

CREATIVE ACTS



2021

Impact
Report



2021...

...a year none of us will soon forget!
It was our third year of existence,
and despite the obstacles,
we were able to...

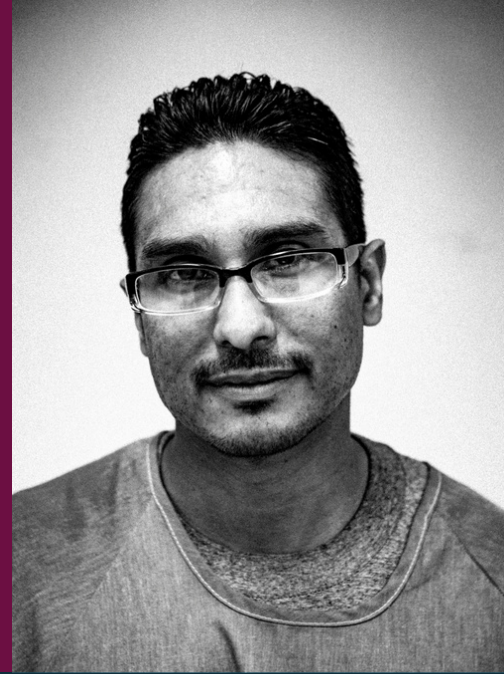
CREATIVE
ACTS

- Expand our programming impact, including finally being able to pilot our cutting edge, in-prison VR Reentry program for people serving Life sentences, run an in-person civic engagement program across all LA County youth prisons, and bring our unique anti-racism training to many more organizations and institutions.
- Train and employ many brand new teaching artists, adding to our majority BIPOC team
- Continue our Alumni Curriculum Development Laboratory, for our returned citizens
- Continue our commitment (despite the prevailing push for hierarchy) to furthering the ideals and practices of a "flat" organization
- Employ two new members of staff
- And...exceed our funding goals — thanks to YOU!

...and we've only just started!

Daniel

"I feel really trusted in here. When I think about loyalty, I feel like everyone took a risk. You can call me Daniel."



Virtual Reality Reentry Program

In Partnership with Sankofa.org



RESULTS:

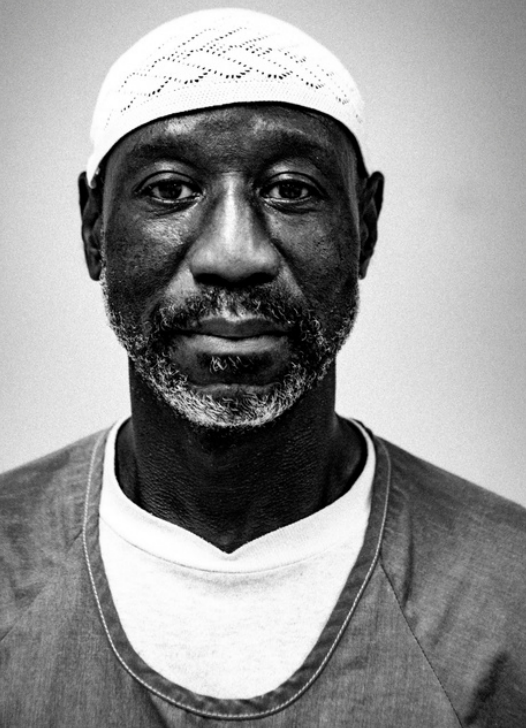
By the end of the 7 days our partners reported feeling able to fully engage by allowing themselves to achieve a level of vulnerability necessary to create change

They also reported that in addition to accessing greater levels of emotion and addressing re-entry anxiety, they felt "happier" and felt valued and respected by our facilitators



Roderick

"This helped me look deep within myself, by challenging me to push past the issues that were holding me back from reaching and achieving my full potential in life."



WHERE:

Kern Valley State Prison, Bakersfield, CA

WHAT:

