

Philip Dallmann: Hi, um, so, uh, I'm recording this, um, on Friday, March 15th, um, in the morning. Um, we, we will have, uh, the standard intro and, and all of those things that I, I recorded earlier. I wanted to, uh, stop ...

Philip Dallmann: I woke up this morning and once again, uh, when I, I looked at my phone, um, there was a headline of horror. Um, there was a massacre in, um, New Zealand, um, at two mosques and, um, and as you listen to this on Tuesday, obviously, uh, more and more information will help come to light, I'm sure, um, and act, in this act of terror, um, and hate.

Philip Dallmann: And, uh, you know, I'm, I, I, I'm not hopping on here to say I have a solution or, um, how to remove all the hates in the world and create a completely warm and inclusive society, um, but this is just another call to action, another call to keep marching, keep protesting, keep petitioning and keep loving, um, which is probably the hardest thing I think sometimes to, to do during all this.

Philip Dallmann: It's, it's, we grieve, we hurt for the families and, and the friends and the people, um, uh, who are lost in these acts of violence, but we need to continue to set examples, um, and I know that that sounds, oh, well that doesn't change the current climate, but we always, we, we can, we can be focused on both, we can be focused on, uh, working towards fixing things now and making sure that generations after us follow the example of inclusion.

Philip Dallmann: Um, and, and it feels like I know sometimes, you know, for as many success stories as we read, um, and, um, you know, I'm, yesterday I read ... I don't even remember what it was, but I was like, um, oh, i- honestly I think it was just a theater add in captioning and I was just so happy, just so happy, um, because it was arts again continuing to opening their doors, um, to, uh, uh, a community that wasn't wasn't being served at that theater.

Philip Dallmann: And, um, I think we have to keep doing those things and not let those, um, um ... I'm sorry ... um, and not let those things get lost, but, um, we need to keep thinking about what I ca-, what we can do and, um, it's not always going to be the big action and, and, i- it will be the marches and it, and it, it will be being incredibly vocal, but there are little things we can do every day.

Philip Dallmann: Um, in New York, uh, I know it's frowned upon to smile, but it may be smiling at, at, at and, and, showing outward warmth, which again, not a thing that we typically do here, um, but if it, if it shows somebody else that we care about just common humanity, then I, I think it's, it's worth taking off that, that New York armor.

Philip Dallmann: And everywhere else in the world I know, um, this podcast is heard in, in many different parts of this country and, and part, parts of the world and look inward what can you do today? What can you do tomorrow to help set an example of love, of acceptance, of inclusion and maybe change somebody's heart, maybe open somebody's mind.

Philip Dallmann: We always, um, focus a lot on results and, and quantified- quantifiable data at times and I think, I think if you create the opportunity for someone to change and if you create the facility for someone to see things maybe a bit differently and not be blinded by hate, by greed, by self-preservation or, you know, their privilege, um, then we're, then we're all on the right track.

Philip Dallmann: Um, and, and that's all I'm gonna say. I, I, um, I didn't want to go this week without, uh, without putting that out there and I know we've talked about it before, but it's the tiny little things we do every day that are going to add up to change this world. So that's my call to action for all, all of our listeners. What can you do today, what can you do tomorrow to add more warmth, more love, more inclusion to the world? Thank you.

Philip Dallmann: Hello inclusion believers and welcome to the Access Champions podcast. I'm your host, Phil Dallmann, for this week's journey into the galaxies of accessibility, diversity and inclusion. Uh, we have the, uh, second to last, um, part of our TDF organizational buy-in series, uh, this week and we sit down with Daniel Renner, uh, who is the Director of TDF Public Engagement Programs, um, and, uh, it's a real, real conversation and Daniel's had a, a, definitely a fascinating journey from, uh, the West Coast to the East Coast an- and sort of, um, tracking the evolution of, uh, community engagement in that journey.

Philip Dallmann: Um, uh, I think it's fascinating and, and you know a lot of, um, wonderful progress has happened, um, and evolved out of TDF's education program in what now exists as the community engagement programs with, you know, Create New York a- and things like that. Um, so really excited to share that conversation.

