Public library, local catalyst for inclusion

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Rotterdam Public Library and its environment
The City of Rotterdam
City of contrasts

- 645,000 Residents
- (Hyper)diverse: 175 nationalities, 100+ languages
- Dominant language: Dutch
- 21% functional illiterate
- A city of workers
- 51% has a migration background
- Social, geographical & cultural divisions
- Challenges: inequality, inclusion, opportunities, common future
- Social unrest and lack of cohesion
Rotterdam Public Library

#OCLCEMEARC19
Direction of the Municipality

- Inclusive society – fair chances, language skills, integration
- More people profit from progress
- Fight loneliness
- Work on digital skills
- Involvement in quality of living environment
- Creativity and entrepreneurship
- Right to challenge and right to cooperate
4 mini-cases from Rotterdam
1. ‘Library at School’ + Diversity Program
2. Non-native speakers (language acquisition tables)
3. Senior citizens
4. Youngsters (girl bosses + hip hop)
Accountability
### Library at School

**Reach:**
- 160 schools in Rotterdam in 2018 (125 in 2015)
- 36,000 pupils in 2018 (29,000 in 2015)
- 26 schools participate in 1st year of Diversity Program

**Impact:**
- Scientifically proven learning method
- Increased vocabulary

### Youngsters

**Reach:**
- 124 activities in 2018
- 5,150 participants
- 100+ partnerships

**Impact:**
- Development of personal skills / 21st century skills
- Most frequently visited cultural institution by youngsters

### Non-native speakers

**Reach:**
- 14 locations in 2018 (1 in 2015)
- 545 sessions in 2018 (27 in 2015)
- 10,541 participants (537 in 2015)

**Impact:**
- Overcoming fear of speaking Dutch
- Increased vocabulary
- Enhanced pronunciation
- Wider social network with exchange of information

### Non affluent senior citizens

**Reach:**
- From 41 in 2016 to 622 in 2018
- Starting in one quarter of the city, extended to 4 quarters in 2018

**Impact:**
- Sense of belonging and having a place to go
- Social contact with other participants