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FOSTERING INTERGENERATIONAL CONNECTIONS

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INTRODUCTIONS...

A little about us... and a little about you...

ANNOTATION TOOLS

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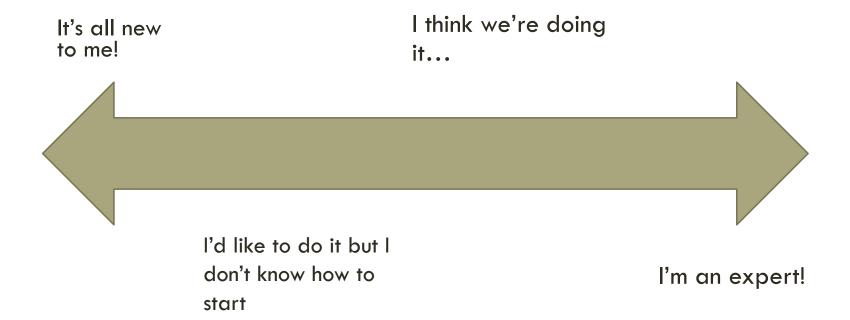
Click to open the tool buttons in a column on the left side; the marker pen will turn blue.

Check mark

- Click on square, half-way down.
- Use the drop-down menu and choose the check mark.
- Click on slide to indicate choice.



WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAMMING?



TODAY'S AGENDA

- Part 1: Importance of Intergenerational relationships
- **Part 2:** Exploring intergenerational structures, programs and intergenerational activities
- Part 3: Intergenerational connections in the library space – how can libraries help foster intergenerational connections?
- Part 4: Bringing it home: creating a plan for your library

PART 1: INTERGENERATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Their importance, how they are changing, and why rebuilding them is important



WHAT DO WE MEAN BY "INTERGENERATIONAL?"

DEFINING TERMS...

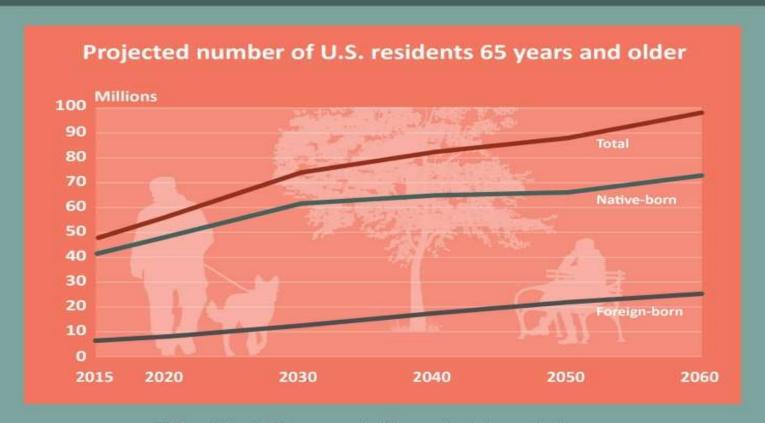
DEFINING "INTERGENERATIONAL"

- ☐ Term started being used in the 1970s
- Multi-generational: people of different generations are represented
- Intergenerational: people of different generations are interacting in meaningful ways
- Often works towards uniting "book-end" generations

WHY IG CONNECTIONS? WHY NOW?

- By 2050 adults over the age of 65 will outnumber children under 15
- 10,000 Americans turn 65 each day with a life expectancy of 85
- Girls born in the 1990s can expect to live to be over 100 years of age
- Cultural shifts:
 - Mobility
 - Technology
 - Individualized cultural experiences
 - Segmented development & living experiences
 - Documented social disengagement with the community

An Aging Nation



U.S. residents 65 years and older projected population increases between 2015 and 2060:

- Total—105.2 percent
- Native-born—75.9 percent
- Foreign-born—294.8 percent

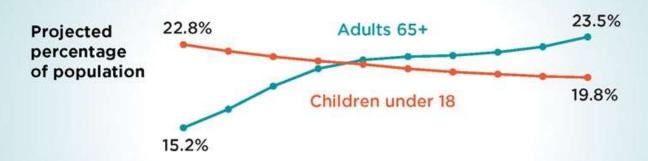




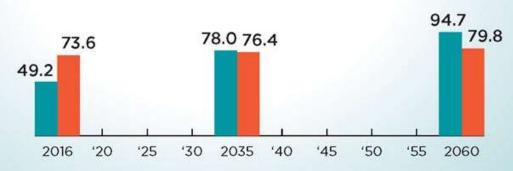
An Aging Nation

Projected Number of Children and Older Adults

For the First Time in U.S. History Older Adults Are Projected to Outnumber Children by 2035







Note: 2016 data are estimates not projections.

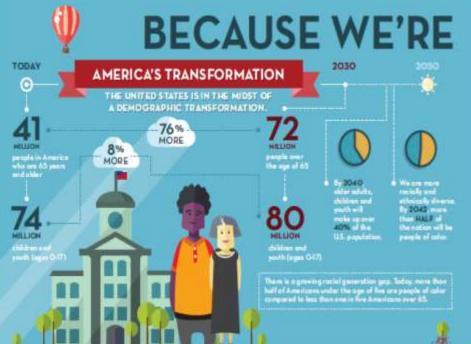


BENEFITS OF FOSTERING INTERGENERATIONAL CONNECTIONS

- 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

WAIT... THERE'S MORE!

