



Working on Intergenerational Projects

Template for:

Living History Detectives

as piloted at

The Holburne Museum of Art

Working on Intergenerational Projects

Introduction

Intergenerational collaborations have been identified as 'hard to deliver' projects by several of the museum partners.

This template has been designed as an aid to be used when working with new audiences.

The majority of the young people that came along to the sessions had never visited the museum before and were surprised that museums offer creative activities for young people.

This template focuses on the Living History Detectives project which was piloted at The Holburne Museum of Art.

This pilot saw year six students working with older people from an Age Concern day centre.

Aims and Objectives of working on intergenerational projects:

- To engage rurally isolated/ economically deprived residents in creative activities.
 - To encourage interaction and enduring relationships between children and older people within and beyond the sessions.
 - To explore the use of HM collection with children and older people through oral history.
- To create a sustainable frame work for intergenerational projects using museum collections
- To raise the Museum's profile within Bath & North East Somerset
 - To support the aims and objectives of the Museum Network.

Key Considerations

There are a few points which must be considered when working on intergenerational projects:

Questions	Check
Have you spoken to the children about the issues which surround working with older people? E.g. hearing and visual impairment, a lack of interest in the workshops and wariness of being interviewed/ photographed?	
Have you timed your workshops around day centre meal times?	
Is the activity room warm, welcoming and clean?	
Does your activity cater to different learning types?	
Are your activities varied and adaptable?	
Have you limited the time which is spent with the older people?	
Are there any ESOL adults/ children in the group?	
If you provide food have you checked dietary requirements?	
Do you have the right access requirements to allow older people to visit the Museum?	
How many people can you accommodate?	
Does your group meet your target demographic?	
If offsite, can you provide images of the museum and reproductions?	
If offsite, does the location have all of the required facilities?	
Can you support your themes with a handling collection?	
Have you organised photographic release forms?	
Does your evaluation cover what you wish to find out?	
Do you need to provide a risk assessment?	
Does your freelance educator have public liability insurance and CRB check?	

Making Contacts

- You must make sure that the group you approach fits the demographic that you are want to work with.
- A quick search on your local council website will point you towards Age Concern/ day centres and your local schools co-ordinator (extended) can recommend schools to work with.

- When approaching your group be clear about costs, dates, timings and any commitments that they will need to make.
- The pilots have shown that older people can initially have reservations about new sessions, so it's worth meeting the group leader to discuss the workshops in person, and if possible introduce yourself to the group.
- Try to organise the sessions at a convenient time, e.g. fit the sessions around the older peoples' regular meal times, make sure that the sessions are held on the same day at the same time.
- Organise three to six initial sessions to allow you to assess how successful the programme is.

Developing Your Sessions

- Before you begin developing your sessions consider your own collections and how an intergenerational programme will run e.g. will it be onsite or offsite?
- One of the main considerations is access, will the older people be able to get to an off site venue? Experience has shown that the easiest route is to have the school host the group, with regular visits to the Day Centre factored into the sessions.
- It should be noted that should any of the oral histories ever be published that consent must be given by each individual. The following website discusses this:
<http://www.ohs.org.uk/ethics/index.php>.
- Themed sessions are essential, as they provide a focus for the group and allow you to select appropriate collection items.
- Work closely with the person delivering the session to develop the workshop at an early stage.
- The pilot has shown that 1 ½ hour sessions provide the optimum amount of time for workshops. The pilot showed that a maximum of 45 minutes should be spent with the older people.
- If you are going to take photographs during the session, ask the parents to sign a photograph release form. You must also check with the older people that they are happy to be photographed.
- Make sure that the venue looks welcoming upon arrival.

Template: Living History Detectives

This highly successful programme was piloted at the Holburne Museum of Art [HM] and ran for six sessions.

The aim of this project was to strengthen the Museum's links with young people within and external to Bath. The first intergenerational project saw year six

students from Midsomer Norton working with older people at an Age Concern Day Centre in the village.

The young people worked with the older people to develop a digital book of images and poems which celebrated the older peoples' lives. Using digital recorders the students interviewed the older people using collection items (miniatures) to spark off a conversation. These recordings were then developed into Pantoum poems.

The sessions took the following format which worked well:

Activity	Timings (mins)
Arrival and explanation of session	20
Walking to the Day Centre	10
Activities with the older people	45
Break and return to school	15

Useful Intergenerational Contacts

The following are useful contact that can be found in most areas:

- Your local Council will have a list of schools, try contacting the Extended Schools co-ordinator if your project will be delivered outside of school hours
- Family Information Services (council)
- Age Concern, Help the Aged etc
- Local church and village hall groups

Useful Publications and Websites

- The Beth Johnson Foundation for intergenerational work www.bjf.org.uk
- ACORN: Postcode analysis showing affluence, resident types, C2DE groups <http://www.caci.co.uk/acorn/>