RLRP
John Michael Kohler Arts Center + Remember Love Recovery Project
Sheboygan, Wisconsin, July 2023
Community Partnerships in Third Spaces of Human Connection
Take a moment to audit - reflect on - current programming to think about your space & place as a teaching artists or museum educator

- What voices outside the museum…?
- Affirm the good work being done…
...while inviting expansion of ideas

Visitors work on recovery flags at the Remember Love Recovery Project at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center, 2023
Community Partnerships in Third Spaces of Human Connection

*Program Check-in or Planning*: Answer these questions to foster impactful relationships with community organizations, especially those which are outside the museum’s realm of specialty.

- What is the project you are working on or would like to pilot?

- Why is this important or relevant to your institution?

- Why is this important or relevant to your visitors?

- What community partners are you currently working with or planning to work with?

- What is your budget and staff capacity to help shape your initial planning?

- What staff should be at the table from the start of the project?
What is bubbling up for you?
- Dedicate your efforts to a mutually beneficial mindset. Affirm the knowledge and expertise of all partners; maintain a humble stance of learning from and with them.
- Reach out to organizations serving the recovery community and learn about their needs, struggles, and capacity to partner or contribute, and the museum can be supportive.
- Start discussions with these reciprocal goals and community needs when suggesting possible concepts and programming dates.
- Seek out a community artist who is facilitating a road-tested project that you can bring to your cultural institution as a starting point.
- Invite all collaborators to a post-event evaluation to brainstorm next steps and keep the momentum going.
What is next for us?
JMKAC continues public programming for social change.

For example, in February 2024, it hosted a screening of the 2013 documentary The Anonymous People and subsequent discussion and activities about changing the addiction conversation from problems to solutions.

This event was presented in partnership with Lighthouse Recovery Community Center, Mental Health America Lakeshore, and MC Koke, a local advocate for the recovery community.
Guiding the strategic direction of programming and resources that support the experience of youth & families at the Milwaukee Art Museum and in the community to create lasting connections to the museum.

- Connecting with the disability community / expanding idea of Youth & Family
- Increased impact with current programming through artist residencies and community partnerships
- Family studies to develop new programming and resources
- Amplifying youth, artist, and community voices
The *Remember Love Recovery Project* is an arts activism nonprofit 501(c)3

**MISSION:**
Destigmatize Addiction Disorder through art, education and human connection.

**PURPOSE:**
Reverse the diminishing of humanity caused by addiction and to END OVERDOSE.

5 programmatic goals (next slide)
5 programmatic goals of the *Remember Love Recovery Project*

1. **MAKE.** Art-making Workshops of Recovery Flags

2. **RESEARCH.** Research about destigmatizing addiction disorder through Recovery Flag Activation

3. **YOUTH.** Partnering with wellness and prevention programs with youth to bring art-making as human connection art-activism

4. **POLICY.** Educating legislators

5. **EXHIBIT.** Exhibiting art for educating the public & legislators for human connection, destigmatization and social change
1. MAKE. Art-making Workshops of Recovery Flags

2. RESEARCH. Research about destigmatizing addiction disorder through Recovery Flag Activation

Ongoing connections with community partners. Extending relationships with future plans.
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Ongoing connections with community partners. Extending relationships with future plans.

State of Connecticut Department of Correction Addiction Treatment Programs Remember Love Recovery Project is teaching workshops in every prison in CT. Security Levels 1-5.

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Cleveland, Ohio
Shelters for the Unhoused.
2100 Lakeside is the largest shelter in Ohio, and one of the largest in USA.

2100 Lakeside is an ongoing partner of the Remember Love Recovery Project.

Ongoing connections with community partners.
Extending relationships with future plans.
Museums and Galleries

Ongoing connections with community partners. Extending relationships with future plans.

Cleveland Museum of Art
Community Arts Center

International Arts Center
Troy University, Alabama

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**Missoula, MT. Montana Arts Interscholastic. Local Missoula News:** “Student takeaways from Montana Art Interscholastics”

[link](https://www.montanarightnow.com/student-takeaways-from-montana-art-interscholastics/video_bc06f232-04e6-11ef-bab6-275f4d48709b.html)

**New Haven, CT. Common Ground High School and Urban Farm.**

[link](https://www.instagram.com/reel/C6kWJDCstAC/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==)

**Minneapolis, Minnesota. 2 High schools.**

[link](https://www.instagram.com/reel/C5cM3WQMy0a0/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==)
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Envision and activate: National Mall, Washington, DC
Museums can play a significant role in destigmatizing addiction disorder and supporting the recovery community.

This objective necessitates collaborative community partnerships that enlist professionals with therapeutic and clinical expertise as well as artists partners.
Q & A
RESOURCES

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

SAMSHA https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help

Call or text 988
or chat with someone at 988lifeline.org

If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available.

- Struggling with substance use disorder (SUD) / addiction disorder.
- National Suicide Prevention.

Rogers Behavioral Health Wisconsin

800-767-4411
https://rogersbh.org/
Connect with us!

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