



# Who's Art, Who's Culture?

Intergenerational Photography Project



Salford City Council



# Why **DO** Intergenerational projects?

Enhances mental wellbeing and builds self-confidence.

Decreases ageism towards both the young and the Old.

Creates opportunities for all generations to feel appreciated and connected to their community.

Strengthens connections within communities.

Develop connections and friendships.

Fosters empathy and understanding by sharing experiences across generations.

Reinforces lifelong learning and skills sharing.

# Introduction

For 11 weeks during a period of time, a group of local young people (from Albion High School) and a group of local older people, came from Charlestown and Pendleton to discuss and photograph their community.

The themes and discussion focused on:

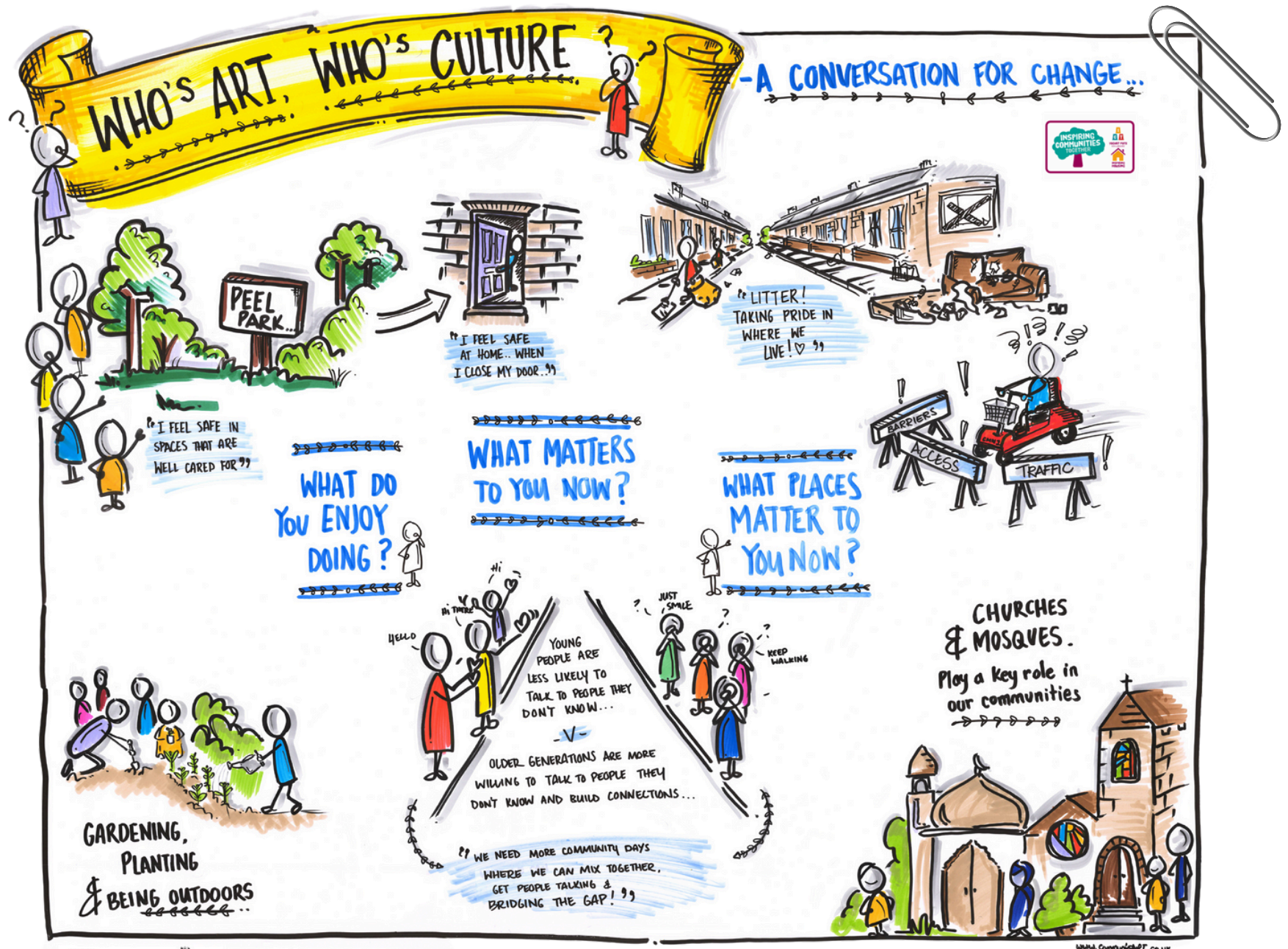
- Area's that make you feel safe
- How generations view each other
- Similarities between each of the generations

The project highlighted some interesting views from both generations about the community they live, work or play in.

