

Connecting Generations

Intergenerational Libraries

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Oceans of
Possibilities

Multi --? Inter --? Whaaa --?

Multigenerational program/activity – People from multiple generations attend or engage, often as family groups.

Intergenerational program/activity – People from multiple generations intentionally interact and connect, often outside their family groups.



Be intentional – what outcomes and impacts do you want your program to have? Would a multi- or inter- generational program help you achieve your program goals and support your community?

Why bring generations together?

Colorado (and the rest of the US) are aging! – by 2050 there will be more 65+ adults than children and youth under 15.

Women born in the 1990s can expect to live to 100+ years of age!

Loneliness and generational isolation are public health challenges.

Intergenerational opportunities. . .

reduce agism at both ends of the age continuum.

improve *everyone's* mental health, social skills, & cognitive abilities (including program staff!).

may be more inclusive of cultures where mixed generational activities are the norm.

build community.



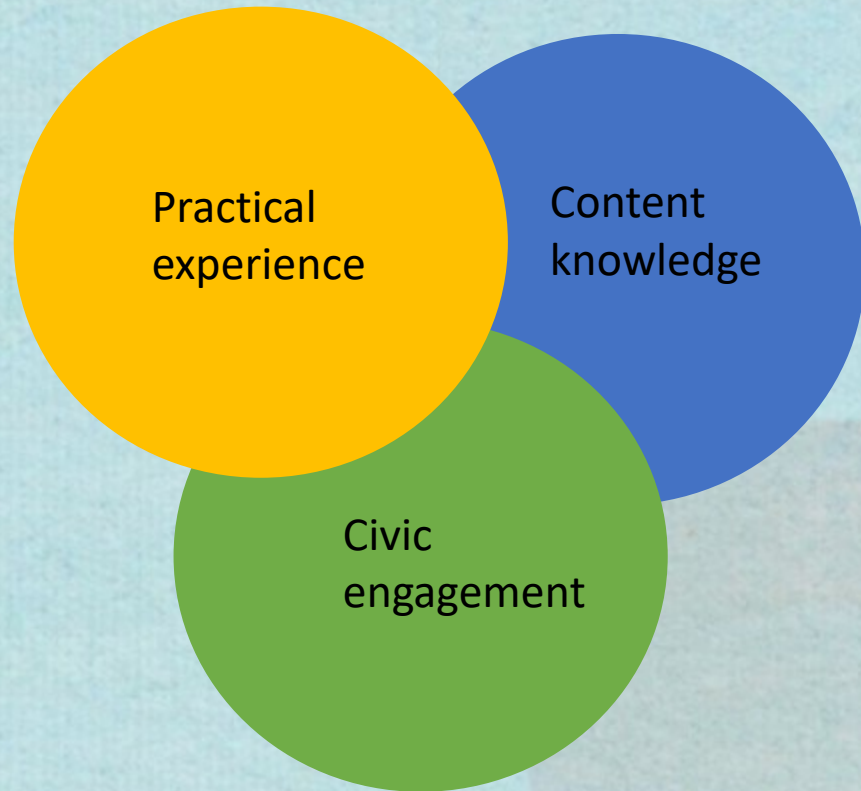
Intergenerational service learning

Opportunities to practice
“collective care”

What does our community need
more of?

How could we help create that?

Who could we work with to do
this?



Oceans of
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Planning factors to think about:

- What are the generational demographics in your community? What cultural or logistical factors affect how different generations interact in community spaces?
- Where do different generations gather in your library? How does the space help or hinder generations from interacting with each other?
- What do you want to achieve with intergenerational programs/activities/spaces?
- Create all new programs/activities or “intergenerationalize” existing ones?
- Could you connect with your adult/elder services staff to co-design this?
 - What community organizations work with which generations? Do they already connect with each other? Could you connect them?
 - What activities might lend themselves to intentional interaction between generations?
 - What shared behavior & communications norms will you need to establish so everyone is comfortable?
 - Where can you get the word out across generations?



Want to learn more?

Generations United:

[“Making the Case for Intergenerational Programming” \(2021\)](#)

Penn State Extension:

[“Intergenerational Activities Sourcebook” \(2003\)](#)

WebJunction:

[“Intergenerational Programs at the Library: Connecting Generations for Heathy Communities” \(2018 webinar\)](#)

Harvard Family Research Project & PLA:

[Ideabook: Libraries for Families \(2016\)](#)



Let's chat about
multigenerational and
intergenerational programs and
activities!