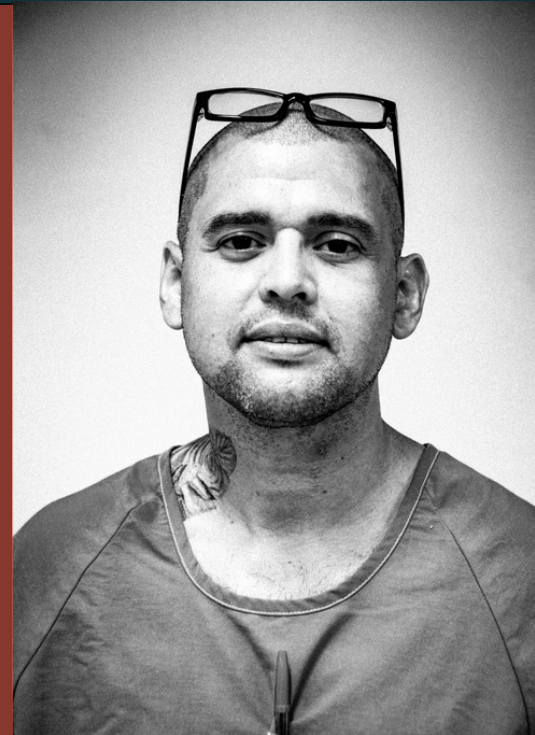
We utilized Virtual Reality technology and the Arts to impact the capacity of returning citizens to develop critical core skills for a sustainable successful transition back to the community.

HOW:

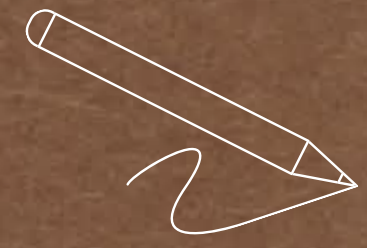
Our VR scenarios are designed to expose our participants to experiences which have been shown to cause anxiety in individuals reentering society after long term incarceration. This is paired with various activities, exercises, visual art projects and open space for structured sharing, as well as emotional and trust development.

Hector

"What I will always remember is being in a room full of truth, so refreshing hearing, seeing my truth. Yesterday was a big breakthrough for me, I was telling myself to just let go."



ART ATTACKS!



POETRY is.. rhythm, rhyme
"What does hope look like?
It looks like this!"

WHAT

Art ATTACKS! educates Incarcerated Youth on the REAL history of the United States, Civil Rights and Civic Engagement. This year we worked with the The Pulitzer Center & 1619 Project to build an honest and expansive curriculum

HOW

We utilized an arts workshop (theatre games, poetry, drawn art) to help incarcerated young people across LA County Youth Prisons discover the value of their voice and the importance of civic engagement and connecting with organizations within their communities.

Our Teaching Artists who have experienced extensive Incarceration become leaders in changing the narrative about people with lived experience.



FACTS:

We worked with 7 Halls and Camps
For 4 Days Each
Had a team of 13 Teaching Artists
And were able to teach In person
this time around !

GUESTS SPEAKERS

We invited guests that our youth could see people who look like them doing extraordinary things who may inspire them to change the narratives they may hold about their potential.

Guests such as: Rep Karen Bass,
Supervisor Holly Mitchell, AG Eric Holder,
Aloe Blacc, Maya Jupiter, DA Gascon



2021 saw a real expansion of our

Anti-Racism Training

Using the Power of the Arts to Heal and Transform

WHAT

With over 15 years of experience teaching in the most racially divided place on Earth, prison, the Creative Acts team brought our revolutionary, arts-based approach to diversity, inclusion, and anti-racism to more trainings than ever this year

Each program was tailored to the company, non-profit, or organization using an arts-based curriculum

We worked with small private groups to large corporations and offered Virtual Trainings and Workshops



HOW

Agreements:

All classes set their own ground rules which were mutually agreed upon, starting off with team building and cooperation.

Team Building Games:

Fun physical exercises that got everyone on their feet and ready to work together

Collaborative Art:

Writing, Theatre Games, Drawn Art, Improv

Open Discussion:

We encouraged honest conversations without judgement

Results

- Increased well being amongst employees, volunteers, and group members
- Improved confidence in broaching sensitive subjects, and tools to call out practices that perpetuate systemic racism and call in those who may prove to be allies
- A workbook outlining the class and a list of resources for further study
- We also offer refresher sessions and check-ins



Our Past Clients

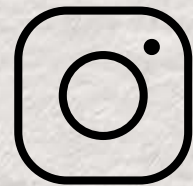


In 2022...

...Watch this space as we continue to challenge, disrupt, inspire and transform the justice space through the incredible power of the arts!

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And please consider Donating at www.Creativeacts.us

THANK YOU!

DONORS

FUNDERS

Aimie Billon	Jessica Hanna	Nancy Stephens	Sam Richardson
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Hope Downey	Megan Hull		
Jason Sweat	Miranda Broadhurst		



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AIC Training Grant
Anonymous
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CDCR CARES Grant
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LA Country Supervisor Holly Mitchell
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Pulitzer Center and 1619 Project
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