

The Cultural Guides

- A presentation by Bente von Schindel



The ambition with the Cultural Guides?

- **To introduce children** (and their families) from social housing districts of Copenhagen to cultural activities (museums, theatres, film etc.) – both as audience and as participants)
- **To prevent marginalization** and ensure equal access to cultural activities by 'bridging' between the residents and the cultural institutions.
- **Outreach:** That cultural institutions will meet new audiences and develop new exhibitions/activities in correspondence with their interests and demands.

How to fulfill the ambition?

- **VOLUNTEERS:**

Between 25-30 volunteers (mostly students) work as Cultural Guides and take the children to cultural expeditions (1 trip each month).

- **RELATIONS WITH LOCAL CO-WORKERS:**

In groups of 2 or 3, the volunteers collaborate with a local institution (Youth Clubs, social housing projects, or multiethnic organizations etc.) which have a strong connection with the target group. The Co-workers always participate in the excursions to ensure the best conditions.

- **QUALIFICATIONS:**

We give qualifications to the volunteers in terms of:

- Building strong relations with children and families
- Communicating cultural experiences to the participants
- Creating a dialogue about the cultural experience.

How to fulfill the ambition?

COURSES AND MEETINGS:

5 to 6 times each year we gather all the volunteers to courses and meetings where they can exchange experiences and inspire each other. We invite experts to do presentations and qualify the discussions

We also visit cultural institutions for inspiration and methods to engage the children and families.

FINANCING:

The programme finances the expenses for the activities and transportation.

We negotiate special prices with the cultural institutions.

PARTNERSHIPS:

We organize longer and more comprehensive partnerships between cultural institutions and specific youth institutions or schools (a film programme in with young people from the suburb of Valby for instance)

Challenges?

- Difficulties about recruiting children:
Typically if local employees or teachers have weak relations with the children and therefore cannot get enough enrollments.
- If the first expedition fails or somehow does not appeal to the residents, it can be difficult to organize future expeditions.
- Lack of knowledge, traditions and confidence in using cultural institutions: This project is an effort to solve this but the interest must be activated which demands patience.
- Planning the expeditions can be very difficult for the volunteers because of studies, work and lack of resources or knowledge about working with socially disadvantaged children and families.

What's new?

- The Culture guides have from the 1th of January 2015 joined the Association guides so now they are all Leisure guides.



Culture tours

- <http://fritidsguiderne.kk.dk/artikel/kulturture>

More information?

- **VISIT OUR WEBSITE:**
<http://fritidsguiderne.kk.dk/>
**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PICTURES AND
INSPIRATION (DANISH ONLY😊)**

