

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SHOWCASE

Black Honors College x Community Futures School Collaboration

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Museum of Children's Art



Project Description

During the Fall 2024 semester, my students in Intro to Pan African Studies completed an experiential learning activity with our community partner, the Museum of Children's Art (MOCHA) in Oakland. The Sac State students, who were all first-year students in the Black Honors College (BHC), were pen pals with high school students in MOCHA's Community Futures School (CFS), a youth think tank where BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) students learn and apply Afrofuturist principles. The students met up at the end of the semester at an event with food and music.

Experiential Learning Program or Project Highlight(s)

- The Ethnic Studies/BHC course Intro to Pan African Studies had 25 students enrolled.
- The CFS course on Afrofuturism had 34 students enrolled.
- Faculty and staff in Ethnic Studies and SSIS Dean's Office worked together to make this happen.
- Highlights
 - BHC students discussed paying for college with CFS students.
 - CFS students performed a few of their favorite cheers from their cheerleading team.

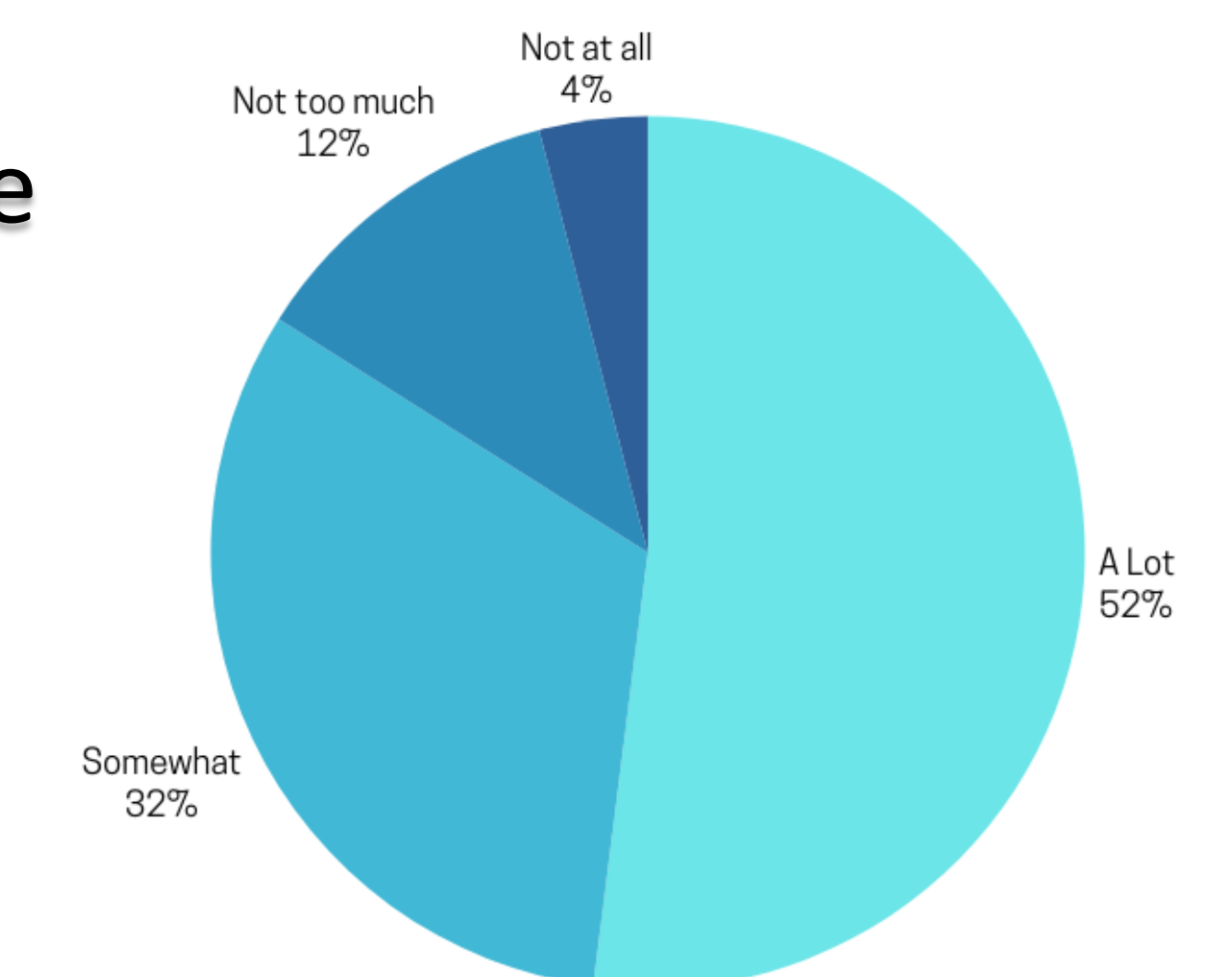
Promoting Student Success in College and Career

"Black Honors College x Community Futures School Collaboration" supported student academic success through an asset-based framework. Students took the lead in their role as mentors and pen pals with the MOCHA high school students. Through in-class conversation and some writing prompts, students from Sac State were encouraged to lead with their strengths in their pen pal relationships. They were also encouraged to inquire about the strengths and interests of their pen pals and provide advice or encouragement. Their role as mentors supported their academic success by increasing their investment in the course and in their identities as college students. Students were able to use the pen pal experience to reflect on how they got to where they are, what's working or not working about their college experience, and what they'd like their futures to look like. It also introduced students to the process of working with a community partner and working to meet the needs of that partner.



