

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE

PARTNERSHIP FOR ARTS AND CULTURE

2019 Annual Report

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Partnership for Arts and Culture (PAC) aims to serve as an incubator and resource for artistic and cultural collaborations with a specific focus on global understanding and social change. PAC promotes the engagement of the arts and humanities in designing, implementing, and assessing multidisciplinary solutions to areas of critical social concern and needs.

Since its launch in March 2018, PAC has seen its membership grow to over 80 university and community members representing a range of arts and culture organizations throughout Delaware. PAC's impact and reach has also grown, with the number of grant funded projects increasing from seven in 2018 to thirteen in 2019. This report highlights the projects supported by PAC in 2019 and the community partners who served as collaborators.

In the Spring of 2020, due to the spread of the COVID-19 virus, arts and culture organizations faced challenging economic and public health concerns. The PAC grantees had to make changes to their projects and in some cases postpone planned events. The leadership of the Partnership for Arts and Culture became involved in arts advocacy and made plans to provide support when possible, to community arts and culture organizations.

PAC will continue to promote mutually beneficial partnerships between the University of Delaware and arts and culture organizations through Delaware and beyond.

We look forward to collaborating with you!

Dr. Lynnette Overby

Director, Partnership for Arts and Culture

2019 TRUCEN CONFERENCE

The Research University Civic Engagement Network (TRUCEN) was hosted by the University of Delaware in February 2019. The three-day meeting hosted by the University of Delaware brought together 27 participants from 22 universities. TRUCEN is a national organization, composed of 39 universities, whose purpose is “to advance civic engagement and engaged scholarship among research universities and to create resources and models for use across higher education”. The organization and its members believe that universities “have a fundamental obligation to apply their skills, resources, and energy to address the most challenging issues in society” and that research universities “have a special role to play.”

During the TRUCEN meeting, the Partnership for Arts and Culture had the opportunity to showcase the work of its grantees with musical, dance, video, and visual presentations. The performance included: videos by Colin Miller and Jon Cox, a presentation on the collaboration with the Creative Vision Factory presented by Michael Kalmbach, Anne Bowler, and David Kim, poetry read by students, a video and musical performance by Larry Stomberg, and a dance performance choreographed by Lynnette Overby. The PAC performance along with a presentation on the Partnership for Healthy Communities sparked great interest among the TRUCEN attendees and caused for a great discussion on the final day of the meeting regarding how to successfully build and utilize partnerships.



Campus Compact

visit <https://compact.org/trucen/> for more information.

INAUGURAL PAC ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

The Partnership for Arts and Culture (PAC) hosted its inaugural symposium on September 23, 2019 at the Delaware Arts Museum in Wilmington. The program began with presentations from 2018-2019 PAC mini grant recipients on their current projects. The projects covered a wide range of disciplines and topics including, art as a tool for activism; cultural mapping; the collaboration of art, science, and education disciplines to create storybooks for children; and environmental restoration. The grantee presentations were followed by a networking workshop where attendees could learn more about the grant application process and how to create a successful grant proposal.

A highlight of the program was the presentation by keynote speaker Elaine Grogan Luttrull, author of *Art & Numbers*. Luttrull discussed the importance of financial literacy for professionals in the Arts as it impacts their financial health and overall wellbeing. Attendees were led through the exercise of determining what their “cost to exist” was and how that should be used to prioritize their expenses as well as determine the price of the good and services they provide.

Nanci Hersh, Executive Director, Delaware Institute for the Arts in Education (DiAE), remarked on her experience: “The Partnership for Arts & Culture (PAC) symposium was a testament to the power of arts-integration through strategic partnerships. It was exciting and inspiring to learn about the other projects and programs made possible through the PAC grants on diverse topics that all address social and cultural issues. I loved seeing how different partners and communities were engaged locally, nationally, and internationally and how through these programs keep circling back to educate and bring the conversation back home. I also appreciated the opportunities throughout the day to collaborate and connect with potential new partners. The keynote speaker was interesting, informative and relevant, both personally and professionally as a visual artist and arts administrator. The day was well planned, executed and extremely worthwhile, thank you!”

