



**MURAL IN OBERSHAW DEN AT CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY,
SAN BERNARDINO, BY JULIA AND JOANNA ARAUJO**



Community-based Art

Community-based Art is an approach to making, teaching, and learning art that directly engages participants through collaboration and mutual learning.

The Community-based Art (CBA) initiative at CSUSB was founded in 2013 by Professor Annie Buckley in collaboration with students, alumni, and volunteers with the goal of expanding access to art in the local community.

On campus, we examine the ways that social, cultural, and economic forces impact access to and understandings of art. In the community, we participate in changing the current paradigm by facilitating art at sites with little access to it. The design of this program varies depending on the needs and population at each site.



CSUSB SERVICE LEARNING STUDENTS CARLOS AND ASHLEY FACILITATE A CLASS FOR SENIORS AT ENGAGE IN SAN BERNARDINO.

“Through my ongoing role with CBA, I have found that the arts have a unique way of creating connections between a variety of people, situations, and cultures. The culminating art exhibitions and ongoing projects attest to this, as the work created goes beyond a psychological and emotional practice of self-exploration and creativity. For those who engage in the work, a bond between the artist and community becomes immeasurably clear, cultivating a more humanist understanding of one another.”

— April Baca, CSUSB (Visual Studies & Art History), 2016 CBA Program Assistant and CBA Project Coordinator

Community-based Art

Mission: We believe in art as a human right with the capacity to make a difference in how we understand ourselves and the world around us. We are committed to expanding access to the arts through collaboration and mutual learning that supports the development of self-expression, reflection, communication, and empathy.

Core Beliefs: We believe in the capacity of art to change lives for the better. We see it in our participants and read it when they reflect on their experiences with art. We experience it through interactions with one another and with our participants.

We believe that every individual is vital and every voice matters. We are dedicated to collaborating to facilitate programs that grow organically out of the needs and interests of those involved. We create structures to support consistency and growth.

We value to knowledge, talents, and experience of our participants. We work to support their artistic growth at whatever stage they enter the program. We teach beginning, intermediate, and advanced classes, and offer opportunities to apprentice, assistant, and co-teach for participants that are ready. We seek regular feedback and integrate participants' ideas into the art programming through the selection of classes we offer each session.

We believe in organic growth even as we work within institutional structures. We understand that we are invited guests at the facilities where we teach and work within their guidelines and policies to facilitate successful art programs.

We want to bridge societal gaps in understanding others through art. In addition to supporting positive change through art within our community partner sites, we share art-work created by participants with the public through exhibitions and publications.



**CBA PARTICIPANTS AT ENGAGE FOCUS ON
LEARNING THE COLOR WHEEL.**

Community-based Art



“Being able to teach students in the community 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 meaningful art.”

— Alma Porras, CSUSB Visual Studies, 2014, Teaching Intern, CBA, current High School Art Teacher



The CBA Way:

Our curriculum is focused on facilitating the development of personal agency and the power of self-expression and communication among our participants. To do this, we integrate technical skills in art alongside creative and expressive skills and practices, collaboration, and co-creation.

The classroom environment is important to our program. We collaborate with participants to create a calm, focused, positive, and supportive learning environment for all participants.

Our classes are based on the needs and interests of our participants and the expertise and ingenuity of our teaching teams. To that end, we have developed a series of core classes that we offer at most sites and we also continually revise, adapt, and enrich our program content.

We want our participants to know that they are part of a larger story of art and history. To achieve this, we bring guest artists to share their work and all our regular programming includes three parts: a) historical and/or cultural content, b) creative practice, and c) reflection.

Program Goals:

1. Collaboration and Planning

Community-based Art actively engages in collaborative planning by seeking feedback from participants, teaching artists, administration, and faculty with the goals of: fostering connections, facilitating organic growth, empowering all members, and encouraging mutuality and shared learning.

2. Supporting Interpersonal and Intrapersonal Skills

Community-based Art supports the development of interpersonal and intrapersonal skills (confidence, communication, patience, relaxation, decision-making) alongside the development of creative and technical skills in art.

3. Integrated Art Education

Community-based Art facilitates a cohesive and integrated approach to art education that includes art making, reflection, and art history/art appreciation in every class and a range of artistic styles and mediums across the program, and a diversity of art and artists from across the globe and throughout time.

We have ongoing partnerships for service learning classes and internships at the following sites:

EngAGE - The Magnolia at Highland

In collaboration with The Magnolia at Highland Low-Income Senior Housing in San Bernardino, CSUSB Community-based Art has offered 3, 8-week Art and Community/Creative Arts Workshop classes to 24 participants in response to EngAGE's request for additional art classes. Courses taught with EngAGE's active senior community have been primarily studio-based, focusing on the exploration of various media and techniques.

