

Porto Seminar

Question IV:

How to give voice to young people within the institution? How can they participate in defining “rules”? What can be the role of youth panels in determining organisational policy?

Group members:

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Giving Voice to Young People at Local Level:

Recruit a youth panel via open call.

The local youth panel can:

- Advise the institution on policy and programming – such advice could be elicited from the focus group during workshops facilitated by artists.
- Co-produce activities with the institution, being involved as ‘specialists’.
- Be self governing and conceive, develop and deliver projects off-site and within the institution.
- Provide input into evaluation processes undertaken by the institution.

Challenges related to the local youth panel:

- Low uptake on open call to recruit the panel – suggestion to encourage a system of ‘word of mouth’ about the opportunity and to ensure the opportunity has relevance currently to the lives the young people.
- Progressive reduction in attendance/involvement by panel participants – suggestion to have a mechanism whereby participants can let the panel know in advance if they won’t be attending for a specific period. In the knowledge that they are welcome back after this, they may be more likely to return.
- Preference for undertaking projects at off-site locations rather than within the institution – suggestion that the panel might be too intimidated by the institutional space to deliver a project within it on their own. In this case, perhaps the institution could propose co-producing a project in the space with the panel.

Giving Voice to Young People at National Level:

- Through National Youth Parliaments.
- Through establishing a national youth panel, recruited via open call nationally.

Challenges related to giving voice to young people at National Level:

- Those most likely to respond to an open call nationally for a youth panel would typically be young people who already have some ‘voice’ in cultural matters – suggestion that those young people with less ‘voice’ could be accessed through the institution working with national youth organisations.