Danielle Dixson gives a presentation on her PAC Grant Project



PARTNERSHIP FOR ARTS AND CULTURE (PAC) MINI-GRANT PROGRAM

The PAC mini-grant program provides up to \$4,000 for collaborative projects involving the university and community partners focused on societal issues in Delaware through an arts and culture approach. A requirement of the grant is an inclusion of significant involvement with community partners.

Projects may consider solutions to challenging health, education and social issues through arts and culture. Interdisciplinary projects are encouraged but not required. The projects may be classified as engaged research/creative activities, or service. The PAC mini-grant program supported thirteen projects during the 2018-2019 academic year.



Dalia Handelman meets with Faith Brown to talk about her life in Wilmington, her travels to Israel and her view of the world.

Oral History Collaboration with the Jewish Historical Society of Delaware

Project Director: Roger Horowitz

Community Partner: Jewish Historical Society of Delaware

The project successfully interviewed 11 members of the Delaware Jewish community, principally located in Wilmington, Delaware. It fully engaged the board and members of the Jewish Historical Society of Delaware (JHSD) to work closely with the student engaged in the interviews, Dalia Handelman, advising her on interview content, brokering contacts with potential interviewees, and generating positive feedback from her activities. Within the Jewish community the University of Delaware has received stellar comments for its financial support of the project, with its reputation and contribution enhanced by the adept and personable manner of Ms. Handelman.

Ceramics Internship at the Creative Vision Factory

Project Director: Abigail Donovan

Community Partner: Michael Kalmbach, Creative Vision Factory

This PAC grant enabled the Creative Vision Factory (CVF) to hire intern, Matt Doe, for 8 weeks this past summer. Matt provided project support for a mosaic tile commission that was being developed with Warner Elementary School and Delaware Children and Families First. This commission will be installed in the spring of 2020. Matt was trained in every step of the creation of sgraffito ceramic tile used for the mosaic commission at Warner Elementary school. Throughout his 8-week post Matt fully participated in life at the Creative Vision Factory and built relationships with our member artists and learned a lot about the obstacles they face as behavioral health and social service clients.

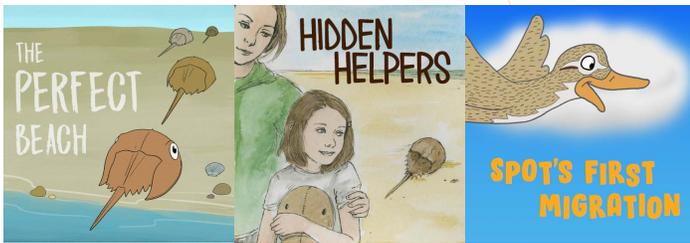
PARTNERSHIP FOR ARTS AND CULTURE (PAC) MINI-GRANT PROGRAM (CONTINUED)

Science-Based Children's Storybooks

Project Directors: Martha Carothers, Danielle Dixson, Danielle Ford

Organizations involved in the project: University of Delaware Department of Art & Design, School of Marine Science and Policy, and School of Education, Brookside Elementary School, Newark DE

Visual storybooks were created during the 2019 spring semester by University of Delaware undergraduate Art & Design, Elementary Teacher Education, and Marine Science students through the collaborative courses, ART309: Book Arts and EDUC367 & MAST367: Science Through Storybooks. The students actively participated and contributed in the interdisciplinary course format to understand, create, teach, and communicate scientific methods and principles about the ocean and aquatic life to elementary school children. The storybooks highlighted two species that greatly rely on Delaware's beaches, horseshoe crabs and sandpiper birds. Through a partnership with Brookside Elementary School, Elementary Teacher Education students had the opportunity to share the storybooks with 60 first grade students.



book covers of the story-books



The Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware, an indigenous perspective on Coastal Hazards and Sea-level Rise

Project Director: Jon Cox

Community Partner: Chief Dennis Coker

This project with the Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware is a crucial component of a funded interdisciplinary project titled, Building Resilience Awareness: Documenting Coastal Hazards and Sea-level Rise Impacts Statewide. Stories and imagery have the potential to create greater awareness about statewide sea-level rise (SLR) and intensifying storms (IS) impacts and resulting resiliency concerns. In this project we are raising public awareness of SLR and IS impacts through storytelling and a participatory app.

