

SENIOR CENTER INNOVATIONS



ON-SITE GARDENS

PROJECT SUMMARY

Senior Center gardens have been a popular innovation. These gardens often have many purposes: to provide a social activity, an outdoor activity, allow seniors to grow food, and beautify the senior center.

Senior Center Innovation Grants were supported by:



Department of Human Services
Division of Aging Services

HIGHLIGHTS

- Partnering with local scouting groups to build and help maintain gardens adds intergenerational programming to the garden
- Growing fresh herbs can supplement meals prepared at the center
- Local cooperative extensions can help plan the garden
- Local garden supply stores have donated plants and seeds to continue garden projects

PARTNERS

- Scouts
- Cooperative Extension

With the garden planted, we are attracting new members to our new garden club.

CHALLENGES

Weather can slow down progress on garden planning and planting. Working with local partners can help keep energy and excitement around the project.

Visit <http://thanks.fund/Innovation> for more ideas



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FILM & LECTURE SERIES

PROJECT SUMMARY

Incorporating expert led discussions into their film series led to robust conversations among seniors. Group discussions after classic films led many seniors to reminisce about the past and share stories.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Each film attracted at least five new participants to the senior center
- Adding structured discussion provided an opportunity to engage the mind
- Historians and literary experts brought their experience to the discussions

PARTNERS

- Schools
- Historical societies

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Seniors analyzed their different reactions to the film texts based on their ages – when they were young and saw the film and now.

CHALLENGES

Finding the right films can be a challenge. Center directors can help pick films that will appeal to the audience and lead to a good discussion.

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DRUMMING CLASSES

PROJECT SUMMARY

Drumming Classes are more than music; they are movement and exercise, popular social activities, and provide much more to centers and seniors. This popular innovation has helped senior centers enliven their programming and partner with musicians for these fun interactive classes.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Intergenerational drumming circles have been successful
- Working with music teachers or another local musician can help break down barriers to trying new drumming classes
- Participants love the energy and enthusiasm from Atlanta to Moultrie these programs have been very popular

PARTNERS

- Local Musicians
- Afterschool Programs

We just can't say enough about how much we love this program. Drumming is so much fun for our seniors!

CHALLENGES

Drumming classes can be a difficult idea for many potential participants. It is important to find someone with energy and enthusiasm to engage people who may be unsure about a loud program like this

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MODERNIZATION

PROJECT SUMMARY

Equipment and other modernization purchases are long-term investments to help senior centers improve services. Three compartment sinks, washable tableware and other items have been purchased to enhance the experience of senior center members.

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HIGHLIGHTS

- Equipment purchases help centers operate more efficiently
- New software and equipment help free up time for center staff to work more on programs
- Purchasing reusable tableware is not only sustainable but helps improve the experience for seniors

PARTNERS

- Restaurants

CHALLENGES

Purchasing the right equipment or finding the right software can be a challenge, talk to other senior centers who can help

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Digital Confidence Building Computer Series

Email, Microsoft Office, and Facebook, oh my! Do you ever feel overwhelmed or frustrated by computers? Then this is the class for you! Join us for this three week course and learn how to send an email, maneuver social media, online shop, and much more. We will answer your individual questions and give you a live demo to build your "digital confidence" and set you up for success. Please bring something to take notes with to take the information home with you.

TECHNOLOGY CLASS

PROJECT SUMMARY

Many senior centers are proposing technology labs. These labs use a variety of methods with one common goal, to help seniors stay connected and be comfortable with using technology.

One additional benefit of the technology labs is that they offer a place for seniors to apply for benefits such as SNAP.

HIGHLIGHTS

Find out what technology is most relevant to seniors. You may not need a full computer lab, but a tutor to show how to take selfies and post on Facebook! Or perhaps tablet computers are easier to use and offer assistive technology apps that can help in other areas.

PARTNERS

- Community Colleges

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Our seniors LOVE playing games on the tablets. They play a lot of memory games which is very helpful for them.

CHALLENGES

Make sure to purchase quality equipment with the help of tech savy staff or volunteers. Nothing is more frustrating than the WiFi going out while teaching a class.

Visit <http://thanks.fund/Innovation> for more ideas

