

The Commonalities of All Artist Driven Communities

*A reflection of my interviews
with Marianne Mead and Bradley Erb*

I was looking forward to conducting my interviews with the individuals I spoke with because of the impacts that they had both had on my teaching and artistry in the past. These are two individuals who I have found myself wondering “what would they do” in many situations where I knew their talent and insight would have been a valuable resource. Both Mrs.Mead and Bradley Erb work in creative and collaborative settings where their contributions helped to build motivating and productive environments.

Bradley is a professional make-up artist, sound and lighting technician, and monster builder. Through my conversation with him we get a glimpse into the life of an over-qualified gig worker and how even though he is an independently contracted artist, the community that he works with on each project is crucial to the success of everybody involved. He speaks about the importance of having a shared goal with the team that you are working with. He speaks about how they all genuinely love what they are doing and that this connection to your craft helps push your work that much further.

Mrs. Mead is a part of a different type of artistic community, in that she is responsible for creating the culture of the community within all her classes, as well as her contribution to the hills east arts program as a whole. Like the community Bradley spoke about, Mrs.Meads classrooms are centered around a common passion for creating and goal of improving students' understanding and abilities within their art. Mrs.Mead collaborates with her students and other teachers to create the most successful art program for her students possible. Both Mrs.Mead and Bradley Erb contribute to their respective artist communities in ways that are vital for their success and similar in practice.

The importance of having a supportive and goal driven community and how vital it is to the growth and success of the community has been proven throughout both of these interviews. Whether you are the one responsible for setting the tone of the community or you are responsible for one key element, creating a productive artistic community relies on pushing yourself to continually grow and progress while encouraging those around you to do that same