Philip Dallmann: Um, if you've ever met Daniel, um, he's one of the most charismatic humans I've ever met. Uh, you're immediately engaged, uh, which I suppose, um, is apropos for his title of community engagement. Um, so, uh, again, uh, very excited to share that ...

Philip Dallmann: We do have a, uh, point to ponder this week from ... it's been a minute since we've, uh, had, uh, him chime in with, with, with one of those and so excited to pick those back up. Um, next week will be the final segment of, uh, TDF organizational buy-in with, uh, Colleen Mullins, um, who is TDF's Accessibility Program ... and also, uh, my replacement (laughs), uh, so, uh, and it's not often you get to sit down, uh, with your replacement and kind of, uh, you know, uh, talk the talk, talk shop, um, and, uh, so I'm excited to share that with you guys next week.

Philip Dallmann: Um, and as I mentioned last week after that we're gonna dive into some more our Chicago stuff and that's gonna be really dope. Um, just had the best conversations and continuing have, uh, great conversations. A lot of people who I wasn't able to necessarily connect with, um, while I was physically there, um, we've arranged a bunch of chats since. So, um, excited to share those with you as ... as always, uh, if you don't already, give us a follow on social media. Uh, we

are at Access Champion on Twitter and Instagram, uh, and the Access Champion podcast on Facebook. uh, our Champion intern, Miss Kelsey Rose Brown on, does, uh a tremendous job of creating really unique content, um, you, if you do follow us or have seen us online you'll know that uh, semi-rebranded in the new year with, um, the stylized drawings of our guests, which are really awesome, and, um, you know just really, really great stuff.

Philip Dallmann: So go ahead and, and give us a follow, um, and, uh, if you do love the podcast, uh, it means a lot if you give us a little star rating on iTunes or Google Play. Um, I think Stitcher also has a rating system, um, and maybe like a quick two sentence review wouldn't, wouldn't be terrible. Um, it just helps us, uh, keep on keeping on. Uh, as you heard in the last couple weeks we've had some sponsors come through, um, and, and those kind of things help us get sponsors ... coming to you every ... so thank you, hopefully in advance for, for those reviews.

Philip Dallmann: And I think that's it for this week. So, uh, we're gonna start it off with, uh, Lew Michaels with a Point to Pond-

Lew Michaels: Hello Access Champions. I'm Lew Michaels and this is a Po- ...

Lew Michaels: A few weeks back I had the opportunity to travel down to Orlando, Florida, home of the sunshine with my family for a vacation to Disney World. It was a great experience and I noticed, sort of right off the bat as I was wearing my accessibility hat just how much of Disney World, um, is accessible and I know before anyone sends me their hate mail, that there is always room for improvement. There are always things that businesses and corporations can do better. I'm not saying that they're perfect. I'm just saying that there was a lot of stuff that just seemed to come naturally to the experience at Disney.

Lew Michaels: And it's, it's sort of built in, into every corner. Um, and this is me looking at it with my accessibility hat on, but not necessarily using any of the services that are available, uh, for me or for my family. Um, so it's just a perspective from an outsider sort of looking in.

Lew Michaels: But they have it down, what seems like so ... I mean again, there's thousands upon thousands of people that travel there every year, so there always doing it, but the ease in which it happens makes the experience for those who need the services much better.

Lew Michaels: There was a lady waiting for the bus at the hotel that we were staying at and as the bus pulls up to take us over, I think it was to Magic Kingdom or Epcot, the bus pulls up and she's sitting on her mobility device and she's going to remain on it to get onto the bus.

Lew Michaels: The bus pulls up and takes out this ramp, but doesn't open the front doors and that's so this lady can wheel onto the bus, get settled and be safe and, and secure in her spot before the 40 other people who are trying to get onto this

bus, crowd her and get in the way and there's obviously some grumbling of people who are like, "Why does she get to go on first?" but you know in your mind you just chalk that up to those people are just people who don't get it.

Lew Michaels: Um, but then move into the, into the actual parks themselves and you see things that you ... unless you're, I guess, looking for them, you don't really notice, but we went over to Hollywood Studios one rainy day and in Disney when you are faced with rain you just, you can go anyway and you soldier on and you get wet, but you enjoy the, the part nonetheless.

