

Ono:

Now I'm handing over the rest of the show to David Coke, though I also make an appearance, as you can hear. The Hub project is a two year project where The Hub, which is based in inside the Wellcome Collection, are doing some research about how people feel. And in the radio show, we're going to talk about a club night called BOC, which means the Beautiful Octopus Club. I loved doing the interview. It got very philosophical. And here's me again.

Heart n Soul Radio Beautiful Octopus Club takeover.

Beautiful Octopus Club.

Takeover!

David:

My name is David and this is The Hub show. And my three special guests are Pino!

Pino:

Thank you, hi!

David:

Ono!

Ono:

Hi!

David:

And Robyn!

Robyn:

Hello.

David:

So without further ado, first question goes to you, Robyn.

What is The Hub?

Robyn:

The Hub is a Wellcome Trust funded project. The Wellcome Trust is one of the biggest funders of health research in Europe. And they have this place called The Hub. They've got two big buildings in London. One is called the Wellcome Collection, which is a museum. And one is called the Wellcome Trust building, and that is where the Wellcome Trust works out of. At the top of the Wellcome ... or almost at the top of the Wellcome Collection building on the fifth floor, there is a place called The Hub, which is a big room. It's L-

shaped and it has a kitchen. And every two years, although that's been slightly altered because of COVID, but normally every two years, a group of people are given The Hub award, which means they can go there and do research. Everybody worked together to do a project. Heart n Soul research is about people with learning disabilities and autistic people being in control of the research and asking the general public questions.

David:

Ono, I'm going to put the exact same question to you. What is The Hub?

Ono:

The Hub is a space where people who have a disability can help to make help to make change.

David:

Pino, what is The Hub?

Pino:

It's a big building, the Wellcome Center, where people with disabilities go to and try and change people's lives.

David:

Very well said, Pino. Very well said. Very well said. Okay. So that moves me onto my next question. This time I'm going to start with Ono. So my question to you, Ono, is how do people feel about the BOC being moved from The Hub to online?

Ono:

People feel a bit worried because some people don't know how to use a computer and they think that because they're used to going to places.

David:

That's very true. But unfortunately, because of this whole pandemic that we're now in, we can't really. Robyn, any thoughts as to how do people feel about the BOC being moved from The Hub to online?

Robyn:

I agree with what Ono said, that lots of people don't know how to use a computer. But I'd also add that computers aren't very accessible for a lot of people with learning disabilities and autism. Computers, they're often, you have

to be able to read quite well to be able to navigate a computer. So I don't think that there's always a lot of work that goes into making things accessible. But actually I think that if you make things accessible for people with learning disabilities and autistic people and other disabilities, then you make it more accessible to more people.

Pino:

Well, I've got a computer, but I'm not good at doing it. But I'm trying my best to learn how to use a computer but it's very hard for me still, because I'm not used to these kinds of things. They should make it easy. They make things ... They make computers too difficult for people.

David:

Right, guys. You're doing great right now, I must say. So Pino, I'm going to start with you this time. My next question to you is, what does The Hub mean or represent to you?

Pino:

The Hub represents the people, and people with disability. So to try and see if people with disability can ask people questions. And if they agree, they agree. If they don't, they

don't. That's what we've done. We created questions to people.

David:

Yeah. Robyn, any thoughts?

Robyn:

I think it actually comes back to that word democracy again, because like what Pino just said, people with learning disabilities and autistic people, rather than like normally we're the subjects of research, like people research us. But as Lizzie Emeh who's one of the co-researchers, she said, we're flipping the microscope. So instead we are researching people without learning disabilities and who aren't autistic and we're asking the questions. And to do that, we created a survey app, which means that you can ask questions with video or audio or text or pictures, and people who are answering the survey can also answer in video or text or pictures or audio. And the co-researchers, I think it's the first time where people have been able to ... that people with learning disabilities have been co-researchers. Being a co-researcher, the co bit of that, refers, I think, to co-production.

So co-production is when people who are making something are equal. So when you do therapy, when you are a patient of a therapist, then that is not equal. You're having the therapy done to you. And when you are a consultant for something, like when you're an access consultant, and you're telling people what is good, say about a cinema, but when you do true co-production it means that everybody that's involved is listened to equally. You can't just go, oh, well, I don't agree with that person so I'm going to ignore what they say. You have to listen to everybody that's involved in co-production.

