

Award presentation at Drömmarnas Hus, Malmö, Sweden
Elizabeth Cordova la'O on November 10, 2011

Dear Elizabeth, we are so pleased that you have come all the way from the Philippines to Sweden. We are all here this afternoon to celebrate you - because you are going to receive a prize. And the reason is that in 2003 you opened up the Museo Sang Bata Sa Negros in the province of Negros Occidental, which is one part of the fourth biggest island in the Philippines. The museum is situated in a fishing village outside Sagay City. It has a young population. Around 85% are under 18 years. Therefore, it was already from the beginning clear to you that children should be in focus in planning the museum and in future work. **You** will tell us all about the museum and the activities later/ but let me just quote the Vision and the Mission of the museum:

The vision:

A premiere children's hands-on museum that will awaken and stimulate the creative and intellectual potential of children/ allowing them to discover, understand and appreciate themselves, others, their environment, their culture and the rest of the world.

And the mission:

To establish an alternative center of learning and discovery that will enhance and stimulate the children to reach their highest potential.

Quite a Vision and Quite a Mission!

As you know, you were one of the nominees for this year's Hans Manneby prize. To choose the prize winner we, the Board, follow the 5 criteria (based on Hans Manneby's philosophy and his work), you have just heard them. And we have found that you fulfill them all in a most admirable way. Let me go one by one

1. The way you planned the Museum shows that your leading star is the result of the analysis of the needs of the local community and its inhabitants. You have chosen to focus on children and environmental issues... Thus you are both in the contemporary society and the future.

*seek to root museums in contemporary society by operating in **close contact with the world around** and a keen **awareness of people's needs**

2. As for you international and national cooperation, let me mention one example: In 2010 your museum was hosting the international SEA Workshop. The participants were members of the Samp Intercontinental Network of which you are a member since 2001. I can just imagine how inspiring it must have been to share the experiences of your community and the museum with your international colleagues

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and to share your international colleagues with your community. Maybe you will let us know more about how that workshop effected the staff and work at the museum in your presentation. You have also been building networks with other museums in the Philippines.

*inspire, gather and disseminate experiences from **international and national cooperation**

3. To us you seem unusually fit to "develop interdisciplinary methology". You have studied and worked with ecology, management, interior design, education, conflict resolution, you have worked as curator and you initiated the creation of the Museo Sang Bata Sa Negros. A long list of skills within different areas of life with a clear perspective of learning in that the museum should be an "alternative center of learning" as is stated in your mission.

*maintain a **broad perspective of learning** and develop the museums' **interdisciplinary methology**

4. As for flexibility: Combine all these skills with your creative imagination and with your openness to need of the community and the people t you must be very capeable of being flexible in your work.

*show **flexibility and quality** in developing museums operations

5. Having said this I think that nobody in the audience doubts that you in several ways contaminate your staff, your youngsters, your volonteers with qualities like comittment and enthusiasm to continue to work unconventionally, with heads and hearts full of ideas for the good of the community and the world.

*contribute to the development of staff and and activities with a sense of **comittment and enthusiasm**, showing a richness of ideas and a non-conventional approach

So, Elizabeth, we are very happy to congratulate you to the Prize for 2011 from the Hans Manneby Memorial Fund for Museum Development. We feel sure that Hans Manneby is very pleased to have you following in his foot steps.

The text on the diploma reads as follows:

The Prize Winner of 2011 is

Elizabeth Cordova-laO'

Director of Museo Sang Bata Sa Negros, The Philippines

for

the way she with imaginative, artistic and multidisciplinary knowledge stimulates children's self-confidence and engagement to safeguard ecological and cultural values within the local community

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