Lew Michaels: And we had stopped into this, um, semi-covered stage area that was doing the "Beauty And The Beast" stage show and I noticed down in the right-hand corner there were four ASL interpreters who were interpreting the "Beauty And The Beast" stage show. And it was probably three or four, maybe 10 people tops, um, that were partaking in, in this ASL performance, but it's just once of those things, like in the moment you don't necessarily even think like, "Oh, wow, yeah, I would have never thought about an ASL performance of "Beauty And The Beast" and just it doesn't cross your mind, but it's, it's that type of seamless thing, like you don't think about it, but it's actually happening.

Lew Michaels: We went over to Magic Kingdom. My kids love It's A Small World and of course my recommendation to anybody who is going to Magic Kingdom and is gonna go on It's a Small World that you wait till the end of your day to go on it, so that you are not humming the tune and have it stuck in your, stuck in your head the entire time.

Lew Michaels: So It's a Small World is an indoor sort of boat ride. Um, it's a big classic boat that seats about four people in a row and it's probably four or five rows in each boat, and then interspersed within this continuous looping boat ride are these boats that are, they have less benches and they're designed for people who are using mobility devices to simply wheel into the boat, um, to be able to go on the ride. And that loads on one side of the water and the general crowd loads on the other.

Lew Michaels: We were waiting for our boat and the, we were next in line. The gentleman in front of us, um, saw that a mobility boat was coming up next and there were people across the way and he out loud sort of said, "Well what's, why is that boat there? Who's getting on that boat? Why are they get- get on before us?" And the cast member turned around and said, "Oh sir, your, there's another boat right behind it, we're gonna get you on in just a second. Um, no worries."

Lew Michaels: And he paused for a second and he said it again, "Oh my goodness, how long do we have to wait for this boat to load? This is ridiculous," and the cast member without missing a beat turned and said, "Everybody gets to enjoy the magic," and that moment I thought to myself, wow, I don't know if that's Walt Disney training, I don't know if this person has somebody in their family who has accessibility needs but it seemed so natural a response, it wasn't forced.

Lew Michaels: Um, so I don't know who, I don't know where that, that response came from, but kudos to Disney if that's their sort of training, that our parks are for everybody and that certainly seems the case as you're going through. Now again, I know that there are things that could be improved, um, but overall, kudos to Disney for looking at the little things and trying to improve them.

Lew Michaels: I'm sure a lot of it is based on guest feedback, um, and it just seems so counter to a previous point to ponder about fairs and local attractions and how non-accessible they are for communities in these community events that are happening in small town USA that for the general public in your small town it's so difficult to make little changes that would benefit so many, um, it's nice to see, and again I know that Disney has lots of money and lots of people and all that stuff, but, um, it was nice to see.

Lew Michaels: So again, a big shout out to Walt Disney World, um, and the experience that they make it possible for, for everybody, so that as that cast member said, "Everybody, no matter what, no bu- no matter your accessibility needs or otherwise, you get to experience the magic." I'm Lew Michaels and that was a Point to Ponder.

Philip Dallmann: Thanks, Lew, for that magical po- ... always excited to have that, um, and, uh for those of you out there in the access world, um, if you're interested in coming on the show and maybe not necessarily in an interview setting, but you have an idea for a segment, um, or something you'd like to share in a, you know, feel free to reach out to us. Um, you can connect with us at, uh, accesschampion@gmail.com or through, you know, messaging on any social media. We're very, very responsible, um, and always very excited.

Philip Dallmann: Now, keeping the ball rolling, Access Champion, Daniel ...

Philip Dallmann: All right we are here with, uh, Daniel Renner, the Director of Public Engagement here at TDF. Uh, thanks for joining us, Dan.

Daniel Renner: Sure, lovely to be here.

Philip Dallmann: Um, so I always find it, uh, incredibly interesting a- and I, I'm a little bit of, uh, of a geek about this. Um-

Daniel Renner: (laughs).

Philip Dallmann: ... 'cause I, I mean I launched the podcast because I like had, was having all these amazing conversations, uh, with people and I, and in one of my favorite things is how did you end up here and like so many people have such interesting journeys to the nonprofit sector, uh, and the arts in general, uh, that I find it fascinating. I hope our listeners find it fascinating 'cause I run this out all the time, um, but tell me a, a little bit about your journey.

