



2019 SCHWARTZ PRIZE NOMINATION

CA2020: YOUTH PERSPECTIVE AND THE FUTURE OF CALIFORNIA California Humanities

California Humanities is pleased to nominate **CA2020: Youth Perspective and the Future of California**, an ongoing statewide initiative focused on the lives and experiences of young Californians, for the 2019 Helen and Martin Schwartz Prize. Launched in 2018, CA2020 reflects an innovative, multifaceted and ambitious public humanities programming model that served and engaged new audiences, brought humanities programming to new regions of the state, and forged new and ongoing partnerships. Through CA2020 we provided meaningful support to grantees and partners in the form of grant funds, commissioned work, and training; generated and disseminated high-quality humanities content for multiple audiences; gained access to new underserved communities; and allowed for more people in the state of California to engage with timely and important public humanities content. Most importantly, with its focus on young Californians, CA2020 allows us to support and serve the interests of a traditionally difficult-to-engage youth demographic. Throughout, our goal is to encourage critical thinking, civic engagement, and foster active contributions of youth to our democracy and the future well-being of California and beyond.

A Snapshot of Highlights from CA2020: Youth Perspective and the Future of California, 2018-19

- Twenty Humanities for All Youth Voices grants for public humanities programs designed for or with teen participants and audiences
- Twelve California Documentary Project NEXT GEN grants made to support emerging mediamakers ages 18 and under exploring subjects and issues of concern to their own communities
- Four public forums exploring the intersection between journalism and immigration with Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Sonia Nazario attended by over 800 students and community members
- Four new programming partnerships with California community colleges
- Three CA2020 Democracy Fellowships for emerging journalists

- Thirteen articles and commentaries written by students reaching over 425,000 readers
- One student-produced podcast recognized by the Community College Honors Conference
- One two-day media summit convening for community college students

CONTEXT

In 2016, California Humanities implemented a dynamic new strategic framework intended to foster more responsive public engagement with individuals and communities through our grantmaking and programs. Building on over 40 years of prior public humanities work in the state of California and with the input of a broad range of constituents through a robust strategic refresh process that included a statewide listening tour, we developed a new strategic goal: Because the humanities are essential to a vibrant democracy, our five-year strategic focus on education, public engagement, and field-building will amplify our impact and make the humanities even more valued, more visible, and more deeply embedded in the lives of individuals and in our communities.

In developing the CA2020 initiative, our strategy was informed and influenced by the social, cultural and political dynamics of the state. California is often cited as the most ethnically diverse state in America, in comparison with the national averages, and this includes our youth. According to www.kidsdata.org, there are more than 9 million young people under the age of 18 in California (2016 data), and 51% of them are Hispanic/Latino (up from 41% in 1995), and 27% are white (down from 40% in 1995). More of those under-18s (96%) live in urban areas than rural, compared to the national average (82%). According to the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC), at least 60 languages are spoken in California schools.

Despite this diversity, PPIC also reports that likely California voters are disproportionately white and tend to be older, more educated and affluent. For example, whites make up only 42% of California's adult population but 58% of the state's likely voters. In contrast, Latinos comprise 35% of the adult population but just 19% of likely voters. Californians ages 55 and older make up 32% of the state's adult population but constitute 47% of likely voters, while young adults (ages 18 to 34) make up 33% of adults but only 20% of likely voters.

Within this context, we developed CA2020: Youth Perspective and the Future of California to better serve and engage a broader range of populations, regions, and institutions in the public humanities.

