

Intergenerational Arts Working with Young and Older People Together

IRELAND

PROBLEM

The Intergenerational Arts Programme was started by the Sligo County Council Arts Service. There was a need for seniors to be more social and connect with the community. The same issue was there for the young people of the community. It was a necessity to form generational bonds that have been reduced because of the geographic or societal distancing of young and old.

ACTION

A Sligo County Council initiative through the Arts Service was planned and implemented. A solution was found by involving young people as volunteers in art classes with seniors in the community along with a facilitator. Intergenerational Arts were used to bring young and older people to interact in a way that allows them to share experiences, knowledge, skills, and creative practice and build cross-generational friendships.

RESULT

Participants of all ages were surprised at the genuine friendships developed, felt more included, and their sense of belonging increased too. They were happy to share complementary skills and abilities. They became more confident in expressing their opinions and trying out new challenges. Their sense of self-worth improved as they discovered skills, abilities, and qualities that had gone unnoticed or been forgotten. Some seniors experienced initial difficulties in manipulating brushes or pencils, but their manual control improved over time. The potential was seen to extend access to high-quality arts experiences through the development of further relationships with artists and arts organizations in the city and county.

ART

INTERGENERATIONAL



SOURCE:

<http://www.sligoarts.ie/ArtsinHealth/IntergenerationalArtsProgramme/>