Daniel Renner: I've always been in the nonprofit theater world because it saved my life as a young boy. I moved to a small town in rural Oregon where I didn't find it and I found a community theater of adults who took this little kid in and said, "Hey, do you want to do props?" (laughing) and I said, "Sure."

Daniel Renner: Pretty soon I knew all their lines, it drove them crazy, but I started doing theater then in junior high and high school and college and, uh, went to graduate school to become a professional actor-

Philip Dallmann: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Daniel Renner: ... and worked all up and down the West Coast, with called [I-Five 00:19:34] Playhouse-

Philip Dallmann: Okay (laughs).

Daniel Renner: Shakespeare and the Santas and become, uh, uh, from an actor to director to a producer to an associate artistic director and finally a dean of a graduate school and then now I'm here.

Philip Dallmann: Hey now, that's a, that's quite an arc there (laughing).

Daniel Renner: Who am I today?

Philip Dallmann: Yeah, exactly. So, uh, when you ... what, what, what did the landscape look like?

Daniel Renner: Oh, it was very different for me. I mean I, I had worked in the West Coast and Midwest-

Philip Dallmann: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Daniel Renner: ... worked the Denver Center Performing Arts before this and I had moved-

Philip Dallmann: We've, we've had Sara Hom earlier. Also a, uh, alum of the Denver Center for the Performing Arts.

Daniel Renner: Yes. So, um, more and more over the years I became really interested in the intersection between the art form as the catalyst for communities and conversation-

Philip Dallmann: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Daniel Renner: ... and the play is not the thing. The play is the beginning of a conversation and must have a catalytic effect, otherwise the artist wouldn't be doing it, they wouldn't create this work or and all the artisans around it.

Daniel Renner: So I did a lot of work working with communities out West and different organizations and trying new things and so that was what enticed me to come to TDF, 'cause Tory Bailey, our Executive Director, said, "We want to make that plunge. We want to go further and dark ... the deeper, uh, not darker."

Philip Dallmann: Hmm.

Daniel Renner: Um, so I came on as the Direction of Education working to expand that and now I moved up into public engagement, uh, with is really focused on communities-

Philip Dallmann: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Daniel Renner: ... uh, rather than schools, which are wha- and our work is so good there, I mean it's so dynamic, but that was what we ... we didn't have a footprint in neighborhoods and we were very Broadway-centric when I got here.

Philip Dallmann: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Daniel Renner: And Manhattan-centric, so I wanted to work in all five boroughs and find out what are the access points, what are the roadblocks, the stumbles that people come up against? What is the fear or do they even know what's happening in their own community and how could they come together as a, a cohort, a group become cultural architects in their own neighborhood and civic ambassadors?

Daniel Renner: So we created, uh, about what, we're in our fourth year, Create New York-

Philip Dallmann: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Daniel Renner: ... which is, uh, unique in this country at this point because we go to community centers and we partner for three years with the group and they go and see four shows each year, one can be on Broadway, one has to be in their neighborhood.

Philip Dallmann: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Daniel Renner: They curate whatever they want to see, it's totally democratic. They meet afterwards with an artist and a representative from the community center or that neighborhood that they know and they have facilitated conversation and workshops over food-

Philip Dallmann: Hey.

Daniel Renner: ... and find each, each conversation, each show or dance or musical concert-

Philip Dallmann: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Daniel Renner: ... whatever, it hiphop, LA, we love that, um, there comes a platform, there comes a plank and idea, central issue that relates to them personally in their

community and they gather these together at the end and they say, "Now we're gonna give you," ... TDF. "We'll give you \$2000 to create a community event for the public."

Daniel Renner: And they take those ideas then how do they want to manifest the art and ideas in a concrete way in that community and do it every year for three years? And so that's kind of a big challenge, but TDF pays for everything 'cause we realize money is an issue at this point.

Philip Dallmann: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Daniel Renner: Although it becomes less so 'cause we help them and understand there are ways to navigate the system.

Philip Dallmann: Oh yeah.