OVERVIEW

If California is at times seen as an indicator of where the United States is headed, then the state's 13.5 million residents under the age of 25—a number larger than the total population of 46 other states—will play an increasingly significant role in shaping who we are and the issues that we care about both regionally and nationally in coming years. In 2018, with an eye toward the next national election and the goals of strengthening civic engagement among youth and amplifying young people's voices in public discourse, California Humanities launched **CA2020: Youth Perspective and the Future of California**. This new statewide initiative was designed to engage a broad and representative cross-section of young

people in California in a consideration of the issues that divide and unite us, as well as the futures they envision for themselves and their communities. At California Humanities, we sought to engage this critically important and underserved demographic in the humanities through **strategic partnerships**, **grantmaking**, and **commissioning** and a suite of four interconnected programs, designed to ensure meaningful content, depth of engagement, and broad reach:

Democracy and the Informed Citizen (Strategic Partnerships/Public Programs)

A yearlong partnership between California Humanities and four community colleges designed to engage young Californians in a consideration of the vital connections between journalism and democracy. It brings Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists to community college campuses, provides hands-on media literacy training, and strives to amplify young people's voices and perspectives in public dialogue throughout California.

Humanities for All Grants: Youth Voices (Grantmaking)

The Humanities for All grant program supports locally-initiated public humanities projects. The Youth Voices strand of this grant program aims to reach and engage with California's youth, specifically projects and activities that involve teens as primary program participants or audiences. Youth Voices aims to open conversations on issues that matter to California's youth.

California Documentary Project NEXT GEN (Grantmaking)

CDP NEXT GEN is a new funding opportunity in support of California's next generation of documentary mediamakers age 18 and under that focuses on the lives and experiences of young Californians. We seek short, insightful nonfiction films and/or podcasts reflecting a broad cross-section of young Californians' perspectives that tell original stories about life in California today.

California Youth Docs (Commissioning)

An original series of short documentary films that highlight the voices and perspectives of young Californians as they reflect on the challenges they face and the futures they envision. It highlights the voices and perspectives of soon-to-be-voting age youth, shedding light not only on the problems we face, but also on the solutions youth are providing. In its next stages the series will be a centerpiece for a broader statewide conversation about California's youth and the future of California.

CA2020: DEMOCRACY AND THE INFORMED CITIZEN

California Humanities launched **CA2020: Democracy and the Informed Citizen** program in spring 2018 in partnership with four California community colleges. With support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and multiple regional funders, this initiative was designed to engage a broad cross-section of young Californians in consideration of the vital connections between democracy and journalism. Using the insight and perspective of journalism and the context and inquiry of the humanities, we hoped to encourage reflection and dialogue among our youth on the many critical issues we face as a state—racial and economic inequity, immigration and demographic change, the urban/rural divide, public

education, criminal justice, and more. In this era of deep political divide, with the increasing dominance of social media, the decline of local reporting, and efforts to delegitimize credible journalism, we asked how will young people in California come to understand and make reasoned and informed decisions about issues that directly affect their—and all of our—futures?

The outcomes from this first stage are impressive—four high profile public forums with Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Sonia Nazario with over 800 attendees and followed by more intimate classroom workshops with students, coverage in over 20 media outlets, student-produced journalism, podcasts, and video productions that reached over 500,000 readers and viewers, campus-based teach-ins, exhibitions, media literacy projects, and more.

Community College Partnerships

Cornerstone partners in the **Democracy and the Informed Citizen** initiative were California's community colleges, which with 2.1 million students is the largest in the country. As an important educational pipeline between high school and 4-year colleges, community colleges provided access to our target audiences. As an organization, California Humanities has a mandate to serve the entire state of California, which given its size and almost 40 million population seriously tests our capacity to provide programming in multiple regions at once. But with our campus partners so deeply embedded in their communities they served as essential local anchor institutions, providing vital campus and community connections, strong programming assets, and outreach opportunities to young audiences and emerging journalists. Equally important for us was the credibility and access the community colleges provided within their local region. Without them—and without dedicated and passionate humanities faculty—we would not as easily have gained the trust of so many participants.

In this first round we partnered with four campuses or districts, selected to represent the geographic, demographic, and political diversity of the state:

Bakersfield College

Located in California's agricultural Central Valley, Bakersfield College is a federally designated Hispanic Serving Institution. Its 25,000 students are 62% Hispanic, 25% White, 5% African American, and 4% Asian. 80% at Bakersfield College are first generation college students. The Norman Levan Center for the Humanities and the Social Justice Institute, a recent recipient of the NEH's Humanities Initiatives at Community Colleges funding, were our primary collaborators.

