

LISTENING TASK 1

Adam Garza: Hi, my name is Adam Garza and this is in fulfillment for an assignment to record an artist involved with nonprofit work. And with me, I have ...

Chris Castillo: I'm Chris Castillo, and I'm primarily a visual artist. And I have had experience working in the nonprofit sector for a decade, and I currently am a teen librarian for the San Antonio Public Library System.

Adam Garza: Thank you for joining me, Chris. Now, currently, what nonprofits are you active in?

Chris Castillo: So, currently I'm active in a nonprofit organization called Spare Parts. The mission of Spare Parts is to advance creative reuse through the arts. What that means is that we promote sustainability, reuse, recycling, upcycling, just being creative with the waste that we produce as consumers and as businesses. And we also work directly with educators and artists who might not have access to all of the resources that they need.

Adam Garza: And can you tell me what drew you to them? How you found Spare Parts?

Chris Castillo: I started interning at a non profit arts organization called Artpace. And that's where I met Mary Cantu. And Mary is the founder of Spare Parts. It was just a genius idea wherein Mary and volunteers and businesses would all come together for a common goal of reducing trash. And one of the mottos that the organization uses often is *trash is failure of the imagination*. And what that means is an organization like Spare Parts connects businesses and individuals that have extra things and connects that with people that need those things especially educators who might not have the budget or the resources necessary to have art supplies for hundreds of students in their district

Adam Garza: Everybody has their roles and the positions . What is yours and what do you do?

Chris Castillo: So my role on the board of Spare Parts has changed over time. And initially my role on the board was as a committee member for the Mini Art Museum.

And the Mini Art Museum is a traveling art museum, features real contemporary artists whose works can be found in collections of museums, contemporary art collections. The Mini Art Museum is a collecting institution. The structure of our board has changed and now I'm just on the regular board of Spare Parts. There are around nine of us and -we each bring different things to the table. I've worked in a nonprofit arts organization, and made lots of contacts in the artist community here in San Antonio and am able to be kind of a connector for people and for things to come to fruition. So I think that's kind of my role in the board. But in addition to that, we're also responsible for fundraising and for steering the organization at a higher level. Where do we want to see the organization grow? And who are the city leaders and business people that we need to be in touch with to help sponsor an event or a program. So that's kind of what we focus on, the higher level of the nonprofit organization, the financials, the long term planning.

Adam Garza: And what does that connection of waste and artists actually look like?

Chris Castillo: So in the past, for many years, Spare Parts did a big materials giveaway . This would be done at different locations, but mostly at Wonderland of the Americas mall where we would take over usually like two storefronts and we would have a big donation drive, we would have a list of acceptable donatable materials and we would also have contacts at businesses and they could give us extra things that they wouldn't know what to do with. Like I had at one point in my car, something like 30, 000 VHS cases. It's things like that when a business wants to get rid of things and they don't necessarily want to throw it away because somebody could do something with this. you know, art can be made out of anything. And that's another important takeaway and motto is that art can be made out of anything. other things that we do is professional development through educating them on ways that they can reuse materials in their classroom. We also get contracted through school districts to provide art class basically when the school district doesn't already have art teachers there.

Adam Garza: Back at the library, you are the teen librarian and as being a product of lots of volunteering, how do you get all your volunteers?

Chris Castillo: That is a great question. I am fortunate to be in a position where I don't have to actively recruit volunteers. They are spreading through word of mouth . They love being able to help libraries in whatever capacity that they can. But that's not always the case. I think there are people out there in the world that are interested in the things that you are interested in. You just have to find them. I guess it's easier said than done, right? But there are websites where you can find volunteers. Social media is a great place to find volunteers. All of the above.

Adam Garza: Well, Chris, I think you answered all my questions. Thank you for doing this.

Chris Castillo: Thank you so much again for having me. It was my pleasure and my honor. Adam, thank you. It was lovely.

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LISTENING TASK 2

The Condor Country Presentation

There are things certainly you need to simplify for gameplay. Uh, you know, my job can be pretty complicated at times. But I really do think that the game covers, most of the big issues that condors are facing. Uh, you know, they're very, very low numbers. Uh, you know, the program in the real world needed to up the numbers, and so you do that in the game with a captive breeding program. And then once out in the wild, you need to keep condors alive and help them with their reproduction. And those are both aspects of the game that you get to do. Um, so in terms of a tool for teaching someone endangered species recovery, I think it's going to be really powerful.

Um, so the story of the California condors is actually really, really incredible. Um, you know, you're talking about the largest bird in North America. It's got about a 10-foot wingspan. So really unlike many other birds out there in the wild. Um, also one of the most endangered birds on the planet. Um, at one time in the early 1980s, their numbers were down to only 22 individual condors. And so, um, the Fish and Wildlife Service and many other partners, um, you know, kind of took on this effort to recover the species. And we've brought that number from 22 up to about 475 condors. A little more than half of those are in the wild now.

This recovery effort can be seen in kind of four phases. Um, there was the rescue effort, the period of time when the population was really facing extinction. It was on the brink. So we needed to rescue those birds to bring them back. Um, then there was the captive breeding effort. So we brought that remaining population into captivity to breed them. Um, after that, we needed to reintroduce them. Um, so it's taking those captive birds and teaching them how to be wild birds once again. And now we're kind of in that final stage of recovery where we're trying to achieve a self-sustaining population. We've got wild populations, and now we need to get them to a point where they can rely on their own.

So the goal of Condor Country is really to connect people with the outside world. So as a parent myself, I've got a 10-year-old and I'm constantly, you know, trying to balance his time between playing games and other apps and spending screen time with, you know, getting out and seeing the outside world. And Condor Country, I think, is a really unique tool in that through the screen time, it opens my son's curiosity with what's happening around them. And in this case, with California condors and the plight that they face and how we're bringing them back into the wild. Our hope is really that the game will tell a story about condors.

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