Most importantly it has created some lasting friendships across the generations and a shared understanding about communities and how together things can be improved.



# Summary of the conversations during the workshops



# What makes me feel safe ?



June P

**When they were young...** We were brought up playing in our street, making do with what we had.

**Between** our generations today however, we would chat and listen to one another about old and modern living experiences. We made friends here and suggested our improvements to our community.



Christine N



Beverley S

# How we view each other



**When they were young..**

Unlike today's houses, some people didn't even lock their doors.



**Natan B**



**Barbara A**



I used to play football here, but can't anymore due to the rubbish.

Don't waste our precious land.

**-Natan B**



The younger generation said they generally feel unsafe in their neighbourhood. Things we have in common such as this can be positive and negative.

While the older generation said they felt safer when they were young, holding sympathy for the current younger generation.

Question?

Do you feel safe in Salford?

“ No not really. ”  
-Young person

**Young Person**

“ I'd like to go for a walk after school, but it doesn't feel safe enough. ”



**Old Clarendon School site**

“ Not interested in the area, so it's been left to rot and decay. People should be proud of where they live and I wanted to show how bad things have been allowed to get. ”  
-Barbara A

The younger people are experiencing  
“**shifting baseline syndrome**”

It is when each generation unknowingly lowers its standards towards the environment and how it should be, due to a lack of awareness. Where the older generation have seen the decline in their communities environment and greenspace, the younger people see it as the new norm.

“ Art or Graffiti? You decide.  
It's good to see young people  
expressing themselves. ”  
-June P



June P



Naher A

The premise of the project was to **bridge the gap** between generations.  
Creating **lasting friendships** and **consideration of each generations**, out in the community.

“ As soon as they realised they couldn't drain the pond. It was sold on and this is what's left, a rat infested dump. ”  
-Doreen B



**Christine L**



**Doreen B**

“ When I lock my door I feel safe from the street. ”  
- Christine L

# Greenspace

Both generations agreed that there needs to be more of a drive towards wildlife, in Charlestown and Pendleton.

The group love that Charlestown and Pendleton has so much green space, playing a big part in both generations lives, impacting their mental and physical health positively.

The difference is that the older generation has much more of an impassioned view of wildlife that's on their doorstep.

Yet it is the polar opposite with the younger generation, with a clear lack of awareness of whats here and why it's important.



**June P**



**Lily D**



**Christine N**



Oh Joy! Spring!

Given the chance,  
life will grow through adversity.  
A true **Salfordian spirit**.

Salford is like a yoghurt,  
if you leave it in the fridge it will rot.

If you get the gear I'd clean round here.



Both generations agree that there are plenty of greenspaces within the neighbourhood and that it has so much positive potential (**a sense of pride**).

But the avenues of use are not **properly used or understood**.

# Community and Accessibility

There is a sense of pride in their community and they care deeply about where they live.

With a great willingness to work with other groups for a more cohesive, safer and more accessible community, if given the avenues to do so.

But issues with accessibility and a lack of trust in the community can often prevent things from starting (will it just be vandalised?)



**Doreen B**

“ When they were young..  
We were brought up  
playing in our street,  
making do with what we  
had. ”



**Doreen B**

Having a little perspective and understanding of each other, is the key to a safer and more cohesive community.



**Christine L**



**John H**

**This Intergenerational Photography Project.**

has really highlighted how a simple understanding between generations, can not only make a safer community but it can also create lasting friendships. Setting the bar for future intergenerational work, showing what's possible.

# Key Learning Points For Future Projects.

- Team of three to deliver – youth worker to support young people, older person's worker to support older people and a development worker to facilitate the photography project. This worked really well.
- No photos of the young people! Photo consent – think about this from the very beginning, even before the project start. We did photo consent with the registration but would have been better to do it when we requested parental consent to take part of the project.



## What's Next?

The project has developed into an intergenerational “green and grow” project at the Beacon Centre with existing and new older & younger participants.

# Exhibition Feedback



What a Fantastic Project, Older people young people. I love where I live but there is still a lot of work to be done. Encourage more intergenerational work across the city.



So good that the elder generation and the youngsters both seem to want the same things for our city. Tidy streets and green spaces.



The exhibition creates a mixture of despair and hope.



It's sad to see that young people feel so unsafe. But this seem to have built some great relationships.



Some areas are lovely and cared for and you can see real community spirit. Others are unsafe and not cared for.



It's sad that a minority of people don't take responsibility for their environment and continue to litter and fly tip. We need to change peoples behaviour!!!



Some photos are really nice, but not the bags of rubbish!



Thank you to the Age Friendly Salford members and students from Albion Academy who gave their time and shared their thoughts and experiences on the project.



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