Foothill-De Anza Community College District

Situated in the heart of Silicon Valley, Foothill-De Anza serves a student population of 36,000 annually that is 40% Asian, 25% White, 25% Latino, 5% African American. Foothill-De Anza is a current participant in the Humanities Mellon Scholars Program.

San Diego Community College District

The SDCCD serves 100,000 students annually, 39% Latino, 31% White, 15% Asian, and 7% African American. The District also serves over 10,000 active-duty military personnel, veterans, and dependents, and is a recipient of a Mellon Foundation grant supporting humanities students.

Shasta College

Located in Redding in rural northern California, Shasta College's 12,506 students are 66% white, 16% Hispanic, 3% Asian, 2% African American, and 2% Native American. In summer 2018, the Redding area was devastated by the Carr Fire, the sixth most destructive fire in California's history.



Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Sonia Nazario with high school students at the *On Immigration and Journalism* forum in San Diego, May 2018.

The yearlong **CA2020: Democracy and the Informed Citizen** initiative offered opportunities for young Californians and the general public to participate through three complimentary components:

- **On Immigration and Journalism, a series of free public forums and in-class conversations.** Hosted by partnering community colleges, On Immigration and Journalism forums featured Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists Sonia Nazario in dialogue about her reporting on immigration and refugee issues with Joaquin Alvarado, former Executive Director of the Center for Investigative Reporting. Nazario won the 2003 Pulitzer Prize in Feature Writing for her six-part

Los Angeles Times series *Enrique's Journey* about the experiences of Central American children immigrating to the United States and is currently an opinion writer with the *New York Times* focusing on immigration and asylum issues. Each conversation was followed by a moderated Q&A to allow for audience interaction and recorded for online audiences. In all, over 800 people attended the forums in San Diego, San Jose, Bakersfield and Redding, and given the timeliness of the issues, Q&A's were lively and at times heated. Following each public event, Nazario held workshops and gave presentations on her work reporting on immigration issues with students at each campus. In these more intimate meetings, students who had their own immigration stories or who were passionate about developing journalism skills were able to interact with Nazario on a one-on-one basis.



On Immigration and Journalism public forum in San Diego.
Sonia Nazario, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Enrique's Journey*,
in conversation with Joaquin Alvarado

- **Participatory journalism and media literacy activities that amplify youth voices**

Central to our work with young people is the concept of media literacy, a critical 21st century approach to education. It provides a framework to access, analyze, evaluate, create, and participate with messages in a variety of forms—from print to video to the Internet. Media literacy builds an understanding of the role of media in society as well as essential skills of inquiry and self-expression necessary for citizens of a democracy. Importantly, we intended to focus on not just young people's ability to analyze media messages, but also to be active contributors to public dialogue and civically engaged. We hoped to empower young people to share their perspectives, encourage them to participate, and provide platforms to amplify their voices.

By design each campus was encouraged to determine the scope and modality of media literacy activities based on institutional priorities and student interest. With \$10,000 of support from California Humanities and with the guidance of journalism advisor Joaquin Alvarado, the colleges developed a wide range of programs and activities, including hands-on journalism

workshops, technical training, youth-led reporting projects, podcast production, a campus-wide teach-in featuring Pulitzer Prize-winners Sonia Nazario and Jose Antonio Vargas, journalism fellowships, and more.

