Served with 2018

Intergenerational Queer Dinner Parties



Dinner Parties have served many communities as a site of community building, nourishment, and care. Over the course of the Fall 2022 semester through the LGBTQ+ Intergenerational Dialogue Project at SAIC, Arden, Mack, Jordan, and Edna embarked on deeply personal discussions regarding gender, race, class and sexuality, and more. Our conversations and story-telling took us through our individual journeys and revealed to us how many identities and dualities we each have within us. Towards the end of the semester, we conjured up the idea to have two dinner parties representing two versions of ourselves, one that is comfortable to us and one that, though we might not wear often enough, excites us.

This book brings together documentation of our two dinner parties, alongside our recipes, poems, and personal anecdotes, into a physical memory to be shared and exchanged through our shared and separate communities. Through communal meals and the creation of this artist book, we aimed to bridge our personal gaps between generations of LGBTQ+ elders and, through our conversations, engage in the act of radical joy.



An Opening Poem by Edna Hill

lused to ...

seek adventure and danger.

Now I resign myself to the vicarious thrills in movies and videos.

But now I am...

more me than I have ever been.

Finding that I am accepting who I am today.

l seem to be...

stuck when it comes to telling the story of me.

Afraid to touch a nerve with every word.

Butlam...

excited to be taking this journey of discovery with all of you

Why is intergenerational gathering important for Queer people?

Spaces for queer people to gather and form relationships intergenerationally are few and far between. Queer teachers, parents, and community members have been systematically kept away from young people and children. In the present day, we see another rise of conservative Americans wanting to ban queer teachers, LGBTQ+ history in schools, and see parents of transgender children villainized. How can we share knowledge, stories, struggles, art, and dreams, and how can we resist harmful structures, without having access to one another?

Through intentional conversations between generations, queer people have access to a closeted history. Young queer people can dream by seeing versions of themselves realized as aging individuals. Older queer people, whom for years have been kept out of both physical and digital spaces, can be seen and heard. Intergenerational conversations allow us to learn how to survive impossible infrastructures and our heteronormative society and see our past, present, and future selves recognized.



