



DANCEWORKS INTERGENERATIONAL MULTI-ARTS PROGRAM (IMAP) 2013-14 PROGRAM REPORT



Danceworks Intergenerational Multi-Arts Program (IMAP) uses creative arts instruction and intergenerational relationship-building to engage young people and older adults in their communities. IMAP is implemented at public and private older adult daycare and senior centers in the city of Milwaukee and neighboring urban schools with limited or no arts education. IMAP fills the gaps in students' educational needs, and provides out of the ordinary interaction that adds excitement and variation into the older adults' daily routines.



During the 2013-14 school year, Danceworks brought IMAP to 175 students and 100 older adults at 12 Milwaukee sites (six partnerships between schools and sites). Guided by the IMAP program theme, "Dancing in Someone Else's Shoes," participants explored percussive dance and other creative arts. Participants designed visual art pieces—painted shoes, banners, costumes and musical shakers—created dances, explored the medium of printmaking and produced creative writings and interpretative narratives.



Danceworks implemented a few programmatic changes during the 2013-14 IMAP season:

1. We lengthened the program by three weeks.
2. We increased the participants' weekly time with teaching artists by 30 minutes.
3. We increased the shared time between the older adults and students to four hours per month.

These changes created more opportunities for relationship building between the generations and between the teaching artists and participants.



DANCEWORKS IMAP 2013-14 PARTICIPATING SITES

Bruce Guadalupe Community School (32 students) paired with United Community Center's Latino Geriatric Center (16 older adults)

Grantosa Drive School (35 students) paired with Luther Manor Adult Day Center (26 older adults)

MacDowell Montessori School (26 students) paired with Hart Park Square (14 older adults)

Maryland Avenue Montessori School (33 students) paired with St. John's on the Lake (10 older adults)

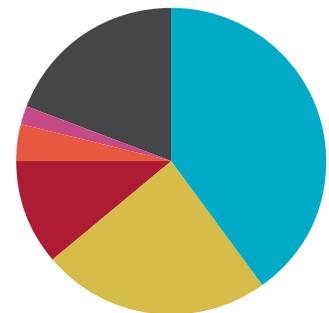
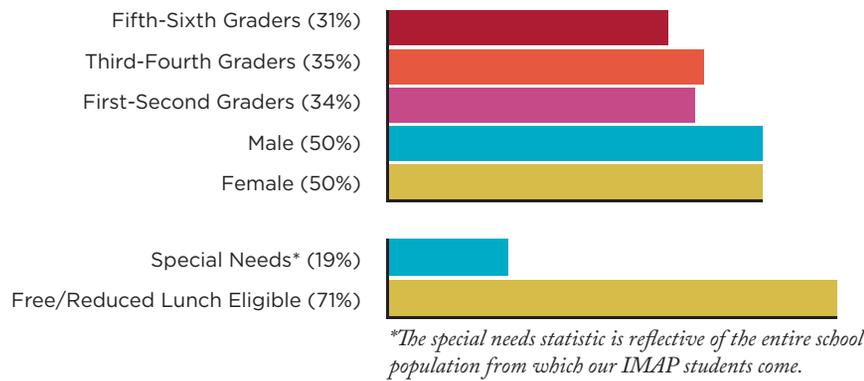
Ralph Waldo Emerson School (23 students) paired with Luther Manor Assisted Living Courtyards (15 older adults)

Vieau School (26 students) paired with United Community Center's Senior Center (19 older adults)

IMAP schools and older adult sites represent a geographic cross-section of the city of Milwaukee, from the northwest side, through the central city, to the south side.

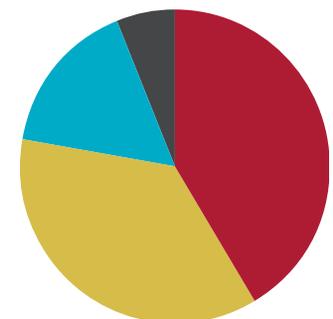
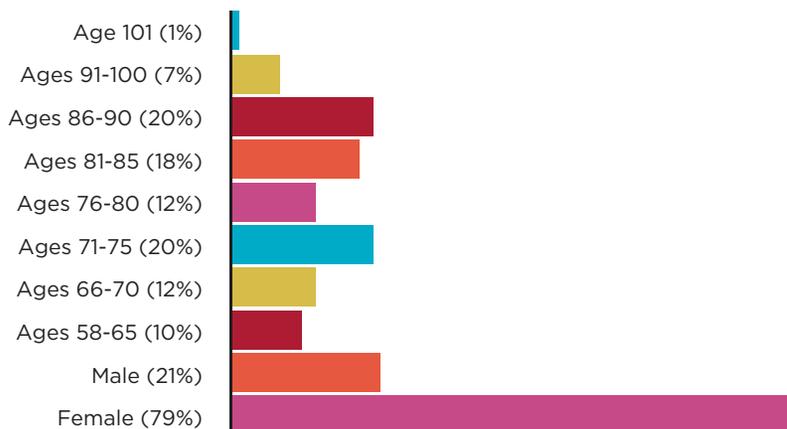


IMAP STUDENT PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS



- African American (40%)
- Hispanic (24%)
- Caucasian (11%)
- Other or Mixed (4%)
- Asian (2%)
- Did not disclose (19%)

IMAP OLDER ADULT PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS



- Caucasian (42%)
- Hispanic (36%)
- African American (16%)
- Did not disclose (6%)



MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM VISITS AND THE IMAP CELEBRATION



IMAP programming included a visit to the Milwaukee Art Museum (MAM) and a program-wide celebration event, both of which gave participants opportunities to participate in the larger cultural context of Milwaukee.