Community Impact

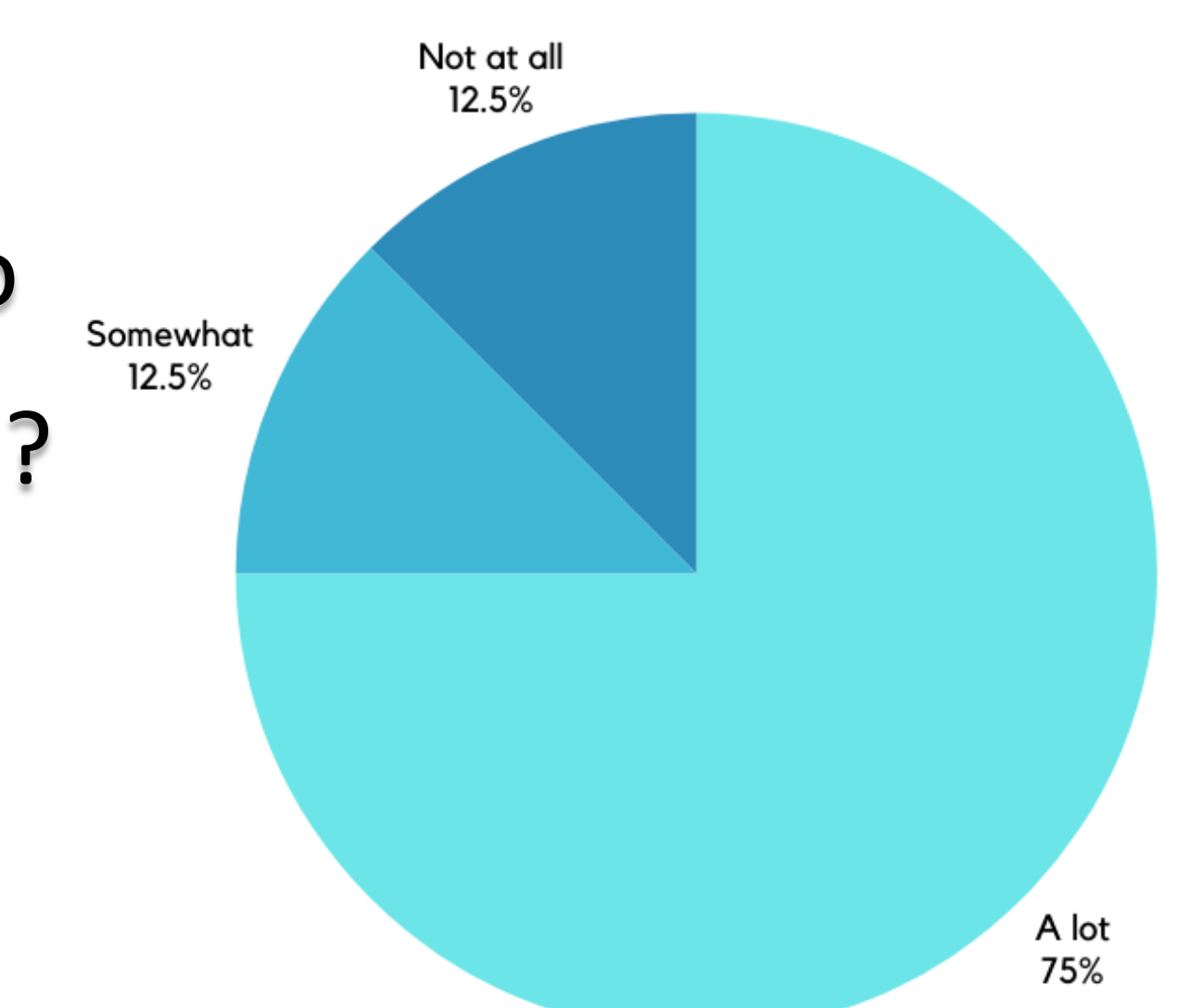
CFS students' response to the question how did you like meeting your pen pal?



- Quotes from students:
 - "I enjoyed how she kept the conversation going and didn't let it fade away, she also made me feel comfortable to talk to her."
 - "Getting to know them, and the things they do and them telling the real about how college is instead of putting on a front."

Campus Community Impact

BHC students' response to the question how did you like meeting your pen pal?



- Quotes from students:
 - "The amount of eager and energy in the room it was fun and heartwarming to see"
 - "It was just so interesting to see, in real-time, how much the mentees admired/valued our advice and perked up as we spoke. I felt like I was really making a positive impression and influence on them."