

Advisory Committee to "This Ability Media Project"
Comments from the meeting of June 7th, 2005 at BACI

Attendees: Nikola, Richard, Michelle, Shannon, Brian, Vicki, Gerry, Nellie, Tanya, Lucille, Lorna, Chris

The meeting began with everyone introducing themselves and welcome to new individuals. Lucille is the newest member to our media group and Nikola, who is representing the NFB.

Other members that have recently joined the group is Sean Craig, Watson Moy and Eslie Zuniga.

The meeting began with a report on the groups progress since the last time the advisory got together. "This Ability" media project has really taking on two main focuses. The first one is the individuals' projects that the media members are working on. Each one of these projects is be written, directed, sometimes filmed and partial editing by the media group member. It is also the intention to put these individual projects on the BACI and CitizenShift website. Not every member of the media team has chosen to do their own project and in that case they are either assisting the others project or working on the big group project. The second project the media group is currently working on is the quest for the answer to the questions, "What does citizenship or community mean to you? "What would the community be missing if you were not able to contribute?" This second project involves interviews, asking questions, and observing individuals in a variety of settings.

The media group provided a brief explanation of the footage before it was shown the advisory committee. The group thought it would be better to give some background information about the video which would give greater meaning to the context.

Overall the reflections from the group were positive and felt the media group really captured some great footage which really revealed some deeper thoughts about contributions.

Further comments/ themes:

The footage is about relationships and people interact and contribute to the relationship.

The filming needs to reflect the contributions of people with disabilities from an inspirational point of view. We need to create an atmosphere that invites people to engage with people with disabilities which will give them the opportunity to discover their contributions and gifts.

To investigate deeper into the meaning of citizenship and contributions

The ability to capture the contribution of individuals like Cydney and the joy she brings to people.

Using carefully constructed interview questions to bring out the contributions.

To do more filming at AHA, using the inspiring environment and investigate deeper stories, focus on the involvement and the contributions. Look into reciprocal relationships, feedback loops, artists teaching artists, learning and participating.

Upcoming filming sessions will continue to work on individual projects

The media project does not appear to have a beginning, middle or end...but is an ongoing dialogue.