Highlights from CA2020: Democracy and the Informed Citizen

Shasta 2020: Out of the Ashes (Shasta College)

Throughout the Fall 2018 semester, students at Shasta College undertook an investigative journalism and podcast project examining the impact of the very recent and devastating Carr Fire on the Redding and Shasta and Trinity County communities earlier that July and August. Facilitated by history instructor Christopher Rodriguez and sociology faculty Heather Wylie, the semester-long engaged journalism project led students in a look at the history of journalism and reporting on natural disasters and incorporated investigative reporting practices in sociology curriculum. In addition to investigative journalism and podcasting techniques, students learned how to develop, research, write, and record stories on the effects of the fire and how a community recovers from natural disaster. Working in teams, students pursued different aspects of the fire, from the effect it had on housing prices, how the city government responded, how the community showed resiliency in the face of crisis, etc. Throughout, they received support through training, mentorship, and networking. The students published two written articles and produced the podcast, [*Out of the Ashes*](#). In recognition of their work, *Out of the Ashes*, was featured on local NPR affiliate [Jefferson Public Radio](#) and Shasta 2020 students received an invitation to present the project at the Community College Honors Conference at UC Irvine in spring 2019.

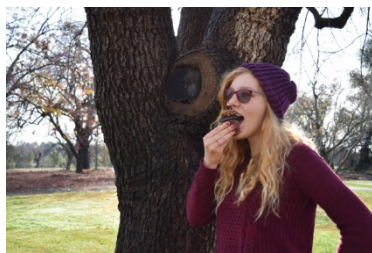


Students and faculty from Shasta College in Oakland for training in podcasting

In all, 15 Shasta College students participated in *Out of the Ashes* journalism project. Most grew up in and have lived in Redding their entire lives and the Carr Fire was understandably traumatic for them and their community. Students reported however that through the process of reporting on the effects of the fire, they gained a better understanding and appreciation of their community and its resiliency.



"My name is Maizie Bonsey. My major is biological sciences and I plan to work in the medical field. This reflection on the Carr Fire has showed me that this community is strong and able to overcome anything. The Carr Fire impacted and was a setback for so many members of the community but has strengthened it."



"My name is Karah Harbuck; I'm 18 years old and will be graduating Shasta College in the spring of 2019 with AA degrees in Sociology, Humanities, and English. This project was a foot-in-the-door for the career field I plan on going into: journalism and documentary film-making. I hope that, following my graduation from Humboldt with a degree in English and Film in my belt, I will be able to pursue this field and advocate for those whose voices are less heard."

For Shasta College, where the student newspaper had in recent years been suspended due to lack of support, the success of this student reporting project has had a profound effect and the school has reinstituted journalism courses and revived the campus paper. Shasta College faculty facilitators reported, "Students were able to make vital connections with professionals in the community as well as a strong network of contacts throughout California. The process of completing their journalism project further educated the students on the connection between journalism and our democracy. After the long semester following such a disaster, the students were incredibly proud of their finished product and its publication."

For more information visit the [Shasta 2020](https://dusttobustshasta.wixsite.com/outoftheashes) website and listen to the *Out of the Ashes* podcast at <https://dusttobustshasta.wixsite.com/outoftheashes>

CA2020: Democracy Media Fellowships (Bakersfield College)

In fall 2018, Democracy Media Fellowships were awarded to three Bakersfield College student journalists, Paige Atkinson, Lizette Chavez and Janell Gore. Along with \$2,000 of support, the Democracy Media Fellows each received guidance and mentorship from professional journalists Reyna Olaguez and Elizabeth Sanchez at South Kern Sol, Kern County's nonprofit community newsroom that trains young people to be community reporters and to develop communication and leadership skills. In all, the three produced 14 articles and commentaries about subjects and issues of importance to their community that were published in five different media outlets, including the *Bakersfield Californian* (100,000 readership) and the *Bakersfield News Observer* (40,000 readership). Collectively these articles reached over 425,000 readers.

