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Community-based Art: Summer Research

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California State University, San Bernardino

Research Overview

With the Office of Student Research Program and faculty, students will build upon CSUSB Community-based Art and will support the ongoing work of this rapidly growing initiative with much needed research and documentation.

- ◆ The Community-based Art OSR Research project includes **three** parts:
 1. Facilitating art with current community partners
 2. Conducting research on our CSUSB Community-based Art initiative
 3. Researching artists for a new online publication, *Radical Actions: From Teaching Artists to Social Practice*, co-organized by Annie Buckley and Mary Anna Pomonis

Community-based Art

- ◆ **Community-based Art** is an approach to making, teaching, and learning art that directly engages community in the process. Students 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.



The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in shades of green and blue. On the left, a solid green shape extends from the edge. On the right, there are several overlapping, semi-transparent shapes in various shades of green and blue, creating a layered effect. The central text is positioned in the white space between these shapes.

Why art?

“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

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

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 Teaching Artists Include:

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

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
- ❖ Developing pilot courses at new sites such as CIW and LAC.

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Part 1. Facilitating Art with Current Community Partners

Ongoing Community Sites and Classes:

- ◆ Boys and Girls Club, Waterman Gardens

- Family Art Workshop: Illustration and Book Making

- ◆ Our House, Redlands

- Art Workshop

- What is Art? Art Class for Youth

- ◆ Job Corps

- LACMA Inspired Workshops

- ◆ CSUSB Re-entry Initiative

- Mural Renovation

- ◆ engAGE: Low Income Senior Housing

- History of Painting Workshop

- ◆ California Institution for Men, Chino (CIM)

- Portrait Workshop

- Drawing Workshop

- Creative Writing Workshop

- 3-D Workshop

- Art History

Two new sites have been added to CBA

- ◆ **California Institution for Women, (CIW)**
 - Watercolor & Creative Writing
 - Collage & Mixed Media
 - Sculptural Crafts
 - Art History
- ◆ **California State Prison, Los Angeles County (LAC)**
 - Art Foundations
 - Printmaking
 - Art History
 - Mural Project (soon to come)

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



CBA Prison Arts Collective

“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)?

- ◆ As a part of the CSUSB Community-based Art initiative, we are committed to bringing visual and interdisciplinary art classes and workshops to people that are incarcerated in the California state prison system.
- ◆ Our team of Teaching Artists are working artists, writers, students, alumni and volunteers.
- ◆ 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.

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, Chino (CIM)

- Portrait Workshop
- Drawing Workshop
- Creative Writing Workshop
- 3-D Workshop
- Art History

◆ California Institution for Women, (CIW)

- Watercolor & Creative Writing
- Collage & Mixed Media
- Sculptural Crafts
- Art History

◆ California State Prison, Los Angeles County (LAC)

- Art History
- Art Foundations
- Printmaking
- Mural Project

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



California Prison Arts: A Quantitative Evaluation

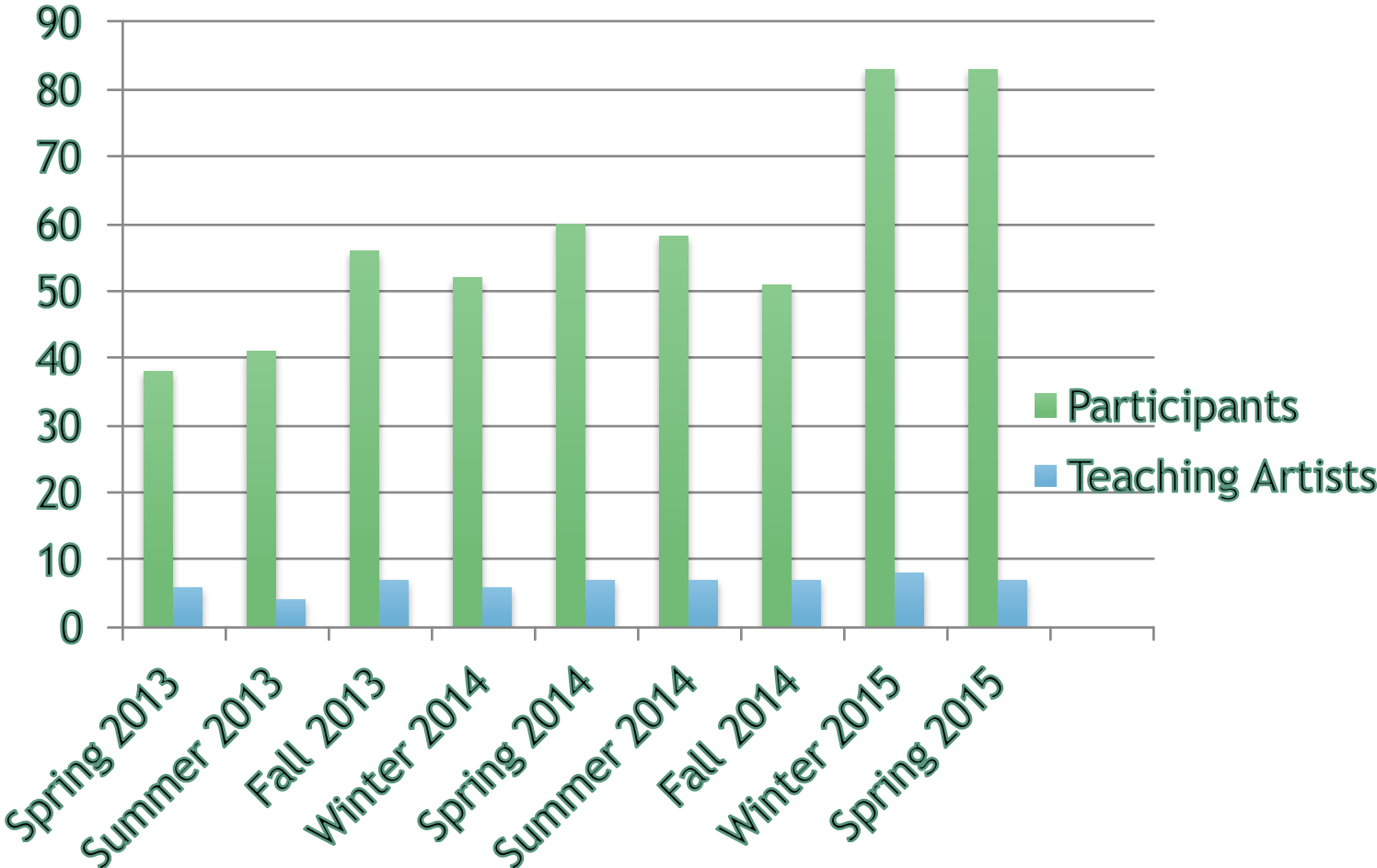
An evaluation through surveys, completed by D. Lawrence Brewster from the University of San Francisco found the following:

