Enhancing Intergenerational Connections Through the Arts

November 13, 2023

This webinar is presented as part of Generations United’s Shared Site Learning Network which is made possible with support from The Eisner Foundation.
Today’s Presenters:

• Nancy Henkin, Senior Fellow, Generations United
• Susan Langford, Director, Magic Me, London, England
• Jennifer Kulik, Founder and CEO, SilverKite Community Arts, LLC, Seattle, Washington
• Jessica MacLeod, Director, Child Development Center, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, Rhode Island
• Renee Griffin, Creative Aging and Partnerships Officer, Senior Services Intergenerational Center for Arts and Wellness, Winston-Salem, North Carolina
“To inspire change - for individuals, communities and systems - through extraordinary art, sparking magic between generations”
Everyone, whatever their age, has a past, a present, a future and an imagination.
Exchange is vital.

It is not enough to have younger and older people working alongside each other on the same activity.
Younger and older people come together as equal partners with a common purpose
DON'T WAIT FOR CHANGE
Feeling isolated
Racism and Sexism steal our voices
We are all ageing,
not just those whom society labels old
“A world without ageism, where everyone can enjoy their unique creativity and full potential”
Dream Dinner Party

What would you eat?

Who would you invite?

Loretta Bevanmore

LET'S DANCE
SilverKite’s Intergenerational Programs

• Jennifer Kulik, Ph.D.
• Founder & CEO
• SilverKite Community Arts, LLC®
• www.silverkite.us
SILVERKITE COMMUNITY ARTS®

• Intergenerational Arts Programs
• Creative Aging: Arts Classes with Older Adults
• Professional Development & Consulting
• Program / Arts Engagement Resources
SilverKite’s Program Principles

- Connection
- Play
- Create
- Feel a sense of accomplishment
- Joy
- Moment to shine
Why the Arts?

- Common language
- Connect souls and selves
- Container / structure for play
- Find flow
- Introduce new ideas
- Boosts self-esteem
### Three Types of Arts-Based Intergenerational Programming

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Characteristics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>School / Org-Based Intergenerational Programs</strong></td>
<td>• School / curriculum based&lt;br&gt;• Arts organization based&lt;br&gt;• Short / long term</td>
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<td><strong>Arts for All Intergenerational Programs</strong></td>
<td>• Offered in public spaces&lt;br&gt;• Often as a drop-in experience&lt;br&gt;• IG “taster”</td>
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<td><strong>Intergenerational Theatre Company</strong></td>
<td>• Storytelling performance based on the cast members’ lives&lt;br&gt;• 11 productions&lt;br&gt;• Annual&lt;br&gt;• IG model</td>
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School-based program: Memory Box

- Students develop oral history and interviewing skills
- Interview older adults from the community
- “Give back” the stories that were shared with a memory box (or other art making)
Arts for All program: Arts in the Parks

• Offered in public spaces
• Other draws (meals, sports events, holiday celebrations)
• Drop in experience
• Sit at a table and make art together
Intergenerational Theatre Company

- Original performance piece based on the life stories of the cast members
- Each cast member in a different decade of life
- Tour to schools, senior centers, etc.
- Talk back with the audience
Consider...

- Prep participants ahead of the first session
- Have a plan!
- Teachers / learners / new things
- Have something they can accomplish in one session
- Finding something in common helps foster relationships
- Create multiple ways to encourage conversations, interactions
- Cultivate community partnerships
- Be creative about funding
Jennifer Kulik, Ph.D.

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The University of Rhode Island Child Development Centers’ Intergenerational Art Project

Jessica L. MacLeod, M.S.
Director, URI Child Development Center

The Intergenerational Art Project was made possible with grant funding from Peace Educators Allied for Children Everywhere (2021-2022) and the International Association of Laboratory Schools (2022-2023).
URI Child Development Centers
Agenda

• Planning and preparation
• Project goals
• Forming collaborative partnerships
• Recruitment, orientation, and introductions
• Project implementation
• Lessons learned and tips for success
Planning and Preparation

- Consulting with an older adult development expert
- Brainstorming collaboratively with teachers
  - Plans for including older adults
  - Selecting art experiences
    - Connecting with curriculum
  - Mapping out timelines
- Securing funding
Project Goals

- Offer a series of collaborative creative art experiences for preschool children, young adults, and older adults.
- Facilitate social connectedness and meaningful intergenerational interactions for all project participants.
- Curate an intergenerational art show open to the public in an accessible community location.
Forming Collaborative Partnerships

- URI Child Development Centers (CDCs)
  - Preschool Children and Families
  - Teachers, Director, Office Manager, and Undergraduate Students
- Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI)
- City of Providence Senior Services
- City of Providence Community Helpers
- Grandparents

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Recruitment, Orientation, and Introductions

- Recruitment email to OLLI members
- Flyers posted in OLLI lounge
- Information and orientation session at OLLI
- Questionnaire for OLLI members
- Meet the Artists online album
- Orienting children and URI students
- Getting started in the classroom

Jean G. - Jean is originally from Easthampton, MA and now lives in Wyoming, RI. She is an international felting artist and sells handmade art to wear. Jean's husband is a retired chef. She has one daughter, who is a breast cancer research scientist. Jean's hobbies include Nuno felting, painting, knitting (check out the amazing sweater she is wearing in this photo!), and anything creative. She loves to walk on the beach and walk trails with her 12 year old rescue dog named Augie. Jean loves spending time with her grandchildren - she finds children to be fun and fascinating!