Partnering groups of schools and sites gathered at MAM on November 12 and 13, 2013 (three partnerships on each date). Participants received a docent-led tour of the art galleries and participated in movement activities and discussions related to thematic inspiration drawn from the artwork.

On January 15 and 16, 2014, more than 260 participants gathered at the Milwaukee Youth Arts Center for the IMAP Celebration. Partnering groups of schools and sites attended (three partnerships on each date) and shared with other program participants their collaborative art and dance projects. In addition, groups participated in collective warm-up and thematic activities which reinforced the communal sense of the program. They also enjoyed performances by Danceworks' resident contemporary and tap dance companies—Danceworks Performance Company and Danceworks on Tap.

"The change I noticed in our participants throughout the course of the IMAP program was our participants' willingness to get involved and fully engage. Some participants who do not normally engage in other programs at our day center were drawn to the energy of the children and the IMAP teaching artists. They engaged in IMAP in a way they never had in many of our other programs. This became obvious during the Celebration Event when I watched our participants move, smile and gain confidence in a way that they never would have been able to otherwise."

—Site staff, Luther Manor
Adult Day Center

"My favorite part is always the IMAP Celebration because there is such a sense of community there that warms your heart. Seeing all of the students from the other schools made a great connection with my students."

—Classroom teacher, Bruce Guadalupe
Community School



DANCEWORKS IMAP PROGRAM IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Facilitated by Danceworks' assessment staff.

IMAP emphasizes relationship building between generations. We feel that it is the bond that is created between senior participants and students that reflects the central goal of IMAP programming—using the arts as a vehicle to facilitate and cultivate relationships and develop understanding between the generations.

IMAP's Outcomes:

- 1) The majority of participants will develop a stronger sense of community through the creative arts.
- 2) 50% of older adults will improve their attitudes toward their own aging.
- 3) 50% of students will improve their attitudes toward older adults.

We measured these outcomes with pre- and post-program participant surveys and a post-program questionnaire for classroom teachers and site staff. The assessment yielded data samples from 43 student and 35 older adult participants.

Through IMAP's collective multi-arts activities, youth and older adults better understand each other, share cultural histories and build intergenerational relationships that enrich Milwaukee's community:

"IMAP gave my students the experience of working with a group of people, some with limited physical mobility or diminished mental capability. It helped them develop empathy and compassion. The overall experience of seeing some of the most 'behaviorally challenging' students having the ability to work with the elderly in a caring and compassionate manner stood out to me."

—Classroom teacher,
R.W. Emerson School

"Over the course of the IMAP program, I noticed the students were more comfortable interacting with elderly people. They also seemed more capable of assisting their senior friends in a more appropriate, respectful way."

—Classroom teacher,
Maryland Avenue Montessori School

ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Assessment results demonstrated that all program outcomes had a positive change for our participants—and surpassed our outcome targets of 50% achievement:

- 58% of students experienced a positive improvement in their attitudes toward older adults from pre- to post-program.
- 54% of older adults experienced a positive improvement in their attitudes toward aging.

The post-program change in scores for students' attitudes toward older adults was statistically significant; in other words, the change between the pre- to post-program scores was likely a result of IMAP programming.



“Danceworks IMAP is a great program. My seniors love having the kids around. The chance to interact with the kids is great for us—that kind of energy is rare around here.”

—Site staff,
Luther Manor Courtyards

“Danceworks IMAP positively influenced our participants by bringing new life and vitality into the day center each week. The children were also so great to have with us every other week. We have many participants who either do not have young children in their lives or don’t have the opportunity to see their great-grand or grandchildren. I could tell how much joy it brought to them to create and move with the students.”

—Site staff,
Luther Manor Adult Day Center

“I love when my students are able to interact with the Senior Citizens. They are able to learn from each other and I love to see how helpful and kind my students can be when interacting with the Seniors.”

—Classroom teacher,
Grantosa Drive School



2013-14 IMAP Faculty

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SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2013-14 IMAP FUNDERS AND SPONSORS

Anonymous Donor
Helen Bader Foundation
Deborah and Joe Gonzalez
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Charles D. Jacobus Family Foundation
PPC Foundation

Our apologies to any IMAP funder or sponsor that was inadvertently omitted or incorrectly listed. Please call Susan Wiedmeyer, Development Manager, at (414) 277-8480 ext. 6017 with any corrections.

Questions about IMAP? Contact Rachel Payden, Outreach Director, at 414.277.8480 x6012 or rpayden@danceworksmke.org.

Get Connected! For information about IMAP sponsorship, please contact Elyse Cohn, Director of Development & PR at 414.277.8480 x6014 or ecohn@danceworksmke.org.



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Photography throughout:
 Tami Zwicke; Danceworks Staff.