Daniel Renner: ... uh, and, you know how to find, how to get it more cheaply and also to be savvier about what you're looking for and not just accept some of the media type that comes at you that they learn that Off Broadway, Off-Off Broadway, regional stuff, community theater, uh, church theater, there's dynamic stuff in their neighborhoods and they should be proud of it-

Philip Dallmann: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Daniel Renner: ... and, uh, work together with them. So the, the events, the community events at the end are so dynamic and they're so diverse, everything from working with the community street fair and food market, uh, to having a celebration, to doing, um, gallery walks with local galleries and art museums and then they commissioned, um, an artist to take the ideas and themes and create a mural that will live forever in that community center and have an unveiling.

Daniel Renner: Uh, they have events, one that's for female empowerment, which had workshops and all kinds of art. Then they had one for men 'cause they felt they didn't want (laughs) leave them out, for them to find and tell their stories, which is all hiphop and poetry. Um, one of my favorites was the Casita Maria, up in the Bronx where they are mostly single parents-

Philip Dallmann: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Daniel Renner: ... and the Lion King really hit them in the solar plexus-

Philip Dallmann: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Daniel Renner: ... because it's about a child losing a parent, it's a family.

Philip Dallmann: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Daniel Renner: So, they created a day in their gymnasium of old fashioned games that parents had grown up with, of, you know, gunnysack races, three-legged races, skipping rope, all that stuff that the kids had never played before. And you had to bring a child, hopefully your own-

Philip Dallmann: Uh-huh (laughs) just grab one off the street.

Daniel Renner: ... but related somehow. So you didn't ... that did not pass muster. They, uh, and then the kids showed them their games-

Philip Dallmann: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Daniel Renner: ... then we had a woman from the neighborhood who teaches families how to go shop at bodegas and eat healthfully and cook healthfully, so the kids and parents learn to do that together and then at the end, everybody unplugged, there were no phones, smartphones, no iPads, no iPods, those were put away and they sat in reflection and talked to each other quietly face-to-face which they rarely have time to do.

Philip Dallmann: That's amazing.

Daniel Renner: So that was kind of a lovely about a family, what it can discover about itself and its resources in its own neighborhood and within each other.

Philip Dallmann: Absolutely. What are, uh, a- as you're going into these communities a- and, uh, sort of launching these programs there-

Daniel Renner: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Philip Dallmann: ... what are some of the challenges you guys face?

Daniel Renner: What are the challenges? There's so many challenges.

Philip Dallmann: (laughs)

Daniel Renner: Well, I mean finding the right partnerships-

Philip Dallmann: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Daniel Renner: ... because whe- when I say we s- three years that cohort goes, then each year we had another cohort, so eventually there are three groups at one community center going in tandem, so it becomes 45, 50 people at a shot.

Philip Dallmann: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Daniel Renner: Um, in getting people to understand what we're trying to do, what it, the requirement, the commitment for adults, single parents are working, to be able to give up that time for three years and commit. They have to show up-

Philip Dallmann: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Daniel Renner: ... because if they don't then the group falls apart, you can't be an opt-in/opt-out. In tha-

Philip Dallmann: Right, you gotta keep that ecosystem alive.

Daniel Renner: You have to ... otherwise the group ... it's like lose- missing a, a hand or a limb.

Philip Dallmann: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Daniel Renner: They become very tight because they reveal themselves to each other-

Philip Dallmann: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Daniel Renner: ... the issues that they're dealing with and, and the stories that come up out of the stories they've seen onstage. And then when they come together getting them to commit to ... not getting to commit, but having the availability of time to commit to creating these community events, which takes hours and hours and hours of planning and legwork. Uh, that, that's a challenge and finding community centers that are sync-

Philip Dallmann: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Daniel Renner: ... uh, where art has to be of value to some degree. I mean there's lots of organizations we could work with, but it really isn't their mission.

Philip Dallmann: Mm-hmm (affirmative), yeah.

Daniel Renner: Um, so that's, that's a challenge and then trying to get into, you know, when you walk in they say, "Well, why are you here?"

Philip Dallmann: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Daniel Renner: ... and we're now, because we, we're now in Arts East New York, and, um, in Brooklyn and we're in, in the Bronx as [Seat Umbrea 00:26:31] and, and we're in, uh, The Point in the Bronx and The Dream Center of Harlem, we now have a reputation.

