



Department of Computer Science

FAMILY & FRIENDS INFORMATION LETTER

Title of Study:

ABLE-Village “Artful Aging: A digital village for older adults to enhance social connectivity”

University of Manitoba Research Node Personnel*:

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* Complete personnel listing for all project nodes is included at the end of this document.

We are completing a research study entitled “Artful Aging: A digital village for older adults to enhance social connectivity,” also known as the ABLE Village study.

We have developed a virtual platform that allows older people to connect, play games, make art, and engage in movement activities with others, including family members in different locations, through computer video at the same time (or “live”). We would like your feedback on the design and the interaction (or “game design”) of this platform and the social, physical, mental, and artistic activities included on the platform.

Your family member/friend is interested in participating in this study. Their involvement entails completing a brief survey and then participating in 5 to 20, one- to two-hour long focus groups using Zoom. These groups will include working with 1-7 other participants. Focus groups will take place online between September 2023 and March 2025. During these focus groups, we will show participants the ABLE platform and ask them for their feedback on the design. With everyone’s permission, these focus groups will be recorded (please ask your family member/friend for a copy of the Letter of Information and Consent, or find it on our web site: [website: https://celinelatulipe.net/the-able-village-study/](https://celinelatulipe.net/the-able-village-study/)). Participants can participate in as many or as few focus groups as they desire, and they will participate in a focus group size of their preference (1-8 participants and 2-6 research team members). Participants may invite their friends and family to participate in the focus group, which is why you are receiving this letter as a family member or friend of a prospective participant. By joining your family member or friend in this study, you would be agreeing to participate in this study as a participant yourself.



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Participants have the option of observing the platform or testing the platform by using your computer (touch pad or mouse) or tablet/mobile device. We also can meet with you individually before the research meeting to help you to use your computer or tablet to access the ABLE Village platform.

Your participation in this study is voluntary. You may withdraw at any time without consequences and you may also refuse to answer any questions you do not want to answer and still remain in the study. You will receive a \$50 gift card (a \$200 cheque if you are a participant lead) for each year for your participation in this two-year study. If you withdraw from the study, you will still be eligible to receive an honorarium; however, the amount you receive will be proportionate to the time in which you participated in the study (e.g., if you withdraw after 6-months of participating in the study, you will receive half of a one-year honorarium, which is \$25).

For more information, please visit our [website: https://celinelatulipe.net/the-able-village-study/](https://celinelatulipe.net/the-able-village-study/). For questions, or if you are interested in participating in this study, please contact Dr. Celine Latulipe (celine.latulipe@umanitoba.ca).

This project has been approved by the University of Manitoba Fort Garry Research Ethics Board. The ABLE Village Study is supported in part by funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

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IF I HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS, WHOM CAN I CONTACT?

The University of Manitoba ABLE Village Research Team:

If you have any questions about the research now or later, please contact Dr. Celine Latulipe via email at (celine.latulipe@umanitoba.ca) or visit our website: <https://celinelatulipe.net/the-able-village-study/>

University of Manitoba Research Ethics Board:

This study has been reviewed by the University of Manitoba Fort Garry Research Ethics Board and received ethics clearance. If you have concerns or questions about your rights as a participant or about the way the study is conducted, please contact:

University of Manitoba Human Ethics Coordinator
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