Boys and Girls Club, San Bernardino - Waterman Gardens

Located in the Waterman Gardens neighborhood of San Bernardino, the Boys and Girls Club has had a multitude of classes made available at its site through its collaboration with CSUSB Community-based Art. Classes offered at Boys and Girls Club have included 10, 8-week courses including After School Art, Teens Class, 5-7 Year Old Class, 8-11 Year Old Boys Class, and a 8-11 Year Old Girls Class to 105 participants. Student teachers at this site have created and taught the art classes through service-learning and internships since 2013, organizing the curriculum around a theme in a variety of media and skills in visual art.

Job Corps

CSUSB Community-based Art began its newest collaboration with the Inland Empire Job Corps Center as of Spring, 2015. Located in the semi-rural community of Muscoy in San Bernardino, Job Corps provides career training on a residential and non-residential campus. CBA teachers at Job Corps develop and teach art curricula through service-learning classes as well as internships. Art classes offered at Job Corps have included 3, 8-week What is Art? An Art Class for Youth and Art Workshops for Youth courses to over 12-16 participants per session. These classes are made available to participants after school in conjunction with Job Corps recreational class offerings.

Our House, Redlands

CSUSB Community-based Art first began its collaboration with Our House, a youth shelter in Redlands, in the winter of 2013. Since then, CBA teachers have developed and taught classes in teams of two with an emphasis on utilizing art to express feelings through different processes of creative expression. Classes offered at Our House have included 9, 8-week Artworks and Crafts, Art and Coping Skills Workshops, a Family Art Workshop, and a Healing Arts Workshop for Teens courses to 87 participants.

Featured News

"NEA to Award CSUSB Prison Arts Program \$15,000", by Sam Romero for the CSUSB news, December 14, 2016

"CSUSB Community-based Art receives one-year contract from California Arts Council" by *Community-based Art*, CSUSB News, October 5, 2016

Featured Articles:

Datebook: Otherworldly collage-paintings, prison art.

C.O.L.A. grant winners' work goes on view, Carolina A. Miranda, **Los Angeles Times**, May 13, 2016

ArtRx LA by Matt Stromberg, **Hyperallergic**, May 10, 2016

"Out of Bounds" by Rodrigo Ribera D'Ebre, **The Huffington Post**, December 18, 2015

Articles by the PAC:

"Collective Evolution, Inside and Out: CSUSB Community-based Art"

by Annie Buckley, art&education, December 1, 2015

"Voices of Change: Part 1", by Prison Arts Collective Teaching Artists, **Radical Actions**, March 1, 2016

"Voices of Change: Part 2", by Prison Arts Collective Participating Artists, **Radical Actions**, March 1, 2016

"Transformation Behind Bars" by Annie Buckley, Pollinating Kindness: Good Deeds Anonymous, November 29, 2016

Other Articles:

"CSUSB Community-based Art s Prison Arts Collective on display at L.A. gallery" by Office of Strategic Communication, CSUSB News, May 12, 2016

"Student Life" by Staff Writers, The CSUSB Office of Graduate Studies, December 2, 2015

"Cal State San Bernardino Community-based Art program recognized for contribution to the Inland Empire" by CSUSB Public Affairs (Open Post), Redlands Patch, February 4, 2016

"CSUSB Community-based Art program recognized for contribution to the Inland Empire" by Janet Castro, CSUSB News, February 9, 2016

“CBA breaks down elitist notions of who can study or make art and make it equal for everyone. The fact that I can make art accessible and relatable to everyone regardless of who they are makes teaching feel like an activist effort.”

— Jessica Agustin, Teaching Artist and Site Lead, California Institution for Women (CIW)

“The students not only learned new art projects but they were given the opportunity to understand how art was developed through the education provided by curriculum, and also by visiting museums to see art history.”

— Mike Braby, Leadership Development Manager, Job Corps, Inland Empire

“The Office of Community Engagement has provided funding for several of Ms. Buckley's community-based art programs and she has more than satisfied the requirements of the grants through her program delivery, authentic and sustained student involvement, and compliance with grant regulations and reporting. In fact, Ms. Buckley has gone beyond mere reporting to become an advocate for the artistic needs of the populations she and her students are serving.”

—Diane Podolske, Director, Office of Community Engagement, CSUSB

“Our residents at The Magnolia @ Highland Senior Apartments benefited greatly from the Community-based Art program and I would love for your students to come back and teach another 8-week course next year as well. Working with Annie Buckley and her CSUSB students has always been a pleasure and I will always jump at the chance to partner with CSUSB to offer this caliber of classes to our seniors.”

—Alma Wright, Regional Programs Director, EngAge

“I learned the hard work and dedication that one needs to run a program like CBA. Something that I continue learning while working with partner sites is that we have to accommodate for the communities' needs and that involves a lot of flexibility and adapting to changing ideas and needs for the benefit of everyone. I am also learning how to make what I am teaching interesting for the participants and how to include them in discussion to supplement the lesson. Many times participants just need encouragement and attention so if I call upon them (especially if I remember their name) they become more interested in the topic.”

— Carlos Garcia, CSUSB, Art and Visual Studies, 2016, CBA summer research assistant 2015 and former student assistant with CBA, currently MFA student at ASU