Philip Dallmann: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Daniel Renner: Now people go, "Oh, you really are doing this. You mean this. You're ... " uh, we're not trying to do anything other than our mission, which is to get rid of all

the barriers and create access and inclusion for people who are traditionally marginalized-

Philip Dallmann: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Daniel Renner: ... are not able to or don't realize they have the resources. Uh, that is really what we're trying to do and once you walk that long net and then you have people, uh, in these groups in communities who are saying, "Yeah, yeah, they're cool. They're good."

Philip Dallmann: (laughs) yeah, word of mouth, love it, yeah.

Daniel Renner: Well and you get a certain ... after a certain amount of time-

Philip Dallmann: You get street cred.

Daniel Renner: You ha- you have the street cred-

Philip Dallmann: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Daniel Renner: ... and you have enough people there that can talk to it and they also, after they go out of the group we're finding they're going and doing their own things now, that they're taking their families. My belief is if you can get a family to go see a show of any kind together it becomes like a Christmas memory or a Thanksgiving memory, it's something everybody did, experienced, talked about. They'll always go back and kind of polish it and talk about it again, it's kind of a gold medal memory-

Philip Dallmann: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Daniel Renner: ... and then it becomes ... I hate the word, but the only one I can think of, a family value.

Philip Dallmann: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Daniel Renner: And they will treasure that as they treasure holidays and certain other events. So then art is central to their DNA.

Philip Dallmann: Absolutely. What I, and what I love about that program, um, so much is that is the aspect of, um, uh, facilitating the art in their neighborhood because then it avoids that idea of sort of like colonization art, right?

Daniel Renner: Oh yes.

Philip Dallmann: So, uh, and we've talked about that a little bit on the podcast, is, is decolonization work and, and not just saying, "Okay, uh, you need Shakespeare, so let's-

Daniel Renner: Yeah, we don't know what's right.

Philip Dallmann: Yeah.

Daniel Renner: ... they decide what's right for them plus the fact is I go, "Guys, go to Off Broadway, Off-Off Broadway. You're not gonna see yourself on Broadway.

Philip Dallmann: Correct.

Daniel Renner: Most of us don't see ourself.

Philip Dallmann: No (laughs).

Daniel Renner: It's like going to Vegas sometimes.

Philip Dallmann: Yeah.

Daniel Renner: I mean there, there a wonderful thing-

Philip Dallmann: Oh-

Daniel Renner: ... I mean Hamlet is still one of the thrilling points of my theatrical life as a, you know, audience member, but it gets harder and harder and it's so expensive.

Philip Dallmann: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Daniel Renner: But the, the richness in these neighborhoods and Off Broadway and Off-Off Broadway is ... I'm just staggard and as are the groups when they go and they say, "That is here?"

Philip Dallmann: Yeah.

Daniel Renner: Uh, we also have our ... out of this grew your community partnership programs, which we're now working with scores of community partners in a very different level of providing free membership and reduced membership and sharing between different ... I mean disparate groups, educational settings, social services for their employees, for their constituency. We're matching up for example, um, the New York Foundation for Senior Citizens-

Philip Dallmann: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Daniel Renner: ... has we found out has a ride program that they have to provide 40,000 rides a year in Manhattan to anyone 62 or over for free. Wherever you want to go, they'll pick you up, they'll take you there, they'll come and get you and take you back home again.

Philip Dallmann: That's amazing.

Daniel Renner: So this is for attending theater-

Philip Dallmann: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Daniel Renner: ... is a great thing, but nobody knew about it. So when we go to your community partners and say, "Do you know that this group, you can apply it and it's free?" So again, we're trying to share not only our resources, but other's resources.

Philip Dallmann: Community, community helping community, essentially.

Daniel Renner: Yes.

Philip Dallmann: Yeah.

Daniel Renner: Building a network that empowers people.

Philip Dallmann: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Daniel Renner: I mean my, one of my greatest goals and dreams is that in a year or two that we gather all of our Create New York cohorts, both alums and current, from all the different boroughs and eventually it will be in all five, and our community partners and we have this big picnic in Central Park.

Philip Dallmann: Everybody loves a picnic.

