

Notes on Intergenerational Learning ~ A Working Document



In our Upstate California Creative Corps grant applications, you will notice mention of “intergenerational learning,” in considering the ways in which project participants interact. It is then referenced in our review criteria when we look at an applicant's project design, plans for community engagement, and creative processes.

It is not a requirement that Creative Corps projects and processes include intergenerational learning as a key component. However, we know that the California Arts Council is interested in the degree to which intergenerational input is offered in defining needs, opportunities and strategies in service to our most vulnerable communities.

On our Listening Tour of Upstate California in late 2022 and early 2023, we met many educators and fielded many questions about the relationship of traditional, or formal, education to intergenerational learning, and the differences between them in relation to the Creative Corps.

We find the following helpful in understanding the principles of intergenerational learning.

Think of projects or processes that carry:*

1. Mutual and reciprocal benefit: All participating generations should gain benefit.
2. Cultural grounding: Grounded culture assumes an expression of values that can only be understood within the context of the culture in which they arise.
3. Participation: Participants should be fully involved in shaping the activity and feel a sense of ownership - connecting the generations.
4. Community bonds and active citizenship promotion: Engagement across generations emphasizes positive connections with the aim of building stronger, more connected communities with increased social capital and citizenship.
5. Asset Based approaches: They build on strengths for success, understanding and mutual respect.
6. Anti-ageism thinking: Both young and old are victims of ageism. Meeting each other means that they can explore who they really are and what they have to gain from each other.
7. Good planning: Attempt to create positive changes which are an addition to naturally occurring processes.
8. Cross-disciplinary or inter-disciplinary processes: Broaden the experience of professionals to become more involved in working in an inclusive way and to think much more broadly about how they undertake their work.

Again, California Creative Corps projects don't need to be attached exclusively to intergenerational learning outcomes, but we are finding it helpful to share what this means as we counter the many questions about school-bound formal education, particularly since the California Healthy Places Index (HPI) uses education as a marker for healthy communities. We recommend a healthy grasp of the differences between arts education that happens in the classroom and intergenerational learning as it might apply to projects anchored in community via the Creative Corps..

We also offer the following tips on other monies for formal arts education projects:

- California has a great cache of education grant programs, which we have listed below.*
- There are funds for arts education as a result of [Prop 28](#), which passed late last year, which will soon infuse local school districts statewide with \$1b a year towards arts education.
- Now is the time for arts agencies with education in their missions to align themselves with schools, and ready themselves for employment of artists who teach.

California Arts Council's existing arts education grant programs*

Use these as a check and balance when thinking "how is what I'm proposing as a California Creative Corps project different to what I would propose when applying for one of these education grants":

- Creative Youth Development: arts.ca.gov/grant_program/creative-youth-development/
- Artists in Schools: arts.ca.gov/grant_program/artists-in-schools/
- Arts Education Exposure: arts.ca.gov/grant_program/arts-education-exposure/
- Arts Integration Training: arts.ca.gov/grant_program/arts-integration-training/
- Jump StArts: arts.ca.gov/grant_program/jump-starts/

Sources - inspired in part by:

[epale.ec.europa.eu/en/blog/intergenerational-learning-it-happens-all-time*](https://epale.ec.europa.eu/en/blog/intergenerational-learning-it-happens-all-time)