Sample articles:

- [‘It’s Just What I Have to Do’: Teen Toils in Fields To Help Keep Food On His Family’s Table](#) by Paige Atkison
- [‘Everyone’s News Is Equal’: Local Newspaper Editor Highlights Black Community In Weekly Publication](#) by Janell Gore
- COMMENTARY: [Free speech or white supremacy? Students concerned about safety after group vandalizes BC campus](#) (Published in The Bakersfield Californian) by Paige Atkison



CA2020: Democracy Media Fellows from Bakersfield College
Elizabeth Sanchez (journalism mentor), Janell Gore, Lizette Chavez, and Paige Atkinson at
KQED Public Media in San Francisco

CA2020 Media Summit, December 6-7, 2018

In December, we convened 35 students and faculty mentors from all four community college partners for the CA2020 Media Summit in Oakland. Led by Joaquin Alvarado, our goals for the summit goals were to create opportunities for students from each campus to make connections; to reflect on questions of media literacy and their role as emerging journalists and storytellers; and to learn practical skills from professional journalist and from one another.

On the first day, students and their faculty advisors and mentors met for group discussions about media literacy and journalism facilitated by Alvarado; report-outs by each campus on their CA2020 journalism and media literacy activities; a presentation by Oakland journalist Pendarvis Harshaw, recent recipient of the Emerging Journalist of the Year Award from the Society of Professional Journalists; small facilitated group discussions focused on digital

journalism and podcasting; hands-on in the field reporting exercises; and a screening of the California Humanities-supported and Academy Award-nominated film, *Last Day of Freedom*, followed by a conversation with filmmaker Nomi Talisman.

On day two, the CA2020 group was hosted by Bay Area public media station KQED, where students had the opportunity to sit in on and observe a newsroom editorial meeting, tour the television and radio production facilities, and have the opportunity to speak with five radio, television and digital reporters about their career paths, their work and opportunities in the field.



Journalist Pendarvis Harshaw at the CA2020 Media Summit



CA2020 community college students and mentors at
KQED Public Media in San Francisco

HUMANITIES FOR ALL: YOUTH VOICES GRANTS

Humanities for All is a grant program that supports locally-initiated public humanities projects. This program responds to the needs and interests of Californians, encourages greater public participation in humanities programming, particularly by new and/or underserved audiences, and promotes understanding and empathy among all our state's peoples in order to cultivate a thriving democracy. The Youth Voices strand of this grant program aims to reach and engage with California's youth, specifically projects and activities that involve teens as primary program participants or audiences. Youth Voices aims to open conversations on issues that matter to California's youth.

Humanities for All Youth Voices Grants are offered in two categories:

Quick Grants (between \$1,000 and \$5,000) are awarded three times a year for small-scale public humanities activities and projects that will take place within a one-year period from the award date. Projects should be grounded in the humanities, show potential to provide high quality humanities learning experiences for participants and audiences, and demonstrate capacity for successful implementation. Appropriate formats include but are not limited to community dialogues, reading- or film-and-discussion groups, oral history or nonfiction writing or story-sharing workshops, and other types of activities.

Project Grants (\$10,000 to \$20,000) are awarded twice a year for larger public humanities projects of up to two-years duration from the award date. Appropriate programming formats include but are not limited to interpretive exhibits, community dialogue and discussion series, workshops and participatory activities, presentations and lectures, conversations and forums, and interactive and experiential activities.

To date, California Humanities has awarded 20 Humanities for All Youth Voices Grants. Examples include:

Black Joy: Poetry with Young Black Men (Quick Grant)

Chapter 510 Ink, Oakland, CA

Project Director: Janet Heller

Black Joy will engage young black men in Oakland, California in a ten-week poetry workshop facilitated by poet Daniel Summerhill in the winter of 2019. The poetry workshop is designed to be a safe space for young people to explore their voices and use poetry to express their perspectives. Readings will include selections from the canon of African American poetry and literature, and the workshop will also have a focus on the meaning of belonging and not belonging as experienced through microaggressions. The participants will present their work at a reading in June 2019 and produce an anthology through a partnership with Nomadic Press.

