

According to the NAACP Criminal Justice Fact Sheet (2015), The United States of America is 5% of the world population and makes up 25% of world prisoners. Black children grades 7-12 are more than twice as likely to be suspended or expelled than white students, according to the same source. A viral image circulated from the Manifest Justice artist collective in the spring of 2015 claimed that since 1980, California has built 22 new prisons and only one new university. As justice-minded artist/educators and community arts educators in the USA, we should believe these statistics to be deeply relevant to the work we do in preparing future art educators for the field, to engage in a process of becoming an art educator, and the development of culturally responsive and meaningful art curriculum during a time of crisis regarding incarceration rates- particularly among persons of color in the US. With recidivism rates over 50% in the US, one must wonder how a sense of belonging/ not belonging- in particular the stigma of 'felon' or 'offender'- factors into the success or failure of re-entering a community post-incarceration (Wolfgang & Ivashkevich, 2014). However, data suggest a correlation between educational and creative opportunities for incarcerated persons and decreased recidivism in the US (Davis, 2013; newearthlife.org, nd). Additionally, combating misconceptions of justice and incarceration on the outside might further narrow the gap between belonging/not belonging and successful community re-entry for formerly incarcerated persons.

This project presentation details the arts partnership between a university, a public high school teacher, his students, and inmates at the Richmond City Justice Center (RCJC) in Richmond, Virginia, USA. A collaborative, performative discourse of *inside/outside* provided the framework to explore arts curricula and pedagogies sensitive to issues of race, gender, institutionalization, justice-oriented theories, and historically underserved populations (Bailey & Desai, 2005; Foucault, 1979).

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