Creating opportunities and co-creation for community archives in Rotterdam

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Who is Rotterdam?
Who is Rotterdam?

**Young**

Bevolking naar leeftijdsklassen (prognose)

Rotterdam

2022
- 0 - 4 jr.: 10.3%
- 5 - 14 jr.: 8.8%
- 15 - 24 jr.: 37.2%
- 25 - 49 jr.: 18.2%
- 50 - 64 jr.: 9.2%
- 65 jr.+: 6.9%

2040
- 0 - 4 jr.: 9.5%
- 5 - 14 jr.: 7.3%
- 15 - 24 jr.: 37.7%
- 25 - 49 jr.: 16.6%
- 50 - 64 jr.: 9.3%
- 65 jr.+: 9.1%

**Diverse**

Bevolking naar migratieachtergrond

Rotterdam

2021
- Geen (NL): 47.1%
- Surinamers: 8.9%
- Caribisch doelvolk Komedijk: 7.3%
- Turkij: 7.0%
- Marokko: 10.1%
- Kauwerrecht: 8.3%

2022
- Geen (NL): 46.7%
- Surinamers: 7.3%
- Caribisch doelvolk Komedijk: 7.3%
- Turkij: 7.0%
- Marokko: 10.9%
- Kauwerrecht: 8.3%

**Culturally Active**

Aandeel dat maandelijkse deelneemt aan cultuur of cultuur bezoekt

Rotterdam

2021
- Cultuuractiviteiten: 16%
- Cultuurvaardeningen: 45%

2022
- Cultuuractiviteiten: 16%
- Cultuurvaardeningen: 45%
The role of the archive in representing a super diverse city

- Archive as reflection of the city’s inhabitants
- Collection as snapshot of the city
- Active role in representing the population
- Plays a crucial role in preserving the culture of the city and region.
Approaches to representation in the Stadsarchief Rotterdam

• Re-defined the mission statement of the Stadsarchief Rotterdam to emphasise the importance of the community

• Formal research into cities colonial past

• Revision of the archives’ acquisitions policy to prioritise communities not yet, or as yet underrepresented.

• Supporting ownership of heritage in Rotterdam through collaboration

• Fostering collaborative practices to facilitate communities recording their own heritage in an accessible manner
Motivation for fostering co-creation

- Democratisation of culture and heritage collection
- Encourage communities to record their own experiences and histories
- Improves relationship with communities
- Gives more information and context to collections transferred to the archive
- Standardises processes
  - Description
  - Acquisition
  - Sharing
Goals for Stadsarchief Rotterdam in the co-creation process

- Archive as trusted partner for all types of culture and heritage
- Make the heritage process accessible to everyone
- Increase digital accessibility of material
- Knowledge sharing in information management
Fostering co-creation in the city - case studies

DIG IT UP

- City-based Heritage Lab and Grassroots Organisation
- Community organised, focused and driven
- Professionalisation of volunteer process
- Interoperable technology (Omeka S) made accessible to community groups
- Multiple collections transferred to Stadsarchief Rotterdam
- Increased visibility of all parties
- EuroCities cultural Heritage Best Practice 2021
Fostering co-creation in the city - case studies

Stories in Motion

- Oral History Collection
- Digital Humanities project (Erasmus University, Vrij Universiteit Amsterdam, CLARIAH and DANS)
- Community driven
- Repeatable project format
- Collection transferred to archive
- Oral History Toolkit produced

Creation of metadata template, consent forms, licensing agreement, ethics and check list
Lessons learned in co-creation

Clear requirements for delivery
- Rights cleared
- Metadata delivered
- Digital files named

Co-ordinate processes inside and outside the archive

Provide tools/documentation for repeatable projects

Stay Practical
Make repeatable projects

Be Open to Adaptation
Next steps for co-creation

- Publication of all guidelines and toolkits in accessible (B1 level) language
- Expansion of practice to include basic digital preservation
- Sharing our practice with the wider network
- Working with new communities and archives to improve services and documentation available