Returned Citizens Theatre Troupe (Quick Grant)

Marin Shakespeare Company, San Rafael, CA

Project Director: Lesley Currier

The Returned Citizens Theatre Troupe is a group of formerly incarcerated actors who tell autobiographical stories through theater. Actors work with Marin Shakespeare Company staff to craft moving performances and are compensated for their participation in this program. The Troupe will develop and present two to three public performances, with discussions following in May 2019, and will also tour the performance and Q&A in four youth correctional facilities in Marin, Sonoma and Stockton to engage with the incarcerated youth population and the broader public. Past autobiographical vignettes have explored what it's like to spend a year in solitary, getting clean and sober in prison, reuniting with family and the bus ride from the youth facility to the "big house" at San Quentin.

"I TOO AM" MEDIA FESTIVAL (Project Grant)

**Critical Media Project, USC Annenberg School for Communications & Journalism,
Los Angeles, CA**

Project Director: Dr. Alison Trope

"I Too Am" Media Festival will solicit and showcase projects created by Los Angeles youth from underserved communities and provide a platform for community discussion through a media festival to be held at USC's Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism (May – July 2019). Guided by The Critical Media Project, a free web resource and curriculum affiliated with the festival and used in local schools, youth will be given tools to decode media representations of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, class, religion, ability and age, considering the visibility and invisibility of these identities in the media. Participants will subsequently be prompted to create their own representations, producing knowledge, reflecting on belonging, and reclaiming space in the context of mainstream media as well as the environs of California, Los Angeles, and local neighborhoods in which they live. The goal of the project is to empower youth in the practice of storytelling as civic participation, to represent, make visible, create counter-narratives, and publicly acknowledge stories that are otherwise invisible and unheard.

We So Bay (Project Grant)

PROJECT Youth Speaks, San Francisco, CA

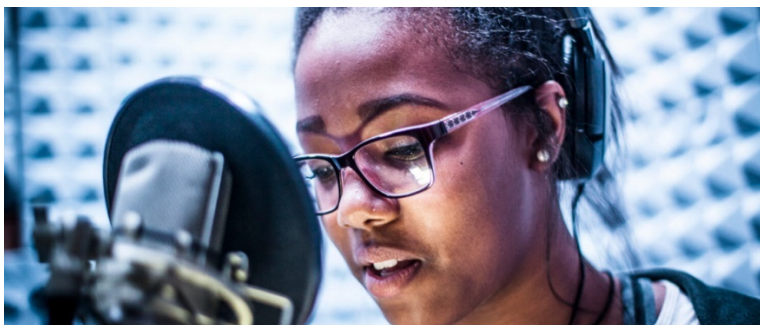
Project Director: Brandon Santiago

We So Bay is a performative storytelling project about creative place-keeping and the importance of retaining cultural integrity in Bay Area neighborhoods under duress, especially those with historically marginalized communities. Drawing on their long-track record of work with disenfranchised and at-risk young people in the region, Youth Speaks will organize a series of workshops led by local culture bearers in five Oakland and San Francisco neighborhoods. Participating youth will work with scholars and artists to research and craft a linked series of five performances—one in each neighborhood—each reflecting the unique characteristics of that locale and the people who live there. The project has been designed to encourage audiences to travel from site to site, using public transportation. The presentations and accompanying public dialogues aim to deepen understanding of the connections between these communities and the issues they face.

CALIFORNIA DOCUMENTARY PROJECT NEXT GEN GRANTS

Since 2003, California Humanities has awarded over \$5.5 million through the California Documentary Project (CDP) grant program to nonfiction film, audio and interactive media projects that document California in all its complexity. Each CDP project that uncovers, interprets and shares the experiences and stories of California and Californians adds a new layer to a complex and growing portrait of this state. Together, these productions help us better understand who we are and where we live.

