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5-2016

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Recommended Citation

Agustin, Jessica; Baca, April; and Quevedo, Christina, "Symposium Presentation" (2016). *CBA/PAC Presentations*. 1.

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Community-based Art

Professor Annie Buckley

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California State University, San Bernardino

Overview

The basis of the research previously conducted in Summer 2015 was to:

- ▶ This research supported the facilitation of art programs with community partners, including three state prisons and three local youth organizations, and allowed for qualitative research on CBA programs.
- ▶ Support Community-based Art (CBA) through expanded programming, evaluative surveys, structural organization, documentation, and the development of scholarly archives.

Community-based Art

- ◆ **Community-based Art** is an approach to making, teaching, and learning art that directly engages community in the process. *Teaching Artists* facilitate art classes and programs in local community sites that otherwise have little or no access to art. Throughout this initiative, students examine the ways that social, cultural and economic forces impact access to and understandings of art.



CBA Teaching Artists Include:

- ❖ CSUSB undergraduate students
- ❖ MFA students
- ❖ CSUSB alumni
- ❖ Local volunteers
- ❖ Guest artists and writers

We at CBA discussed the importance of language used to describe who we are and our work, including the importance of people-first language.

CBA Participants Include:

- ❖ Youth and children at-risk
- ❖ Seniors in low-income housing
- ❖ Persons who are incarcerated
- ❖ Individuals who are homeless
- ❖ People with disabilities

CBA Projects Include:

CBA classes and workshops include Art History, Art Making, and Reflection. Communication, mentorship, and personal development are as important as the creative process.

- ❖ Collaborative murals
- ❖ Family workshop
- ❖ Art History workshops
- ❖ Creative & Art Writing workshops

The background features abstract geometric shapes, primarily triangles, in various shades of green and blue. These shapes are layered and overlap, creating a dynamic, modern aesthetic. The colors range from light, airy greens and blues to more saturated, vibrant tones. The overall composition is clean and minimalist, with the text centered in a white space.

Why art?

Skills gained through art practice:

Soft Skills

- ◆ Growing self-confidence
- ◆ Improvement in communication skills
- ◆ Patience
- ◆ Accountability
- ◆ Creative development
- ◆ Collaboration
- ◆ Perceptiveness
- ◆ Stress management
- ◆ Interpersonal relationship skills
- ◆ Dedication & motivation

Hard Skills

- ◆ Punctuality
- ◆ Art Historical knowledge
- ◆ Writing skills
- ◆ Visual skills
- ◆ Fine motor skills
- ◆ Reading & analytic competency
- ◆ Problem solving skills

Waterman Garden's Boys and Girls Club



CSUSB Re-entry Initiative



Job Corps



"I learned that art can mean a lot of things, and sometimes the simplest thing as the color red can express so much."-Class Participant, Job Corps.



engAGE: Low Income Senior Housing





“There is a lot of talent here in prison. We are not all bad and evil people, some of us made bad decisions and are accepting responsibility for our actions”- Class Participant, CIM

What is CBA Prison Arts Collective (PAC)?

- ◆ We are committed to bringing visual and interdisciplinary art classes and workshops to people that are incarcerated in the California state prison system.
- ◆ We believe in mutual learning and collaboration over hierarchical programming.
- ◆ We are pleased to be part of the recent resurgence in arts in corrections in California, bridging arts and rehabilitation.

California Prison Arts: A Quantitative Evaluation

An evaluation through surveys, completed by D. Lawrence Brewster from the University of San Francisco found the following:

- ◆ Inmates with previous arts education and practice, including former Arts in Corrections participants, were statistically more likely to be intellectually flexible, self confident, motivated, in control of their emotions, socially competent, and better managers of their time than inmates who have never studied or practiced art.
- ◆ A comparison of the pretest-posttest survey results for the 31 inmates who had no previous arts education or practice showed a positive and statistically significant correlation between their participation in the theatre, writing and visual arts classes and improved time management, achievement motivation, intellectual flexibility, active initiative, and self-confidence.
- ◆ A significant majority of participants reported that the arts program helped them to relieve stress, feel happier, and gain valuable insights. Over half (58%) said their art brought them closer to family; enriching their conversations and nurturing a new identity as artists, rather than convict.

“When I become angry painting calms me down. When I become lonely, painting comforts me. When I become confused, painting brings me clarity. When I experience painful emotions, painting helps me reconnect to positive emotions and I never want to use drugs or alcohol again.” S. Hunter, Class participant/Co-teacher, CBA at CIM



CBA Prison Arts Collective Partner Sites & Curricula:

These classes run simultaneously for six to ten weeks. All sessions culminate with a certificate ceremony.

➤ **California Institution for Men, (CIM)**

- Painting: Concept & Technique
- Creative Writing
- Creative Brain training
- Beginning Painting/Portable Mural
- Art Appreciation

➤ **California Institution for Women, (CIW)**

- Art Foundations
- Women in Art History
- Reinventing Art
- Art Writing Workshop

➤ **California State Prison, Los Angeles County (LAC)**

- Advanced Critique
- 3D Design
- Patterns & World Cultures
- Abstraction: Art & Poetry

CIM Mural Workshop



"I plan to stay in the art program for as long as I can. It has been invaluable in helping me cope with prison & exploring my creative potential."- Class Participant, CIM



"I think that I've learned more than I've taught! There are just some things that no classroom can teach. The only way to learn is by doing."-Nancy Stevens, Teaching Artist, CIM



CIM Critique & Creative Writing Classes



"That as long as there are programs such as these while incarcerated it gives us a constructive outlet to finish out time in a positive environment." — Class Participant, CIM



Summer 2015 Research Achievements include:

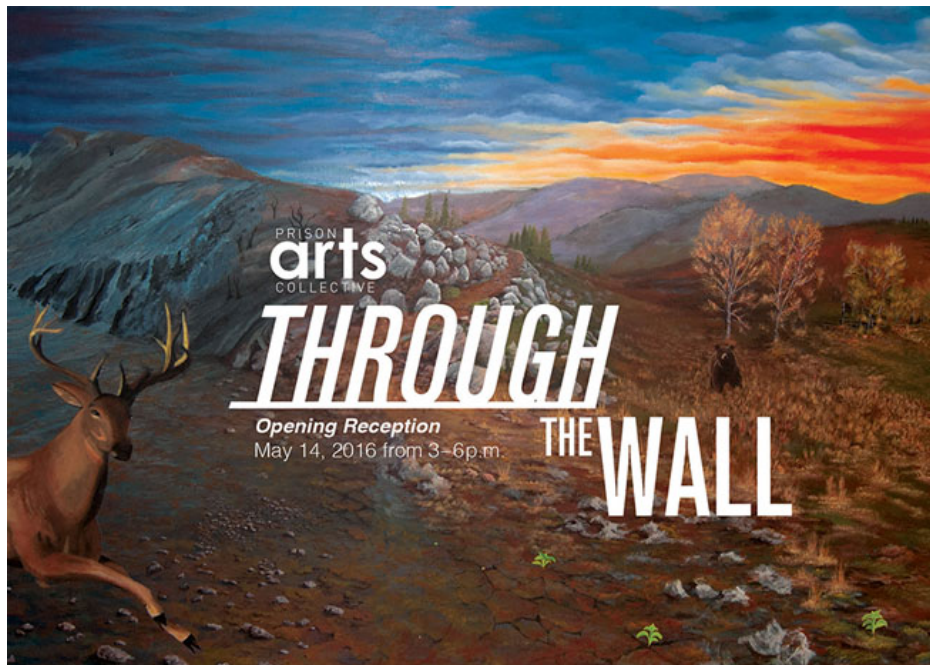
- ❖ Creating teacher and curriculum guidelines
- ❖ Creating volunteer packets
- ❖ Creating and distributing participants Pre-Surveys and using the results to help further program development at each site.
- ❖ Post surveys were also created collaboratively and are used for program development.

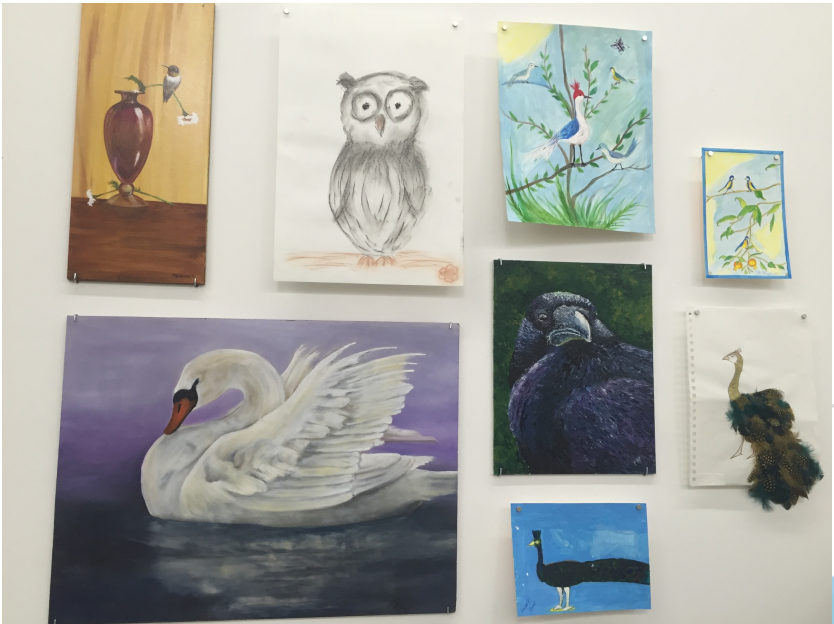
Presently:


Previous research has continued to provide support for the ongoing work of CSUSB Community-based Art (CBA) initiative and Prison Arts Collective.

◆ The research conducted has resulted in :

1. The formation of a Student Leadership Team that meets weekly with professor Annie Buckley to support ongoing program development.
2. The planning and execution of a donation art exhibition & book
3. Our continual facilitation of ongoing programs in local community sites.
4. Presenting at two national conferences: the National Conference on Higher Education in Prisons & National Art Education Association National Convention.







We offer our many thanks
to the Office of Student
Research.

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