



# Community Building

*How to grow your skate community  
and include displaced groups*

Ideas and tips from Skateistan, Hera Skate, Skate Nation Sweden, Free Movement Skateboarding, The Lotus Flower, Alma Skeittaus, Bowlpark, Just.Childhood, Everyone on Boards, Skatesencia, Art+/Suli Skatepark

**OPEN**  
**BOARDERS**

# Community Building

*How have the Open Borders Network members worked to include displaced groups in skateboarding programs?*

By building relationships with families/guardians of participants, which lay the foundation for trust.

Incorporating creative activities—like art projects, costume contests, and the magic of stickers—has helped keep the atmosphere fun and fresh..

Consistent programs which participants can rely on.

Even when sessions get cancelled, trying to keep the community momentum going with alternative meetups or activities.

Establishing partnerships with schools/youth clubs/shelters/other NGOs helps to reassure families and engage more participants.

Creating a welcoming, relaxed environment where newcomers feel comfortable joining over time.

Using a mobile skatepark to reach smaller neighbourhoods & engage hard-to-reach areas/remove the barriers associated with having to travel to sessions.

Including parents and community-based volunteers in sessions has boosted engagement, especially among girls.

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*Small things we've done that made a surprisingly big difference in making people feel part of our skate community:*



**Ask! (Don't assume) Say hello, greet newcomers, and see if skaters/youth are showing up for the session. Cheering for everyone's efforts, encouragement goes a long way.**

**Knowing your students, knowing their names, remembering their progress, or something unique about a participant's experience, preferences from the previous session. This makes it apparent that we care about participants, and that we want to see them at the next session! The recognition gives a sense of belonging.**



**Dancing station! Including activities that are already comfortable or familiar, alongside skate sessions can help to welcome new participants, or kids that are new to skating.**