Community Based Art

CBA CSUSB

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Art and we will collaborate with each one to find a teaching approach that fits their needs and interests while also fulfilling a need in the community.

Service-learning

Art 540: Art and Community
Students participate in a two-week intensive on lesson planning and curriculum design before embarking on an 8-week service-learning project in which they teach weekly art classes in the community. Service-learning is a mutually beneficial process in which the learning needs and interests of students and community participants are taken into account and both sides grow from the experience.

Internships

Art 575: Internship in Art
Students participate in teaching internships with our growing list of community partners. Internships are more independent than fieldwork or service-learning. While Art 460 and 540 are recommended for art 575, and provide a solid foundation for a teaching internship in art, they are not required.

Art and Human Development
Through fieldwork, students bring art experiences to people of all different ages in the community, from preschoolers to seniors. They simultaneously learn how art can be meaningful at different ages and in different contexts. They also discover what media and approaches would be the best fit with each age group and population.

Teaching Artists

“Teaching at CIM has been one of the most worthwhile experiences I have had the privilege of participating in. It has not only provided a forum for personal growth, but has provided a platform for me, as an artist as well as a member of society, to inspire others and create a positive impact on the world around me. In this program leave all of your preconceptions at the door and prepare yourself for an extremely eye opening and rewarding experience.”

-Bee Wilkie, Teaching Artist, CA Institution for Men

“Being able to teach art to students at Safe House of the Desert has been an invaluable experience. Not only have I gained confidence in my own abilities as a future educator, but I have also had the privilege of interacting with the students to create art that is both meaningful and creative.”

-Alma Porras, Teaching Artist, Safe House of the Desert

“By interning at Our House, we are given the ability to experience how art can impact people directly. You see yourself as artist, educator, but also as a promoter of social change, and that’s very empowering.”

-Manny Lopez, Teaching Artist, Family Art, Our House

“What teaching artists, participants and community partners have to say:

Participants

“The word has spread and more prisoners are awaiting to enroll in the classes. It’s very beneficial to have something constructive to partake in. We are learning something vibrant, exceptional, interesting, rewarding, and life sustaining. I am intrigued and look forward to taking EVERY class that is offered in the program to enhance my knowledge of the art world. KEEP THE ART PROGRAM ALIVE!”

-Participant, California Institution for Men

“With this opportunity I pass on an important message: change is possible, especially through art. My fellow inmates now have a safe place to explore with their creative side. Giving back as a co-instructor gives me back the wings of hope to fly like I once did as a kid.”

-Participant, California Institution for Men

“Thank you guys for taking your time to be with us! I love learning about all the different art.”

-Participant, Waterman Gardens Boys and Girls Club, San Bernardino

“The whole team was awesome. Keep up the great work!”

-Participant, Job Corps, San Bernardino

“All of the workshops were my favorite. This is art at its finest!”

-Participant, EngAGE, San Bernardino

Fieldwork

Art 460: Art and Human Development
Through fieldwork, students bring art experiences to people of all different ages in the community, from preschoolers to seniors. They simultaneously learn how art can be meaningful at different ages and in different contexts. They also discover what media and approaches would be the best fit with each age group and population.

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Community Partners

“The response to the Community-Based Art Project has been overwhelming positive! The inmate students were enthusiastic and appreciative for the visit and the instruction they received at our first meeting. The entire population of the Yard is now talking about the event, as our waiting list is growing every day. Annie Buckley and her team created a classroom environment that had the inmates engaged, focused, and motivated by their new experience.”

-Chris Lawmaster, Inmate Leisure Time & Self-Help Program Vocational Instructor – Electronics, LAC

“Honestly, [this was] the most informative and expressive approach to “the arts” that our facility has participated in for more than two years.”

-Ronnie Shupe, Community Resource Manager, California Institution for Women, Chino

“EngAGE has been fortunate to have worked with CSUSB Art Education students at one of our low income senior apartment communities in San Bernardino on two separate occasions. During these weekly sessions, their extensive knowledge has highly benefited our residents, not to mention that having the opportunity to learn about and try various art media and techniques has been a priceless experience for them. I would welcome CSUSB students again in a heartbeat, and I know the seniors feel the same!”

-Alma Wright, Regional Programs Director, EngAGE The Magnolia at Highland

-Participant, EngAGE, San Bernardino
Community-based Art
California State University, San Bernardino

Community-based art is an approach to making, teaching, and learning art that directly engages community in the process. In Community-based Art at CSUSB, students facilitate art classes and programs in local community sites that otherwise have little or no access to art. All of our community partners have an expressed interest in bringing art to their programs. Our community-based art classes, projects, and programs are based on a philosophy of collaboration, interdependence, and mutuality.

Throughout, students examine the ways that social, cultural, and economic forces impact access to and understandings of art. Students actively participate in changing the current paradigm by teaching art at sites with little access to it.

The design of the program varies depending on the needs and population at each site as well as on student interest and course requirements. We develop programs according to what is needed and what makes sense for each location and class. In the summer of 2015, CBA received two grants to continue and expand their work in CA state prisons. An exciting development that resulted from this was the formation of a Community-based Art research team that meets weekly to co-create policies and procedures for assessment, and the best practices for ongoing program development. In addition, we were able to begin weekly art programs with the CA Institution for Women in Chino and the California State Prison, Los Angeles County in Lancaster and to continue weekly programs at Job Corps in San Bernardino and Our House in Redlands.

CBA is thrilled to embark on a long anticipated benefit exhibition that will feature a diversity of art works from our three prison programs. All of the art that will be displayed in this exhibition has been graciously donated by our inmate participants, whose continued dedication and support of the arts was the inspiration for this show.

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