Starburst Make-It-Happen List

Starburst is envisioned as a sustainable, interactive exchange that college students and faculty take on to have a peek (there's so much more to explore) at the impact of dance and the body in connecting with community. We want students to be involved in multiple ways. Students have felt a kind of “relevance” and “meaning” to what they are learning on a daily basis. Some have gone on to want to investigate community engaged work in deeper and more involved ways. It’s also meant to be FUN.

What is it?
A local community, school or otherwise, is invited to visit a campus, takes a dance class, interacts with students through dance and otherwise, performs perhaps, perhaps stays for a showing, a performance, watches other classes, etc. The visit can be as short as a dance class or as long as a full day.

Who is it for?
1. Your students. To create the space for your students to teach, learn, give, and join with a community outside of the class/studio. Evidence has shown that students engage more in their learning and feel better about their learning when they can see the impact on and with others.
2. The communities. To create the opportunity for school/college connections, to support the dance communities that exist in local schools that would benefit from added artistic input, creative collaboration, documentation for their own survival, field trips that are engaging and relevant to student need. For non-school communities: artistic collaboration, social and cultural development and empowerment and more.

How do I do it?
1. Find a community with which to share dance.
   a. From personal connections
   b. From your own campus's community engaged offices*

2. Decide on a date with your community and a length of visit

3. Find transportation
   a. Most schools can find their own transportation, especially if you ask early enough in the year!! If not, then:
      i. Each campus, except UMass, has their own 12 or 7 passenger vans that can be reserved. UMass rents from a local vendor - Potter's Auto & Truck Rental at North Amherst Motors - and funds need to be set aside for that.
      1. If you use a van, you need to find a registered driver for your campus. There are many students who have this registration or desire to have it. To get registered, there is a 1-hour course at each home campus (check with Campus Police or Risk Management office) and they, of course, check driver licenses.

4. Touch base with your on campus community-engaged office* for help with:
   a. Snacks or food for the occasion
   b. Videographer or photographer for the occasion
   c. Support in both documentation and evaluation of program
   d. Sending documentation - video/photo/written to all participating parties

5. Engage in reflective process with your students about how it went, and what they learned.
   a. Evidence shows students learn more after reflection.
   b. Document in any way possible your students’ perceptions of learning. Your campus’s stakeholders, Deans, Department Heads, etc., need to know what you’re doing in community collaborations and also what is known and learned in the process.

6. Did you have fun?

* See CBLD guide for contact info