- Studies show that "in schools where older adults were a regular fixture, children had improved readings scores and fewer behavioral problems their peers at other schools" (Elementary & Secondary Education Act, <u>gu.org</u>)
- Older adults who volunteered with children burned 20% more calories per week, had fewer falls, and performed better on a memory test
- Beneficial to persons with dementia
- 97% of adult participants reported feeling happy, interested, loved, younger, and needed





STRONGER TOGETHER







PART 2: IG PROGRAM RESOURCES

Organizational, program, and activity models & resources

SOME IG CONNECTION BUILDING STRUCTURES

- 1. Curriculum based
- 2. After school enrichment
- 3. Discussion groups
- 4. One-off workshops
- 5. Informal interactions in shared spaces

CURRICULUM-BASED INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAMS

- Often tied to reading, writing, history
- Elders serve as curriculum experts to authenticate moments
- Ongoing mentorships or in-class projects



ACTIVITY: FINDING CONNECTION

RAISE YOUR HAND IF YOU Live in Washington State

Live in the US
Live outside of the US
Have been 5 years old
Have been 50 years old
Have been 80 years old
Play or have played a musical instrument
Have or have had a pet
Have ridden on a bus
Have ridden in an airplane

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

- Tutoring
- Mentorship
- Class—arts or other kind of enrichment together



DISCUSSION GROUPS

- Discussions about life, aging
- Structured small group or larger group conversations
- All have equal say and sharing ideas



SHARING STORIES

PHOTO REMINISCENCE



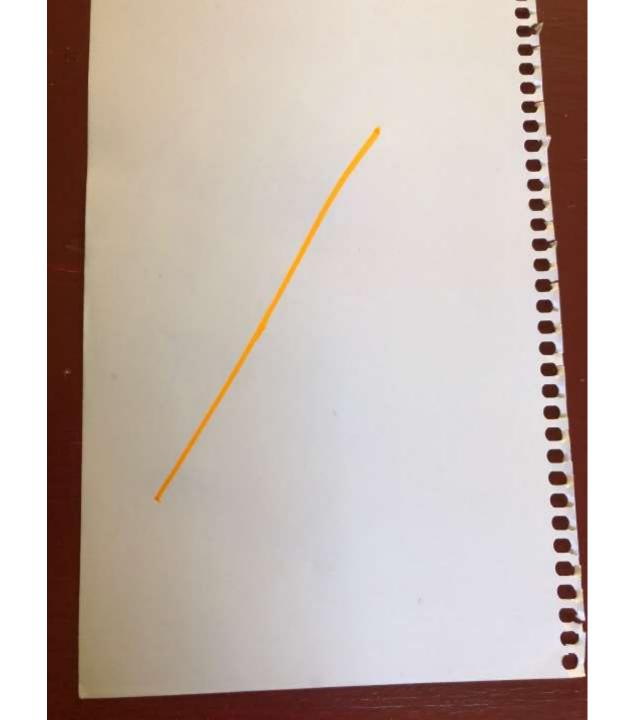
STAND ALONE INTERGENERATIONAL WORKSHOPS

- Structured workshops to do a project or have an experience
- Can be family oriented or community oriented
- Often offered on the weekends / evenings
- Some ideas: card making, puppet making, dance, poetry, storytelling, gardening, first aid / disaster prep



LINES, LINES, LINES

CREATING CHARACTERS











SHARING STORIES

NAME STORIES

- 1. In a small group, tell a story about the history of your name
- 2. Choose one of the stories in your small group to share with the larger group
- 3. As a group, choose how to share the name story with the larger group by acting, dancing, writing, or singing the story.

INFORMAL INTERACTIONS IN SHARED SPACES

Opportunities to create deeper interactions in shared spaces

Activities that anyone can participate in at any time

Examples: Life story sharing, Wisdom Tree, Mural, Collaborative Drawing



WHO ARE WE? BETTER TOGETHER!

PUZZLES

- 1. Poster board
- 2. Cut into puzzle pieces.
- 3. Mark x on the back of the puzzle piece.
- 4. Each person draws three things about themselves on a puzzle piece.
- 5. Put the puzzle together.
- 6. This can also be done as a "passive activity" with library staff putting the puzzles together and then posting them in the library.

FINDING PARTICIPANTS

Partnership possibilities:

- Chamber of Commerce
- Local businesses
- Life Enrichment Directors at local senior living communities
- Existing after school programs (schools. YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, etc.)
- Faith communities
- Cultural associations

THE SECRET IG SAUCE



Create something your community would like

Take the time to create a safe community space to do the program

Relationships start by finding something in common

Create opportunities for participants to be both teachers and learners as part of the program

After this is established, create opportunities for everyone to do something new – together

YOUR IDEAS?

What programs have worked in your libraries?





PART 3: INTERGENERATIONAL CONNECTIONS IN THE LIBRARY

How can the libraries be used to promote intergenerational connections?

THE LIBRARY SPACE...

Multigenerational space

Shared spaces where informal intergenerational interactions happen

How can we increase opportunities for intergenerational connections to happen?

How can we foster intergenerational connections?

ACTIVITY

CONSIDERING YOUR LIBRARY

CONSIDERING 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.?



PART 4: CREATING YOUR INTERGENERATIONAL CONNECTION IDEA

Let's put what we've learned into action!

CREATING YOUR INTERGENERATIONAL CONNECTIONS IDEA... (PART 1)

Keep in mind:

- 1. The program / project / interaction should be mutually beneficial "nothing for us without us"
- 2. The program / project should create an opportunity for interaction and engagement between generations
- 3. The program / project should be feasible in your space with the resources available to you

CREATING IG CONNECTIONS... (PART 2)

Brainstorm ways to accomplish your idea, identifying:

- 1. Space
- 2. Participants
- 3. Marketing
- 4. Supplies
- 5. Facilitation / Logistics

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