Jean L. - Jean is from Waterbury, CT and now lives in Charlestown, RI. She is a retired special education teacher from Newtown, CT. Jean is married with four daughters and seven grandchildren. Her hobbies include refinishing furniture and art. Jean is looking forward to working with the children at the CDC!
Rolling Painting
Watercolor Painting
Special Places Photography

Dino’s Tree
“Sometimes we go to visit Brown Cow, and we feed her grass.”
-Preschool Child, Age 3

Our Neighborhood
“My School
-Preschool Child, Age 4

The URI Garden
“I found the gardens at the beginning of my freshman year when I was far from home and didn't know anybody. I found such comfort in the greenery. It is one of my favorite places to go when I am stressed!”
-URI Student, Age 18

Brown University Campus
“First came to Brown campus in 1956 at age 18. I met my husband there, I learned to think! The campus is beautiful, historic, architecturally interesting. One tree planting is a memorial to our daughter...it grows on beautifully. We visit every year and marvel at this special place.”
-OLLI Member, Age 83

My School
-Preschool Child, Age 4

Dino’s Tree
“This is Dino’s tree. He lets us climb it. I can climb very high!”
-Preschool Child, Age 3
Special Places Photography

**Beavertail State Park**
“Always a relaxing place to walk, enjoy the views east, south, and west. A beautiful lighthouse full of history and nature paths that ‘talk to you’.”

- OLLI Member, Age 72

**East Matunuck State Beach**
“I was at the beach and it was fun. I found lots of seashells. They’re in my car seat.”

- Preschool Child, Age 4

**Green Hill Beach**
“This is the beach my family goes to. I like to play in the sand and the ocean with my cousins. We play many games together, like dinosaurs and lava. The water is lava.”

- Preschool Child, Age 4

**Napatree Point**
“My whole family enjoys the beauty of this special place. It is a great place for a long peaceful walk on the beach. This is one of our favorite places to watch the sunset.”

- Preschool Director, Age 41
Weaving
Self-Portraits
3D Construction Art
The Intergenerational Art Project

Artwork by URI Child Development Center Preschool Children and Staff,
URI Human Development and Family Science Undergraduate Students,
& URI Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Older Adults

Exhibit on Display at the Kingston Free Library (October 2023)

Artwork created by URI community members of all ages will be on display throughout October 2023

Kingston Free Library Entryway Gallery
2605 Kingstown Rd, Kingston, RI 02881

Monday and Tuesday 10-4
Wednesday 10-8
Thursday 12-8
Friday and Saturday 10-5
Lessons Learned and Tips for Success

- Consider adult learning theory
- Ample planning and prep time is essential
- Nurture mutually beneficial partnerships
- Collaborative planning is key
- Invest time in orientation and meaningful introductions
- Clear, ongoing communication is necessary
- Be intentional about fostering a sense of community
- Create sustainable systems
- Seek and implement feedback

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Thank you!

Jessica L. MacLeod, jldavis@uri.edu

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The Senior Services Intergenerational Center for Arts and Wellness: Committed to *Intentional* Intergenerational Interaction
Intentional Building Design
Welcoming Entrance
Main Street
Main Street and Mural
Intentional Partnerships

• Developed Collaborator’s Agreement
• Leveraged Existing Relationships
• Asked Partners to Identify Internal Champions
• Hired Independent Facilitator
• Developed Collaborative Charter for Partnership
Service Delivery in Shared Space

COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS

apoture cinema
Arts Council of Winston-Salem
Authoring Action
Cancer Services
Family Services *
40+ Stage Company
Hands On Northwest NC *
Hispanic League *
Maya Angelou enter for Health Equity
Novant Health *
Sawtooth School for Visual Art *
SECCA
Second Harvest/Providence *
Shepherd’s Center of Greater W-S
Sticht Center for Healthy Aging and Alzheimer’s Prevention *
Trellis Supportive Care (Hospice – Palliative)
UNC School of the Arts
WFU Dance/IMPROVment
WSSU Health Sciences *
Winston-Salem Symphony
* Collaborators in dedicated/leased space
Relationship Building Strategies

One-on-one Lunches

Community Building Activities

Surveys

Volunteer opportunities

Site Tours
Intentional Programming

• Partner’s Retreat
• Speed Planning
Contact Information:
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336-721-6928
Thank you!

Contact gu@gu.org for more information or visit www.gu.org.