And that's why The Hub is so important, because people with learning disabilities and autistic people are co-researchers and co-designers and they're part of co-production. So what they say actually matters and shapes what happens. They're in control. It's not a bunch of non-disabled people who are in control. It's a group of people with and without disabilities working together, and the people with disabilities have got equal say.

David:

Thanks for that. Thanks for that in-depth piece of information, Robyn. It's so true. It really is. It's just so true. You know ? Ono, any thoughts at all?

Ono:

It means that you can make change happen for people that have a disability.

David:

That's so true. I'm very impressed. My next questions to you is what was your best memories at The Hub?

Robyn:

Oh, that's a good question. Well, I've got two. I think the first is feeling like it's the first time I've ever had a job where, I guess I'm not sure if on my terms it's the right way of saying it, but it's the first time I've ever had a job where finding reading and writing difficult wasn't a problem. And in fact, it was quite normal. That was amazing because all my life, I have struggled with reading and writing and people criticize it and they can't see past it. And they insist on communicating with me reading and writing, and it's always been a big problem. And then when I came and worked for



The Hub, I realized it wasn't a problem anymore and that there were a lot of people there that communicate with pictures and different ways of communicating in symbols and emojis and stuff. And that was really amazing to be in that environment. And then when it happened and 40 people came and it was amazing, that happened. And my posters were in the lifts in the Wellcome Trust building where 850 people work.

David:

So Pino, my question to you is what were your best memories at The Hub?

Pino:

Well, the best memory, you feel like you're working hard there, and I enjoy working. That's a very nice thing too. And I liked doing something that's not ... to help people for. To help people with. And make people to understand what needs to be changed and what needs to be better in life. I think my tea party was good, I reckon. I think, I feel like people had a chat. See how they feel.

David:

Thank you for that, Pino. Thank you for that. Really interesting. Ono, what has been your best memories at The Hub?

Ono:

My best memories of The Hub was the sleep pod. I think every company should have a sleep pod.

David:

Oh. And why would you say that, Ono?

Ono:

Because once you go into sleep pod, you feel refreshed.

David:

My last question. This is going to be aimed at Ono this time. So my last question to you Ono, is did you manage to learn or gain anything whilst being or working at The Hub?

Ono:

No question is stupid and I learned as well that it's okay if you don't know all the answers.

David:

I totally agree with you there, Ono. Pino?

Pino:

I think what I did at The Hub, I enjoyed doing. I love to do ... I think it's very important to be there to ... I love the newspaper report idea. I like that to do very much. I think it's important to ... And the leaflets that we had to take to colleges and stuff like that. It could be a real change in the future to come.

David:

Robyn?

Robyn:

I gained so much. I gained greater self confidence in myself and I gained new skills, made new connections. This is the first time I've ever had a job job, and really that's worked for me and so it's given me stability. I feel really proud. I think we've achieved a lot as a collective, even when we were applying, we said that really that The Hub's outcomes aren't about us individually. It's about us as a whole, as a team, what we can do.

David:

From obviously working at The Hub, obviously seeing you guys nearly every single day and just have a bit of chit chat, and just helping you guys all. And being more engaging because I just used to be so shy and so quiet and in my shell, but as weeks and months progressed, I've got more and more confident and obviously, I'm coming out of my shell a lot more. Just being more engaging with you guys and just seeing what's going down really. So, yeah. And obviously, I've gained a lot with helping Robyn and William with the music jams. I would definitely say I've gained a lot.

When I walked through them double doors and into a massive garden, I was thinking, oh my God, I'm like, is this the right place for me to be working at? And I'm thinking maybe, maybe not. I had my doubts but as the months progressed. I thought to myself, you know what? I'm liking this job a lot. And I'm getting more used to it. And obviously, I like interacting with you guys.

Thank you, my three lovely guests. Pino.

Pino:

Thank you.

David:

Ono.

Ono:

Thank you.

David:

And Robyn.

Robyn:

Thank you so much.

David:

Yeah. Thank you. Thank you guys.

Pino:

Thank you, David. Bye!

Ono:

Bye!

Robyn:

Bye!

Pino:

Bye!

Robyn:

Bye bye!

Pino:

Bye bye!

Ono:

Bye!

Pino:

Bye!

Ono:

Now I'm handing over the rest of the show to David Coke and friends for another mini show from our Hub project at the Wellcome Trust. See you on the other side.



Heart n Soul Radio Beautiful Octopus Club takeover!