Daniel Renner: And everybody comes to it and it's gotta be a potluck-

Philip Dallmann: Oh, absolutely.

Daniel Renner: ... and you come and you t- share your stories and find out what shows did you see or what did you discover? What did you do in your community event? And then you truly have a force, you have a network across the boroughs that they can continue to work together and, and help us help them, and they can help us also be better.

Daniel Renner: We find that what's really going down-

Philip Dallmann: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Daniel Renner: ... you have to listen-

Philip Dallmann: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Daniel Renner: ... uh, because they know and that's what we're there for.

Philip Dallmann: So, I don't even have to ask you to dream your dream. Uh, you're already dreaming.

Daniel Renner: (laughs).

Philip Dallmann: Uh, and I love it. Uh, that's, uh, it's one of my favorite things about doing this podcast is telling people to dream their dreams.

Daniel Renner: Yeah.

Philip Dallmann: So, um, well, thank you so much, Daniel-

Daniel Renner: Sure.

Philip Dallmann: ... and actually, uh, before we go I, I would be remiss, uh, you work with [inaudible 00:30:51] a- and, uh, I've always made sure that we've, uh, shout out everyone that's working together.

Daniel Renner: Oh Allie Relihan and Gladys, uh, uh, [Perez-Mohica 00:30:58]. Also, uh, one of the other programs we have is a s- live art scene, it's an online blog, uh, curated, created by young people, ages 16 to 24, for that age group-

Philip Dallmann: Oh.

Daniel Renner: ... from all over the city and they see shows and they write essays and they have resources. So, and they're an incredibly diverse group of young people who are dynamic and, uh, there's so many names.

Philip Dallmann: Yeah.

Daniel Renner: There's 27 people, but-

Philip Dallmann: Oh wow.

Daniel Renner: Yeah, it's really grown. So I mean it's a lot of people.

Philip Dallmann: That's really great.

Daniel Renner: And then of course, uh, Ginger and Tyler, who you'll talk to Ginger I think at some point, or uh, we're all part of a team engagement education. I mean I kinda oversee all of it-

Philip Dallmann: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Daniel Renner: ... but it's all-

Philip Dallmann: Yeah.

Daniel Renner: ... part of warp and weft of what we do.

Philip Dallmann: A- and it doesn't work if you don't have that team, so I, uh, I-

Daniel Renner: And we laugh a lot too.

Philip Dallmann: Oh, and that's important, that's important (laughing)-

Daniel Renner: Oh, [inaudible 00:31:45]

Philip Dallmann: If you're not laugh you're crying (laughing). That's the nonprofit mantra.

Daniel Renner: That's why everyone in New York has that smirk on their face-

Philip Dallmann: Yeah (laughs).

Daniel Renner: ... 'cause they're getting through it.

Philip Dallmann: Absolutely, surviving, never thriving. Uh-

Daniel Renner: Ohhh, it is a Friday, isn't it?

Philip Dallmann: Yes, it is. Uh, thank you, uh, so much, Daniel, for taking the time to chat and, uh, thank you for all the work that you've done and continue to do a- and thank you for being an Access Champion.

Daniel Renner: Well, thank you for giving me a chance to talk about it. You're pretty amazing yourself.

Philip Dallmann: Thanks to Daniel for taking the time to chat with us. Um, I, again, I think I've said every week I really appreciate, um, all of the guests that have taken the time out at that, on that Friday. Um, I know it was heading into gala season, um, and, uh, last week they had the gala, so hopefully everyone over at, uh, 5 28th Avenue is, uh, breathing a little bit easier, uh, a little less tension, uh, in, in between the shoulders. Um, and uh, from what I say on social media it looked like an incredibly successful and wonderful event.

Philip Dallmann: So, um, and thank you to David LaShay, uh, for coordinating all those interviews a-, um, o- you know, always very appreciative, uh it's not easy handling press, um, even when they're as easygoing as I am. Uh, and, have, as always thank you to our Executive Producer, Matt Kerstetter for making us sound great each and every single week, our Champion intern, Miss Kelsey Rose Brown for everything that she does, and Eric Walton for that dope theme song. Uh, we'll be back again next week, and remember inclusion believers, never stop running through that brick wall.