

# HAPPENING: IA PRIMARY DAY

*A peek into a day of crafting and connecting across generations.*

On June 5th 2024, the IA team organized a happening around intergenerational connection and collective creativity. The event emphasized the importance of imaginative play in spaces where asking questions, learning from others, and sharing one's own ideas might be intimidating. The goal was to create a space where anyone of any age would feel included.

There have been several moments when IA intern Rosie felt insecure in her ability to contribute ideas in a classroom setting or felt like she was falling behind her peers. These feelings are prominent not only in school, but also in the workplace and in unfamiliar or uncomfortable social settings.

By bringing students, scholars, parents, kids, teachers, and others together in a playful, elementary school atmosphere, the IA team hoped to lessen the feeling of intimidation.

## **Making Bracelets and Sharing Stories**

*Guests were given guidance on how to make a friendship bracelet while they shares stories about themselves, their best friends, and more.*

## **Making Zines and Conversation**

*Guests wrote/drew/crafted a zine about their favorite teacher, their best elementary school memory, a moment they felt safe, or anything else they felt like sharing.*

## **Collective Creation Station**

*In hopes of envisioning a better future, guests hand-crafted a 3D sculpture of what a dream school might look like to them.*



# MAKING FRIENDSHIP BRACELETS AND SHARING STORIES

*Guests were given these questions + embroidery floss:*

*If you were making this bracelet for your best friend in elementary school, who would that be? Tell us about that friend.*

*What are the most important qualities to you in a real or imaginary best friend?*

*And here is what they made!*



*"The IA Primary Day happening was one of the most well attended and fun happenings we've had since arriving at UC Davis in 2017! It was energizing to have so many undergraduate students in our home office. They brought with them curiosity, playfulness, and many talents shared at the inspiring talent show at the close of the evening event.*

*Undergraduate and graduate students, IA staff, and campus and community members from Davis, ages 9 to 90, shared stories of favorite teachers, childhood friendships, and even original songs, bringing IA intern Rosie Mendoza's vision of intergenerational learning to life."*

*– Erica Kohl-Arenas, Friendship Bracelet Station Facilitator + IA Faculty Director*



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# MAKING ZINES AND CONVERSATION

Guests were given these prompts + paper and pencils:

Create a zine based on your favorite elementary school memory.

Create a zine inspired by your favorite teacher you've ever had.

Create a zine based on a moment where you felt heard or seen.

And this is what they created!



*"After a short introduction to the activity at the zine-making station, participants were asked to write and draw a zine about a favorite teacher or a moment when they felt belonging. Some people immediately had a teacher in mind, while some needed time to reflect and, through that reflection, came to other feelings attached to early childhood schooling, or moments of transition. The prompts were an effective invitation for participants to access past memories, or for current students, to consider who helps to create a sense of belonging in the present. Others got right to work sketching and drawing without the impulse to create a narrative first. Sitting at tables in groups of two, three, and four, some groups talked through the activity, while others worked independently. Only two or three people were able to fully complete their zine in the time allotted, but several were excited to share at the show and tell."*

*– Stephanie Maroney, Zine Station Facilitator + IA Managing Director*



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# COLLECTIVE CREATION STATION

*Guests were given this prompt and these tools:*

*If you could build your own intergenerational dream school, what would it look like? Will classes be outdoors? Is there a giant amusement park in the middle of the campus? What does the food court look like? With the supplies provided for you, build onto the “dream school” model in whatever way you’d like.*

- cardboard and paper boxes
- recycled fabric
- pipe cleaners
- construction paper
- popsicle sticks
- other miscellaneous decor

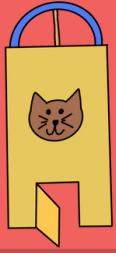
*And they created this!*



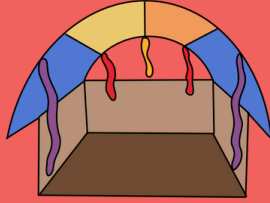
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Cat Tower



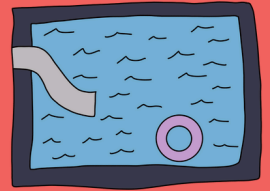
Multi-Purpose Media Room



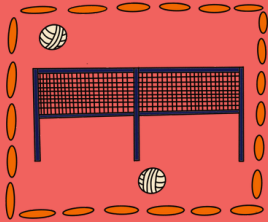
Bicycle Sculpture



Free Pool



Volleyball Court



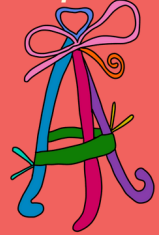
24/7 Coffee Shop



Nap Pen



Abstract Sculpture



Outdoor Library



Experimental Energy Design Lab



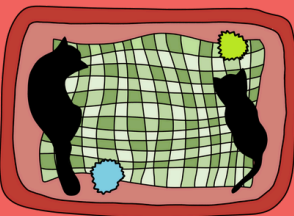
Campsite



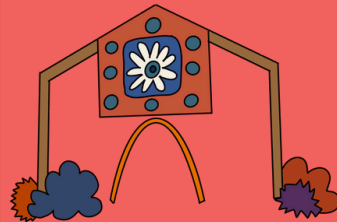
Music Venue



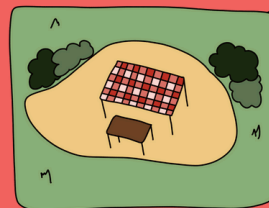
Cat Playpen



Craft Hutch



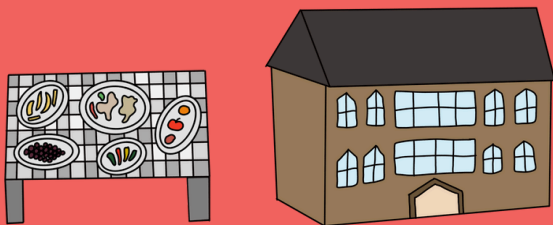
Outdoor Study Area



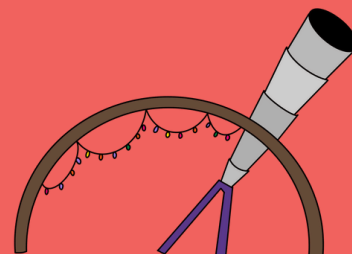
Playground



Free Food and Housing



Awesome Telescope!





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## *Final Thoughts + Conclusion*

Even a couple of months after the IA Primary Day Happening, I find myself continuing to reflect on it. As someone who has fallen victim to intimidation and insecurity, I hoped that IAPD would encourage a sense of inclusion that would linger beyond the happening. Hearing feedback from attendees, who welcomed the experience and left with a strong sense of openness that day, I feel we achieved our goal.

We hosted a brief Show & Tell at the end of the event, where many guests were willing to share their creative projects. I heard phrases like “It was nice to feel like a kid again,” or “I hadn’t really thought about my elementary school days,” reassuring me that this event was valuable-- maybe even unknowingly helpful for many guests.

Overall, this happening was a dream to be a part of. With great help from the IA staff, it was a joy to plan, set-up, and witness this event as it came to life. Along with the IA team, I would like to thank the IAPD attendees for showing up with open minds, for contributing out-of-the-box and impressive ideas/creations, and for willing to be a part of an inclusive, intergenerational space.

-- Rosie Mendoza, IA Communications and Events Intern

*“Our work builds upon the strengths, legacies, and innovations of our elders and ancestors while simultaneously lifting the voices of youth. The most powerful work is intergenerational and incorporates multiple opportunities to learn from each other.”*

*Imagining America*



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