Beautiful Octopus Club!

Takeover!

David:

Right, guys. Welcome to The Hub show with me, David, and my co-host, Ned.

Ned:

Hello!

David:

And my three special guests are Ehima.

Ehima:

How are you

David:

Rajah.

Rajah:

Hi!

David:

And Castro.

Castro:

Hello, everyone.

David:

And without further ado, let's get this show on the road. And my first question to you, Ehima, is what have you done at The Hub?

Ehima:

Making music for the Jam. Yeah.

David:

And Rajah, I'm going to put the same question to you. What have you done at The Hub?

Rajah:

I've been doing a project called Inclusive Futures and it's about changing things to make it new.

David:

Yeah. So what is Inclusive Future then, Rajah?

Rajah:



Inclusive future is about things you can change for people who are disability. People who've got disability or people who've got learning disability.

David:

Very interesting. Thanks for that, Rajah.

Rajah:

You're welcome.

David:

Castro?

Rajah:

Yeah?

David:

I'm going to put this same question to you. What have you done with The Hub?

Castro:

Well, we've been working on a few projects on Inclusive Futures. So the first project was with Ben who was making an art display. And then we were working on a newspaper.

And a game, an inclusive game. I think I missed a ... Oh yeah, yeah. Like an online display

David:

Next question to you, Rajah, this time, is if you had the opportunity to come to The Hub again, would you? And if yes, what would you do differently?

Rajah:

I would ... If I would go there and do differently, I would like, I will try to like, because I'm doing this project, but I will try and get other people involved with this Inclusive Futures project. And I will ask other people if they want to ... because I can get other people to come and help us with the project and carry on with the project and get other people involved.

David:

And Castro?

Castro:

Well, I think everything went nicely. I don't think ... I can't think of anything that I would change because it was all right.

David:

Ehima?

Ehima:

I would just obviously say yes, I would go back. It's good to be involved in making music, making an album.

David:

And you, Ned?

Ned:

Well, I'd definitely go back to The Hub and what I might do differently is I might carry some snacks up for me from the little cafe area, because I quite like the snacks there.

Ehima:

The snacks.

Ned:

The nice coffee at The Hub. Then again, maybe I shouldn't change that. Maybe I shouldn't. Have lots of memories with my coffee.

David:

Castro, my next question to you is, what was it like working at The Hub? What was it like being at The Hub?

Castro:

Yeah, I think The Hub was very nice. It was decorated, very nice ... what's it called? It had nice colour on the wall. Like a nice ... the kitchen was very clean as well. It was very, it was nice.

David:

Rajah, what was it like working at The Hub?

Rajah:

It's like working at The Hub because you've got a lot of space and it's a big place and you've got a lot of room and you can spread out. And you've got another room next door, it's a quiet room. If you can't sit there, you can go into a quiet ... a chill out room and sit in there and do your work, what you want to do.

David:

Ehima, what was it like working at The Hub?

Ehima:

I liked worked there, at a job doing art, music for the project. Soundcheck, but yes, I do lots of stuff like getting stuff ready, helping people with disability with everything.

David:

Ned? Great.

Ned:

Again, because it's so friendly, it's easy to kind of get help to do the things you need to do. And I know also ...

David:

Ehima, I'm going to start with you this time.

Ehima:

Oh, cool.

David:

My next question to you is, what were your best memories at The Hub?

Ehima:

Well, I'd like going back again, after the virus is over. I don't do nothing so going back , clean the equipment, get the

stuff, the sound, together, give everybody the snacks or the food, get everything, the stuff ready.

David:

Castro?

Castro:

I think, my best memory is ... Well, I've got a few. Like projects we're doing is my best memory, like the Inclusive Futures. It's got to be that. And also I liked the food at the canteen.

Rajah:

My best memory at The Hub is working with people and I like the staff there. They're really helpful. If you need help to go down in the elevator, sometimes they help you sometimes.

Castro:

It's a nice place to be. Very friendly people that are helpful and that. And yeah, I like it.

Rajah:

Yeah. When you walk in and when you come in and you sit down, and you sit down in the middle space, chill out, you

sit down and you wait. And the staff asks you, they come up to you, they ask you, would you like a cup of tea or would you like a drink or anything.

I've got one for David. David, what's your best thing about working at The Hub?

David:

Oh, my best memory. Oh, good question. Just being with you guys and going through this whole Hub experience with you guys, you know?