The most significant accomplishment of the project was getting Lenape Community members together and starting a conversation about what steps and projects the community members wanted to work on next. A video was produced of Lenape community members talking about their perspective on rising waters and intensifying storms. The project also set the groundwork for hosting an art exhibition.



Students work to clear debris from land of the Lenape Indian tribe of Delaware

PARTNERSHIP FOR ARTS AND CULTURE (PAC) MINI-GRANT PROGRAM (CONTINUED)

Bach in Wilmington, Phase 2

Project Director: Lawrence Stomberg

Community Partners: Hanover Presbyterian Church, St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, HOPE Commission Achievement Center, Temple United Church, Newark High School

At Hanover Presbyterian, Dr. Stomberg played for the Food Pantry during breakfast hours. He spoke with individual clients of the Pantry and would then play certain pieces of music dedicated to them – a kind of “dialogue” between their words and his music. Similarly, Dr. Stomberg performed at the Food Pantry at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, where he interacted with the folks getting their weekly produce.

At the Achievement Center, a re-entry program for the recently incarcerated, Dr. Stomberg played for participants while having them create whatever artistic expression they chose, which resulted in some heartfelt and profound visual art and poetry. In addition to these visits, Dr. Stomberg was invited for the second year in a row to perform as part of the Achievement Center graduation ceremony in July.

At Newark High School, Dr. Stomberg worked with the Music and Art faculty teams to present his initial project and then sit amongst the students as they created drawn ceramic tiles in response to the music. The tiles are being hung in the school as a mural-like exhibition, celebrating the artistic talent and inspiration of the students in response to the music.

At Temple United, Dr. Stomberg's performance included audio recording of voices and singing with his playing, as well as footage of the valuable work ministry the members of that church do in their West Center City neighborhood in Wilmington. The performance was specifically designed to tell the story of Temple United.

Summer Collab Project

Project Director: Colin Miller

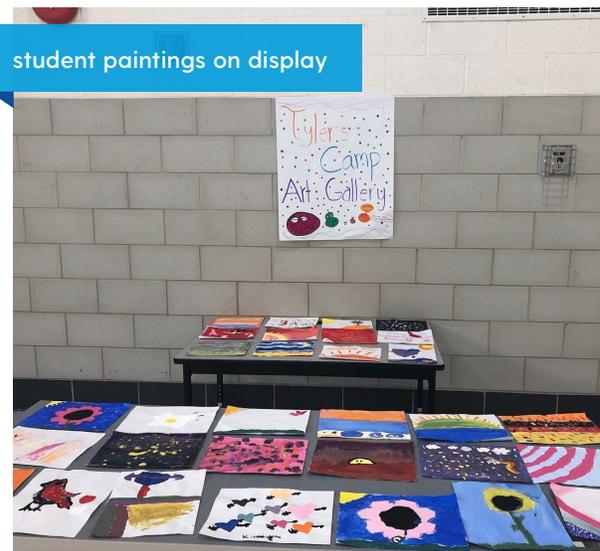
Community Partners: SummerCollab

SummerCollab is a nationally recognized non-profit founded in Delaware. Through its deep rooted network of community based agencies and schools, it co-constructs extraordinary learning environments that inspire purpose and passion in nearly 2700 of Delaware's highest need K - 8th grade children. SummerCollab achieves these outcomes by equipping community centers with curriculum, reading intervention programs, and specialized talent, which it recruits, onboards and funds.

The five University of Delaware Summer Scholars integrated arts into the program at SummerCollab's Host Tylers Camp Sites: Salesianum and Castle Hills Elementary School. The students designed and taught lessons that were focused on social emotional learning. They also prepared and taught lessons based on the Mary Ann Shadd Cary project.



