

# Abracadabra Forum Feedback Students

## Attendance

Mostly Grade 7. Upwards of 36 students attended of whom 12 Grade 6 or 7s had registered in advance and 3 Grade 8s came by their own request. As it seemed that we might not have enough students, (2 students to one adult) the whole of Mrs. Mullin's Grade 7 French Immersion class was also brought to the gym



## Responses

At least 33 of the students completed feedback questionnaires. As there were not sufficient copies, some students doubled up with other participants to complete the forms.

## Reasons for attending

In general, students attended because they were already interested in some aspect of

creativity.

In addition:

### Fun

7 respondents mentioned that they thought that it would be fun including one who said that it “sounded much more fun than our regular classes.” and 2 came in order to “Skip school”. One attended because “It sounded AWESOME”.

### Curiosity

4 reported “it is more intriguing than exploratories” “We were curious about what it was”. “Learn new things” “See other peoples creativity”.

### Obligation

2 students reported that they had attended “because I was made” “we had to”.

### Meet new people/adults

The opportunity to meet new people/ talk to adults was important to some : “Meet new people”. “I wanted to see and talk to some adults about arts and stuff”. “to talk to an adult about my art” “All the artists! and all the mentors. I came looking for help.”



### Magic

3 students said that they came for the magic.

### **Skills and qualities important for you to be creative in your life**

In addition to mentions of imagination and inspiration, the list included: being able to create things “while having fun” “music, dance, movies, story-writing, poetry, weather, gymnastics, cooking, focus(3), keep an open mind, observe things around you (3), kindness, happiness, knowledge, cleverness, strength, courage”  
“the ability to hold and shape things”  
“talking to people and making connections”

### **Things that made an impression**

#### Magic

17 students mentioned that the magic tricks had impressed them.

#### Meeting adults/artists

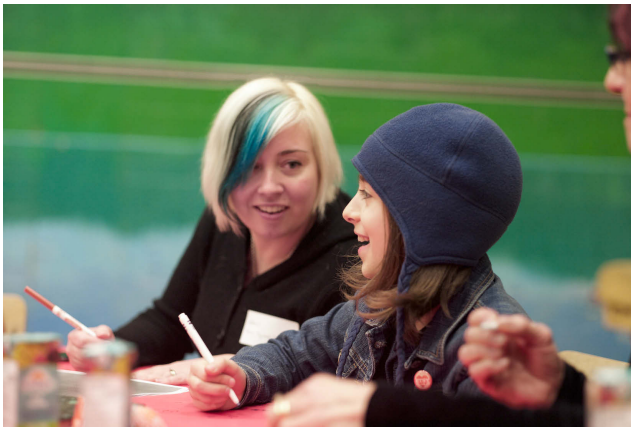
“I really enjoyed speaking to all of these creative people”. “How each person in our group had a creative talent”. “Meeting artists”. “I liked the people”. “How many people came”. “Talking to people and making connections”.



#### Activities

“I liked being able to make sculpture out of the cheese wax”(2)  
“The humor the activities.”  
Drawing (2)

**Are there things you plan to be doing things differently because of the conversations today?**



“Be more creative” (2) “Be more creative in everything”. “Think about creativity in a broader way”. “Listen to nature”. “Let my imagination ... more independently” “Don’t judge my drawings”. “Learn more card tricks”

## **Suggestions**

### Meeting/talking with more of the adults

"I would have liked a chance to speak with all the adults at all the tables". "To talk to specifically the people that like the same things as you". "It would be nice to meet more of the people here". "More mentoring because it felt more like a worksheet than a whole bunch of artists mentoring." "More convo.time? get to talk to the artists more". "To get to go to every table." "More 1 on 1 more talking about art".

### Activities

"Maybe a little more things to do".

"Let them know techniques about drawing"

"Next time let more artists do more demonstrating and bringing in work than just talking".

### Event promotion

"an announcement that kids need to come here".

### Refreshments

Request for more snacks

## **Overall benefit**

13 students reported the event to have been of "Some" benefit, 10 "Quite a bit", 3 "A lot" and 1 "A little". No students reported "None"

## **Adults**

### **Attendance**

15 adults, 2 of whom had to leave early. (2 adults who had previously registered were unable to be there)

### **Responses**

4 adults completed forms.

### **Reasons for attending**

It involves creativity. I want to mentor and be inspired too.

Invitation. (All but 2 of the adults responded to an announcement on the SS Exchange or an article in the Driftwood)

To see the work at CG firsthand

### **Things that made an impression**

- Interest youth had in exploring ideas/playing up materials; good magic tricks sparked my imagination. This reminded myself that kids can do more than you might expect
- Ahava – brilliant!. Successful! Not all the kids responded, but the ones that did discovered something nice in themselves.

- Questions
- Opportunity for thought! Meeting artists!

### **Suggestions**

- Specific directions then let us have a time to complete – drawing on table good – maybe more focused activities - & closer together – room cavernous & sound difficult – hard for Ahava to draw us all in.
- Quieter room
- Venue acoustics were a challenge...

### **Overall benefit**

2 adults reported that the forum was of “Quite a bit”, 1 “A lot” and 1 “Some” benefit to them.

2 adults have since emailed writing the following:

1) I think it went well, but kept thinking that it might have been better if it was in a classroom setting, where iphones were not allowed, and one adult at a time answering questions the kids would have prepared, and the adult could have questions for the kids to answer/think about as well.

At my table 2 or 3 of the girls were more interested in texting on their phones than paying attention, and the other adult at the table most often took over the conversation. So, based on my experience, I think it might work better if there was, let's say, 15-20 minutes per adult in front of a group of students, might be worth a try.

2) it was wonderful to participate in the very well conceived and wonderfully carried off 'Abracadabra!' I had some lovely conversations with the 'youth' - which could at times be confusing, because they could be so mercurial, one minute so very subject to the ways the social winds were blowing, and the next making the most potent and even devastating observations, wanting to talk about the most important things. One had to pay very close attention, and look for moments to ride off with them on...

