Policing is an issue that encompasses various forms of tacit agreement regarding martial law brutality enacted upon BIPOC people since the founding of our country. George Floyd’s killing triggered mass demonstrations nationwide and Black Lives Matter protests initiated a turning point in calling attention to this negative American legacy. Many are now calling for racial justice and police accountability in the United States.

Our digital and physical exhibitions for this arts project are aimed at chronicling various approaches to gathering student perspectives on police misconduct, police reform, and police accountability through documentaries, and collaboratively-derived expressive stories. These narratives are told through hip-hop performances, interviews, and a range of creative journalism that forms artistic records intended for reflection and contemplation now and the future.

We are pleased to report that the first nine months of the Campus Diversity and Excellence Funded Digital Art Project on Policing and Campus Climate have been active and fruitful, with significant strides made in our efforts to engage university students through the arts to grapple with—and heal—from issues of policing our community has faced both on and off campus. With visiting artists engaging students, a student advisory committee established, and student interviews and other creative interventions underway, the project is already a success.

Spring 2022:
The ACEI Art project on Policing and Community Safety began in March 2022 with John Jota Leaños adapting a class in the spring quarter of 2022 to establish the student involvement with the project. Taking Art to the Street, a class taught in the Art Department, reflected the ACEI model of creating work with students and guest artists to address issues of policing and community safety. The result was an extremely productive quarter that included the following work and collaborations:

- Students created four short documentary videos where they interviewed people on campus about policing and how to imagine a campus community without police;
- The class went on a "Decolonial Walking Tour" of campus and Santa Cruz with historian Martin Rizzo-Martínez;
- Students worked with artist Praba Pilar on creating memes about borders, police, and community accountability;
- Students worked with legendary artist Rhodessa Jones from the Medea Project to work on a project about abolition and “freedom”;
● Students worked with artist Irene Juarez-O'Connell on processes of community engaged art including a visit to Beach Flats community in Santa Cruz;
● Students traveled to San Francisco to paint a mural with Native artist Sean Levon Nash in the Mission District’s famed Clarion Alley

Beyond the class, and to expand the involvement of students, faculty and staff across campus, an online discussion/conversation with artists Rhodessa Jones and Sarah Crowell was co-hosted by the Institute of the Arts and Sciences and ACEI. With over 60 participants, the event reached broadly into the campus community.

Under the direction of Professor Leaños and Associate Dean Hester, student projects will be incorporated into the public artwork exhibition scheduled for Spring 2023.

**Summer 2022**
After the success of *Taking Art to the Street*, which established modes of putting students into conversation with artists to make works around shared concerns involving policing and student safety, the ACEI invited John Jota Leaños to act as faculty advisor on the larger project, and take the lead in establishing the student working group who would shape the remainder the outcomes. Leaños was paid a summer stipend for this additional work.

**Fall 2022**
In fall 2023, a Graduate Student Researcher, Madaline Claire Benson, was appointed to help manage the project. A cohort of ten undergraduate students was also assembled, with the first
meeting held in October. As a result, three guest artists were chosen to collaborate with the students to create artworks on campus.

**Setbacks and Challenges:**
With the student-worker strike commencing in November 2022, subsequent meetings with the GSR and undergraduate students have been postponed by student consent. The strike has also caused delays in entering into formal agreements with artists who are unwilling to agree to a contract while the system is subject to a union strike. We are looking forward to an agreement between UC and the UAW and to resuming our work with the students and guest artists in the Winter and Spring quarters.

**Budget:**

**Spending to Date**
- Faculty Salary $12,601.78
- Faculty Benefits $4,725.56
- Graduate Researcher Salary $4,047.56
- Graduate Researcher Benefits $552.60
- Honoraria $9,500
**Total Spent $31,427.50**

**Remaining Costs**
- Faculty Salary $12,979.83
- Faculty Benefit $4,867.33
- Graduate Researcher Salary 26,251.48
- Graduate Researcher Tuition and Benefits 24,498.99
- Undergraduate Awards $10,000 (payments pending)
- Honoraria: $21,000*
- Equipment and Supplies: $8,960
- Professional services, web development, editing: $10,000
**Total Remaining Costs: 118,557.63**

**Total Costs: 149,985**
*Irena Juarex O'Connell, Mural, $7000 honoraria, Sarah Crowell, $5000 performance, TBD Documentary filmmaker, $5000, Emory Douglas, Printmaker $4000

**Goals for Next Reporting Period**
In the Winter and Spring Quarter, the student group will meet bi-weekly with visiting artists and faculty to establish a distributed museum across the university campus. In Spring the culminating artworks produced with visiting artists will include a mural in the Porter College study room, a multi-sited performance, a digital video and project documentation to be shown in multiple university venues, and prints to be displayed around campus. A culminating event with students and visiting artists will unveil the results to the campus community.
Rick Carter Collaboration: In El Segundo, CA, UCSC Alumnus Rick Carter’s ESMoA exhibition opened in May 2022 and runs through March 25, 2023. It traverses his career as an artist and production designer after four decades in Hollywood. It also incorporates the collaborative perspectives expressed through the of several BIPOC local artists involving creative graffiti and tattoo art. Star Wars and other films to which Carter has contributed are based on various aspects of policing. This Arts Division UCSC alum’s work would be an invaluable contribution to our project, if we can invite him once again to mentor students in creative projects that they are producing based upon the subject of policing through eclectic approaches to artistic expression.

Hip-Hop and Student Interviews: During the spring quarter, as part of this year’s April in Santa Cruz New Music Festival, the UCSC Chapter of Hip-Hop Congress will present a Hip-Hop Hesteria Contest concert featuring Ph.D. student filmmaker Aaron Samuel Mulenga (HAVC). This event involves a concert and film screening incorporating student interviews, reactions, and new hip-hop rhymes on the subject of policing. This will take place on Friday Apr 28, 2023, 7pm – 9pm.

Participating faculty include Associate Dean Karlton Hester, who will incorporate aspects of the Hip Hop Congress convening into the project, and Professor Enrique Martínez Leal, who will establish a printmaking program with the students, as well as Professor Leaños.

Sincerely,
Karlton Hester
Rachel Nelson