Newark High School students paint ceramic tiles while listening to Stomberg play music



student paintings on display

PARTNERSHIP FOR ARTS AND CULTURE (PAC) MINI-GRANT PROGRAM (CONTINUED)

Statewide Master Naturalist Curriculum

Project Director: McKay Jenkins

Community Partner: Delaware Nature Society

The Delaware Master Naturalist Program is a science-based natural resource training program jointly coordinated by University of Delaware Cooperative Extension and Delaware Nature Society. The program will provide a foundation for trainees to become naturalists and upon completion of initial training, Master Naturalists will give back to Delaware's natural world with volunteer services to include education and outreach, service projects, and citizen science.

Through the support of the PAC mini-grant program, a 14-chapter, 500-page, fully illustrated book manuscript was created which will serve as the curriculum for the Delaware Master Naturalist Curriculum.

University students clear away invasive plant species.



UPRISING: Remembrance, Resistance, Revival

Project Director: Jessica Edwards

Community Partner: Ashley SK Davis, Pieces of a Dream, INC.

Directors Jessica Edwards and Ashley SK Davis pose with performers.



UPRISING: Remembrance, Resistance, Revival, a multidisciplinary work, performed by Pieces a Dream, Inc. (POAD), was originally commissioned by the Delaware Art Museum in September 2018. It featured the choreography of Ashley SK Davis and the visual art of Terrance Vann. Using modern dance and contemporary art, UPRISING was an artistic expression of the events in Wilmington, Delaware in 1968, including the populist revolution and the National Guard occupation of the city. Students in Dr. Jessica Edwards's class, Rhetorics of Diversity, a writing course which seeks to introduce students to issues of race and inclusive writing practices as they prepare for the workplace, attended

the performance and discovered intersections of history, visual performance, and writing to develop notions of history's connection to the present. In addition to pre-performance discussions with the creators of the UPRISING production as well as workshops related to advocacy provided by Cimone Philpotts, students in Edwards's course produced both reflective writings and informative documents about the ways in which the production adds to their understanding of Delaware's racial past and its current state. Students imagined possibilities for future engagement between the University and community partners.

PARTNERSHIP FOR ARTS AND CULTURE (PAC) MINI-GRANT PROGRAM (CONTINUED)

The Life and Times of Mary Ann Shadd Cary

Researcher: Gabrielle Foreman, Department of English

Artistic Director: Lynnette Young Overby, Professor, Department of Theatre

The purpose of this arts-based research project was to create a production and develop a manuscript based on the life of Mary Ann Shadd Cary, the first Black woman newspaper editor in North America. Born to a free family in Wilmington, after editing the *Provincial Freeman* in the 1850s, she went on to become the first Black woman to enroll at Howard University's new Law School. Shadd Cary was a fiery participant in the Colored Conventions movement, where she was one of the few women recognized by the hundreds of men whose names appear as official delegates. The project included a multidisciplinary production of original choreography, visual art, music, and poetry to portray the life and times of Mary Ann Shadd Cary.

The goals of this project were to continue the work of sharing the legacy of little known African and African American women by (a) creating an

original multidisciplinary work based on the life of Mary Ann Shadd Cary, and (b) developing a manuscript based on (a) data collected through interviews of current successful women and (b) surveys revealing the impact of the performance and workshops created and implemented with school age students and audience members.

The results of the project included a one-hour production with original music, poetry and choreography. The program was performed in several locations in Delaware including Wilmington, Newark and Selbyville. In addition, the performances took place in Alabama, Texas, and Belize. Over 1,000 audience members viewed the production. Moreover, seven choreographers, three poets and two composers, twelve performers, ranging in age from 11 to 72 contributed to the production.



Amber Rance, front, Ikira Peace, left, and April Singleton perform

How to Read the News

Project Director: Thomas Leitch

Community Partner: Delaware Public Libraries

During the period of the award, Thomas Leitch traveled to ten Delaware public libraries, where he gave PowerPoint presentations and led discussions about how to read the news during times when the veracity and authority of news reports are increasingly problematic. Leitch welcomed pushback against his rather provocative thesis—that instead of dividing news sources into real and fake, reliable and unreliable, it's better to treat all news sources as sort-of-reliable and read particular stories more actively to determine on an ad hoc basis exactly how to trust each one.

