**Intergenerational Programs at the Library: Connecting Generations for Healthy Communities - Learner Guide**

<https://www.webjunction.org/events/webjunction/intergenerational-programs-at-the-library.html>

**Event Description:** Walk into almost any public library and you’ll see people of all ages engaging in the community space. When libraries offer programs and services that intentionally spark connection between generations, they contribute to more vibrant and cohesive communities. Learn how your library can develop inviting opportunities to encourage more intergenerational connections on a day-to day basis. This webinar will discuss why intergenerational relationships are important and will help you develop skills to foster intergenerational communication in your library. We’ll explore ideas and resources that will turn your library into a community intergenerational catalyst.

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| **What are your goals for viewing this webinar?** | |
| **Personal Goals** |  |
| **Team Goals** |  |

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| **Making the Case** |
| In reviewing the benefits of intergenerational programming, (in addition to presentation, see: [Because We're Stronger Together Infographic](http://gu.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=zTvpz3j3l-I%3d&tabid=157&mid=606) (pdf) and [The Elementary & Secondary Education Act: Improving Education Through Intergenerational Approaches](http://www.gu.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=X6qxSYZ_CVc%3D&tabid=157&mid=606) (pdf) from [Generations United](http://www.gu.org/RESOURCES.aspx)), identify the benefits that most apply to the communities you serve, and consider how you might make the case to prioritize intergenerational programming.   * Breaks down age stereotypes * Helps eliminate fear of old / young * Create seeds of compassion * Eliminates loneliness / isolationism * Children feel special * Adults get a second chance * Strengthens communities |
| **Consider the Library** |
| Take a walk around your library and look at how the generations are mixing:   * 1. How many generations are in the space? * 2. Where are they congregated? * 3. Are the generations interacting with each other? How? Why? * 4. How might we build more connectivity based on the space, level of interaction, etc.? |
| **Planning Programming** |
| Brainstorm potential programs, using the examples shared in the webinar, and in the [resources listed on the event page](https://www.webjunction.org/events/webjunction/intergenerational-programs-at-the-library.html#related_resources), and identify a few in each of the categories below that you might host for your community. Consider existing programs that could be expanded to intergenerational audiences.  Curriculum based  After school enrichment  Discussion groups  One-off workshops  Informal interactions in shared spaces |
| **Potential Participants via Partnerships** |
| Reaching out to potential participants, beyond the usual suspects, can be a great way to expand your intergenerational reach. Consider non-profits, government agencies and educators that you might connect with, and identify who from your team could make those connections. For an extended list of options, review potential partners for collaboration in WebJunction’s [Community Partnership and Collaboration Guide](http://www.webjunction.org/documents/webjunction/Community_Partner_Collaboration_Guide.html).       4. |
| **Objectives, Checklists and Evaluation** |
| Once you’ve selected an intergenerational program, use the Intergenerational Activity Planning/Evaluation Sheet**,** beginning on page 16 of the [Tried and True: A Guide to Successful Intergenerational Activities at Shared Site Programs](https://s3.amazonaws.com/pushbullet-uploads/ujzNDwQrsR2-lwTZVh9XzpO2KpViVzhCua55IiDV0Dyg/tried%20and%20true.pdf), to identify key objectives and action steps for planning your program. And then use the evaluation questions to assess and consider modifications for your next program. |
| **Action Plan:** (include some simple next steps, along with who, when, etc.) |
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