

The Artist as Citizen Initiative Reimagine PSU Final Report 10/31/22

Project Title: The Artist as Citizen Initiative Project Support

Unit: College of the Arts

Project Leads: Darrell Grant & Suzanne Savaria

Project Synopsis for Website

The Artist as Citizen Initiative (AasC) is an interdisciplinary initiative that encompasses innovative curriculum, educational outreach, and community-building. Designed to sit at the intersection of artistic and civic engagement and to create pathways for students university-wide to discover their agency, creativity, and potential to affect social change as members of local and global communities, Through a broad roster of classes, community engagement activities, and external partnerships, AasC provides tools and opportunities for students to learn about, adapt and respond to the issues that impact the shifting landscape of their lives. We proposed to use Reimagine funds to support the continued development of AasC's outreach initiatives including launching an internship program that engaged multiple cultural organizations as community partners, expanding existing social-justice themed programming with K-12 partner schools, and laying the groundwork for a new interdisciplinary BA/BS degree in Arts and Social Justice.

Allocation of Funds

Reimagine PSU funds provided salary support for NTT faculty Suzanne Savaria in her role as co-director of AasC, which includes program and curricular development, community outreach, program administration, teaching AasC courses and summer work. Funds also supported stipends to participating cultural organizations in the "Arts Serve the City" internship program in return for their engagement in developing curriculum, sharing impact data, and assisting in an arts ecology survey. The Artist as Citizen Initiative also used Reimagine funds to support AasC-facilitated campus collaborations around issues of social justice, equity and anti-racism. Our initial proposal included support for the initial steps to create a Social Change Residency Fellowship Program. We decided, both because of scheduling and funding limitations, to defer that project until the following year.

Project Outcomes

AasC was able to achieve the majority of the project's initial goals. We launched our "Arts Serve the City" internship program with eight internships with regional arts and cultural organizations during AY 2021-22. Community partners included Bridgeworks of Oregon, Fear No Music, Portland Center Stage, PDX Jazz, Friends of Noise, Red Door Project, Montavilla Jazz, and Bravo Youth Orchestras. Reimagine funds supported stipends to these non-profit partners in return for their engagement in developing curriculum, sharing impact data, and assisting in an arts ecology survey. Responses indicated that these internships provided robust engagement, with students noting a high

degree of satisfaction with their experiences, and community partners commenting that they felt very supported by the program. Each internship lasted for one academic term. Four of the eight community partners requested to continue the program for an additional term.

Other notable successes of our Reimagine project included collaborating with Montavilla Jazz to deliver a Portland Metro Placemaking grant project at AasC partner school Vestal Elementary. In the grant we proposed to expand the school's role as a community hub, amplify its social justice mission, and strengthen its network of community partners through a community-wide celebration of arts and culture, family identity, and community diversity with storytelling, art, food, and music. AasC's role was to facilitate artistic responses in collaboration with artists, PSU and Vestal students, and community members. We were able to amplify artistic engagement around the school's annual Social Justice night event and develop a student-produced podcast featuring artists and community members.

Artist as Citizen also facilitated a partnership between community partner Bravo Youth Orchestras and SOMT music education faculty that connects PSU students with high school juniors and seniors in the Bravo program to provide mentoring and preparation for the transition to college. After setting up the program during AY 2021-22, AasC is now in the process of identifying and preparing PSU students to take on these mentoring roles and coordinate the program this year.

Perhaps the most significant accomplishment in support of reimagining PSU has been AasC's development of a proposal for an interdisciplinary BA/BS degree in Arts and Social Justice. This new major will be unique in the state and the region, and one of the first of its kind in the nation to offer an interdisciplinary arts curriculum that embeds social advocacy as a core principle. In doing so, it advances PSU's goals of increasing interdisciplinary focus, integration of creativity and social justice; supporting innovative organizational and collaborative models of faculty engagement across units and disciplines.

Finally, in May 2022, The Artist as Citizen Initiative was able to successfully secure \$80,000 in additional capacity-building funding from Oregon Community Foundation which will support our outreach and programming over the next three years.