PARTNERSHIP FOR ARTS AND CULTURE (PAC) MINI-GRANT PROGRAM (CONTINUED)

Moving with the Rising Tide

Project Directors: Greg Shelnut, Ashely SK Davis, Nanci Hersh

Community Partners: Delaware Institute for the Arts in Education (DiAE), SeaGrant Delaware, Sussex Academy

Students enrolled in the Sussex Academy's 9th grade Integrated Science and Foundations of Graphic Design classes explored the impacts of Sea Level Rise (SLR) and Storm Intensification (SI) on communities in coastal and inland Sussex County. During the course of the project, students considered two key questions: 1) How does water shape the environment? and 2) What is humans' effect on nature?

To process and reflect on these thoughts, the students engaged in a series of art-integrated lessons with UD Faculty members Greg Shellnut (Department of Art & Design, Chair and Professor of Art) and Dr. Jamē McCray (Sea Grant Delaware, Human-Environment Interaction) and DiAE Teaching Artists Leah Beach (Photography) and Meredith Covert (Dance and Drama). Professor Shellnut introduced students to the process of geo-tagging, which is a method of using community-sourced photography to empower scientists to document our environment throughout the world. Students also participated in a movement workshop with Dr. McCray with focus on her work in using dance elements to teach water science. Additionally, the students were enrolled in one of two art-based tracks. In the photography track, students worked with Ms. Beach to learn different elements of photography and received hands-on guidance on how to best answer the two leading questions through artful photography. In the dance track, Ms. Covert led the students in a series of three movement workshops where they used the elements of dance to create choreography, focused on the project's essential questions. The event culminated with an assembly during which the 9th graders presented their work to the 8th grade students at Sussex Academy.

Students who participated in the program pose with US Senator Tom Carper.



Social Awareness through Youth Arts

Program Director: Stephanie Raible

Community Partners: Dual School, FourYouth Productions, Delaware Community Foundation

The Our Lens Challenge asked high schoolers from across the state to take a compelling photo of something within their town or city and caption it with the story of the social challenge, or opportunity, that it connects to. Submissions became a part of a statewide photo-journal showcasing what young Delawareans find inspiring about their towns. Finalists were honored at the November 6th Building Opportunity Keynote event at Hotel DuPont, where their work was featured. Our Lens Challenge was funded through UD's Partnership for Arts and Culture, along with support from the Human Development and Family Sciences (HDFS) and Horn Entrepreneurship departments. This project was done in close collaboration and partnership with Dual School, FourYouth Productions, and the Delaware Community Foundation (DCF).

Our Lens Challenge submissions



LEADERSHIP AND SUPPORT

PAC Co-Chairs

Greg Shelnutt

Faculty Fellow, Community Engagement Initiative
Chairperson, Art and Design
Professor, Art and Design

Jame McCray

Marine Advisory Service Specialist,
Earth Ocean & Environment

Steering Committee

Suzanne Burton

Interim Associate Dean, Arts & Sciences
Professor, Music

Deb Hess-Norris

Chairperson, Art Conservation
Unidel Henry Francis DuPont Chair, Art Conservation

Lauren Petersen

Interim Associate Dean, Arts & Sciences
Professor, Art History

Staff

Lynnette Overby

Director, Partnership for Arts and Culture

Liza Amatetti

Program Coordinator, Partnership for Arts and Culture

PAC Membership

Creative Vision Factory

Christina Cultural Arts Center

Delaware Arts Alliance

Delaware Art Museum

Delaware Contemporary

Delaware Department of Education

Delaware Division of the Arts

Delaware Historical Society

Delaware Institute for the Arts in Education

Delaware Museum of Natural History

Delaware Sea Grant

Delaware Symphony Orchestra

First State Ballet Theatre

The Grand Opera House

Mid-Atlantic Ballet

Newark Arts Alliance

Newark Symphony

Opera Delaware

Pieces of a Dream Inc.

Wilmington Renaissance Corporation



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