

ACE Intergenerational Project 2017 with Laura Teasdale

This project is one of the most innovative and original activities I have ever been asked to participate in. – Marie Andrée Leblond (Painter)

In 2017, Artist and Arts Educator Laura Teasdale facilitated an [ACE TEST! Project](#) with three schools in Quebec's Eastern Townships based on a previous successful experience of bringing students and seniors together. Laura connected each school with a local seniors residence and organized to have artists facilitate learning experiences for students and seniors to dance, sing, paint, and create pottery together, finishing with a vernissage showcasing their work.



The project's success in all three communities and their desire to continue confirmed that the processes Laura developed to connect students and seniors through arts experiences can work in diverse contexts, developing relationships that positively affected everyone who participated.

Students learned that they had a lot in common with seniors, and met many learning objectives through playful and meaningful interactions. Teachers and artists worked collaboratively, stating that the project went beyond their expectations. Seniors welcomed new young companionship, the opportunity to share their lives and experiences, and enjoyed engaging in the arts activities.

I have had the most wonderful experience being part of the ELAN ACE Intergenerational Project. When I was first approached by project leader Laura Teasdale, I must confess that I was nervous and apprehensive about the concept. The result was absolutely magic, so much so, that I was moved to tears. To see generations of people brought together and connected by music and dance, was one of the highlights of my career as an educator. It amazed me to see young people reaching out to the elders and the elderly doing the same in return. – Tamara Lynn Burcombe, Dance Teacher

It's cross-cultural and cross-curricular. This is an essential part of learning. The kids are citizens of the school, the community, the world, and this is teaching them to be good members of our community. - Renalee Gore, principal at Knowlton Academy Elementary

Writer/ Director Laura Teasdale is originally from Nova Scotia, but she's been in Quebec for over twenty years. She has performed on stage at Theatre Lac Brome, The Centaur, Saidye Bronfman, The Piggery, Hudson Village Theatre, Geordie Theatre and Festival Antigonish to name a few, as well as extensive work as an arts educator and community-based artist.