- ◆ 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.



Ezequiel Gonzales, CIM Class Participant/Co-teacher

Program Participation Statistics: CIM



Part 2. Conducting Research on Community-Based Art Initiative

“I was able to teach others and change their lives as well”- Class Participant/Co-Teacher, CIM

CBA Summer Research Assistants worked as a collaborative team further develop the initiative:

- ◆ Some achievements include:
 - ❖ Creating teacher and curriculum guidelines
 - ❖ Creating volunteer packets
 - ❖ Organizing and hosting a meeting for all CBA Teaching Artists
 - ❖ 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 will also be used for program development.

CBA Ongoing Program Statistics

- ◆ **Boys and Girls Club, Waterman Gardens**

Teaching Artists: 4 to 6

Participants: 18 to 45

- ◆ **Our House, Redlands**

Teaching Artists: 2-3

Participants: 10-15

- ◆ **Job Corps**

Teaching Artists: 4

Participants: 12

- ◆ **engAGE: Low Income Senior Housing**

Teaching Artists: 2

Participants: 8

- ◆ **CSUSB Re-entry Initiative**

Teaching Artists: 1

Participants: 8

- ◆ **California Institution for Men, Chino (CIM)**

Teaching Artists: 5-7

Participants: 45-83

CBA Summer Program Statistics

- ◆ **Boys and Girls Club, Waterman Gardens**

Teaching Artists: 2

Participants: 13

- ◆ **Job Corps**

Teaching Artists: 2

Participants: 10-12

- ◆ **engAGE: Low Income Senior Housing**

Teaching Artists: 1

Participants: 7

- ◆ **California Institution for Men, Chino (CIM)**

Teaching Artists: 5

Participants: 69

- ◆ **California Institution for Women (CIW)**

Teaching artists: 4

Participants: 29

- ◆ **California State Prison, Los Angeles County (LAC)**

Teaching artists: 3

Participants: 25

Part 3. Radical Actions

Researching artists for a new online publication

What is *Radical Actions: From Teaching Artists to Social Practice*?

- ◆ An online project organized by: Annie Buckley and Mary Anna Pomonis
- ◆ Will explore connections between socially engaged contemporary art and similarly minded approaches to education
- ◆ The publication will emphasize on practices that support the development of agency in participants or learners.
- ◆ The project will present a multiplicity of voices, merging first-person narratives, scholarly essays, and case studies written by: artists, teaching artists, art educators, students, academics, activists, administrators, and others engaged in art and community.

This project will result from collaboration between editors/organizers Annie Buckley and Mary Anna Pomonis and contributing writers.

- ◆ Contributors will be invited to respond to one of these ideas:
 - ❖ Connection
 - ❖ Collaboration
 - ❖ Play
 - ❖ Power
 - ❖ Transformation

We joined this ongoing project as research assistants and have researched and reached out to the following artists:

- ❖ Judy Baca
- ❖ Alice Bag
- ❖ Hannah Brancato and Rebecca Nagle
- ❖ Fabian Debora
- ❖ Karla Diaz
- ❖ Tatyana Fazlalizadeh
- ❖ Abigail Housen
- ❖ Rupi Kaur
- ❖ Barbara Kruger
- ❖ Nicolas Lampert
- ❖ Edgar Reyes
- ❖ Jordan Weber
- ❖ Risë Wilson
- ❖ Mario Ybarra Jr.

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Thank you!

Do you have any
questions?

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