Arts-Based Knowledge Mobilization
Andrea LaMarre, University of Guelph Research Shop

Constructing Knowledge, Engaging Response

Arts-based research takes a collaborative, interpretive approach to creating and sharing knowledge (Boydell et al. 2012; Wainwright & Rapport 2007). Engaging in arts based research enables a variety of voices to be included (Keen & Todres 2007; Jones 2006; Colantonio et al. 2008). Knowledge is constructed and mobilized through active engagement with communities in ways that transcend the typical academic approach (Boydell et al. 2012). Arts-based research has the ability to engage the audience and empower participants and audience members alike (Gergen & Gergen 2010).

Why Dance?

“Dance is a universal medium. It transcends cultures, ethnicities and language barriers. Dance is useful as a tool of communication, but also as a tool of education. This is applicable to people of all scientific levels; professors to industry professionals to laymen and the general public” (Mmckeague 2011) - Winner of Science Magazine’s Dance Your PhD Contest, 2010

Engaging in dance and movement can create profound shifts in perspectives of the researcher, participants, audiences, and dancers (Boydell et al. 2012).

Using dance as a catalyst for conversations

Where can we go from here?

A creative collaboration between Musagetes, IMAGEO art works, local artists & The Research Shop

Engaging the community around issues of democracy, inclusion and transition using movement and dance

“Science Moves” drew out the links between science and dance through movement and audience engagement

Participants in “Artful Waters”, a dialogue event hosted by Waterlution Canada, embody their learning share it through performance

Photos courtesy of IMAGEO Artworks

Research Expansion

This collaboration seeks to mobilize and share outcomes from research conducted by Musagetes early in 2012, under the Guelph-Wellington Rural Urban Program (GWRUP). The research investigated transitions taking place in Guelph.

The collaboration will include:

- A movement and dance-based workshop, designed to gain further insight into themes of democracy and transition from members of the community
- A performance piece, which will reflect and expand upon themes raised in the workshop
- A trend paper exploring these themes and process outcomes

These elements will engage community members in active discussion and exploration of the ideas of democracy, inclusion and transition and what these mean in the context of the Guelph community. The role of the arts as a means to engage the community around these issues, and as a catalyst for further conversations, will be explored throughout the project.

References:


