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CBA/PAC Program Information

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OVERVIEW:
Community-based Art is an approach to making, teaching, and learning art that directly engages community in the process. In Community-based Art (CBA) at California State University, San Bernardino, students and alumni facilitate art classes and programs in local community sites that otherwise have little or no access to art. Our community-based art classes, projects, and programs are based on a philosophy of collaboration, interdependence, and mutuality; all of our community partners have an expressed interest in bringing art to their programs. The Prison Arts Collective (PAC) grows out of our work in the local community and responds to a specific need for immersive arts and higher education in correctional institutions.

PROGRAMMING:
CBA has provided weekly art classes in 10-week sessions to inmates at the California Institution for Men (CIM) in Chino since 2013, the California Institution for Women (CIW) in Chino since July 2015, and the California Institution in Los Angeles County (LAC) since August 2015. Since 2013, CBA has offered 81 classes to 735 participating inmates at 3 institutions. Currently, we are providing 19 classes to 226 inmates at three institutions in a Demonstration Project for the California Arts Council Arts in Corrections project. We plan to expand to 22 weekly classes in Winter 2017 and 32 weekly classes Spring 2017 at four institutions (CIM, CIW, LAC and CRC).

PHILOSOPHY:
CBA and the Prison Arts Collective recognize that crime damages human relationships and disrupts a harmonious social structure; we believe that art can offer opportunities to heal, mend, and grow. Our programming is guided by collaboration and a community-minded approach. Moving beyond the victim-offender paradigm, CBA engages principles of restorative justice to provide an alternative based on consensus-building in which individuals gain opportunities for self-expression and learn to live together in safer, healthier environments.

APPROACH:
CBA offers a vibrant and effective approach to rehabilitation through a multidisciplinary and collaborative model that includes visual arts, creative writing, music, and movement. This unique program integrates principles of restorative justice through a rich and varied view of the creative process that integrates artmaking, discourse on art history and contemporary art, creative writing, and art and social practice through engaging a diversity of local university students and alumni as weekly teaching artists with faculty mentors and guest artists and scholars. Incarcerated participants taking part in intensive art seminars benefit by engaging with others, developing critical and creative thinking, and honing technical and expressive skills.