In 2018, California Humanities was pleased to introduce **CDP NEXT GEN**, a new funding opportunity through the California Documentary Project grant program in support of California's next generation of documentary mediamakers age 18 and under. Presented in alignment with CA2020: Youth Perspective and the Future of California and with the goal of amplifying youth voices, we want to hear the insights and perspectives of soon-to-be-voting-age Californians on the subjects and issues that both divide and unite us. CDP NEXT GEN supports short documentary films and podcasts that shed light on not only the problems we face, but also on the solutions that youth are proposing and the futures they envision. The focus of projects take many forms, though all address subjects and issues relevant to the lives and experiences of young people in California today and emerge from the interests, cares, concerns and inquiries of the participating youth mediamakers. Projects also engage humanities advisors to provide context and perspective, support opportunities for participants to analyze and think critically about media messages and encourage awareness and deepened understanding of subjects and issues relevant to young Californians' lives.



Youth producer from CDP NEXT GEN grantee BAYCAT

CDP NEXT GEN provides grants up to \$15,000 to California-based nonprofit organizations and public agencies with established track records in youth media programming to provide training and support to emerging mediamakers in the creation of short, insightful nonfiction films and/or podcasts. Projects should reflect a broad cross-section of young Californians' stories; bring new and previously unheard perspectives to light; and help reveal the breadth and range of California's cultures, peoples and histories. CDP NEXT GEN is designed to nurture California's next generation of documentary mediamakers and help bring a broad range of young Californians' perspectives to bear on the subjects, issues and ideas that will shape California's future.

To date, we have made 12 CDP NEXT GEN grants to California nonprofits and schools. Sample grantee projects include:

Radio Pulso

USC Annenberg Center for Health Journalism/Boyle Heights Beat, Los Angeles, CA

Project Director: Michelle Levander

Radio Pulso is a community radio program and podcast hosted and reported by youth reporters that covers topics relevant to the low-income, largely immigrant Los Angeles neighborhood of Boyle Heights. With community input, youth reporters choose the subject matter for each podcast and research and write and produce the shows with mentoring from professional journalists. Radio Pulso is a project of Boyle Heights Beat, a youth development program and bilingual news source that has been providing “noticias por y para la comunidad” or “news for and by the community” since 2010. <https://boyleheightsbeat.com/radiopulso/>

First Vote Project

Venice Arts, Venice, CA

Project Director: Issa Sharp

First Vote engages filmmakers ages 15 to 18 to produce a series of short films that use storytelling to explore issues important to young people who will be first time voters in 2020. In collaboration with a humanities advisor, participants explore how their interests and concerns relate to the larger social, cultural and political landscape. **To view the First Vote Project trailer, please visit:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vVNpnyVro80>

Displaced: An Oakland Story

The Oakland Public Education Fund / Youth Beat, Oakland, CA

Project Director: Jake Schoneker

Youth Beat is working with a team of ten advanced filmmaking students to produce a short documentary film that explores the rapidly changing face of Oakland and what this change means for youth in the city. The resulting film will be broadcast on education access station KDOL-TV and featured in a community screening and discussion event. <https://youthbeat.org/>

CA2020 YOUTH DOCS

CA2020 Youth Docs is a series of commissioned short documentary films produced as a collaboration between experienced filmmakers and young storytellers that highlight the voices and perspectives of soon-to-be-voting age youth. Together, these teams are producing a pilot series of 7- to 10-minute documentaries in the style of the New York Times’ Op-Docs series. These are high-quality, broadly accessible and widely disseminated short films that shed light from the youth perspective on issues of race, immigration, criminal justice, education, and more. They not only shed light on the problems we face, but also on the solutions that youth are providing and the futures they envision.

The Youth Docs series is currently in production, but the focus of productions include:

- A Native American youth on the Fort Yuma Reservation learning traditional songs
- An animated short film with a young transgender Guatemalan immigrant in LA

- A Latino teenager in Watsonville who is balancing school and farm work to support her undocumented family
- A youth in Watts who is reentering the educational system after being “pushed out”

Projects will be completed in fall 2019 and in its next stages the series will be a centerpiece for a broader statewide conversation about California’s youth and the future of California. Discussions are underway for distribution through public broadcasting, community screenings and discussions, and online in 2020.

OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENT FOR CALIFORNIA HUMANITIES

As an ongoing initiative, California Humanities continues to assess our approach to CA2020 and make refinements as we proceed. For the organization, CA2020 had many positive outcomes:

Increased and Diversified Fundraising

CA2020 has proven very effective at providing California Humanities opportunities to diversify funding sources at the local and regional levels. With initial funding support from Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, in partnership with the Pulitzer Prizes and administered by the Federation of State Humanities Councils, we have also received support for the initiative from the Stuart Foundation, Panta Rhea Foundation, The Virginia and Alfred Harrell Foundation, The McConnell Foundation, the Parker Foundation, Nordson Corporation Foundation, Knight Foundation Fund, and the California Arts Council.

New Partnerships

Through CA2020 California Humanities has established multiple ongoing partnerships. Collaborative partnerships with community colleges—from the administration to humanities and journalism departments, faculty and students—were the primary goal, but we also developed relationships with journalism education organizations such as South Kern Sol and StudioToBe, and broadcast media outlets such as KQED Public Media, KALW Radio, Jefferson Public Radio, KPBS in San Diego, and more. Other campus-based organizations such as the Vasconcellos Institute for Democracy in Action! at De Anza College, the Norman Levan Center for the Humanities at Bakersfield College, and the Institute for Civil Civic Engagement, a San Diego Mesa College-San Diego City College-University of San Diego College collaborative, were co-sponsors of public programs such as the *On Immigration and Journalism* forums. In brief, California Humanities was able to extend our reach into new communities, regions, and sectors through the CA2020 initiative.

New Modalities, Greater Responsiveness

California Humanities designed this first stage of the CA2020 initiative to meet several strategic and programmatic goals. At the same time, we also were intentional about leaving room to experiment with new programs, modalities, and activities. This balance of strategy and flexibility allowed for a much more dynamic approach to our work and greater responsive to the interests and capacities of partners and their communities. For example, as institutions deeply embedded

within their communities, we wanted our college partners to decide the best approach and focus for their audiences—not us. Grantmaking through the Humanities for All program is designed to respond to participants’ needs and interests. Finally, though we have ample experience with making grants and producing and hosting public events, CA2020 also has allowed us to prototype new ideas and approaches such as commissioning and supporting youth media.

Increased Visibility

CA2020 programs and activities have raised California Humanities’ visibility in many regions of California. Despite communications staff turnover during the first stage of the initiative, we effectively promoted and publicized the *On Immigration and Journalism* events to multiple audiences. For example, attendance at the free public forums increased at each event, with the final forum at Shasta College in Redding filling to capacity with 400 attendees. In terms of media, the CA2020: Democracy and the Informed Citizen programs were covered in regional print, radio and television news outlets over twenty times. Sonia Nazario, for example, participated in live radio interviews for NPR outlets in each region where she spoke, with two interviews conducted by Spanish language broadcasters. Some examples:

Pulitzer Prize-Winning Journalist Sonia Nazario Speaking at Restoring Civility Conference

<https://www.kpbs.org/news/2018/apr/11/pulitzer-prize-winning-journalist-sonia-nazario-sp/>

Bakersfield Forum: Sonia Nazario to Discuss Journalism, Immigration and Fake News

<https://www.kvpr.org/post/bakersfield-forum-sonia-nazario-discuss-journalism-immigration-and-fake-news>

Pulitzer Prize Winner Speaks in Support of Journalism at Shasta College Forum

<https://anewscafe.com/2019/02/07/redding/pulitzer-prize-winner-speaks-in-support-of-journalism-at-shasta-college-forum/>

We anticipate considerably more visibility and communications opportunities to arise as public programs for Humanities for All, CDP NEXT GEN and Youth Docs projects continue to roll out.

Organizational Learning

As referenced above, our approach to CA2020 has been focused, yet flexible and responsive. In order to assess our effectiveness, ongoing organizational learning has been a priority. In conjunction with the new strategic framework, we have also launched a new evaluation protocol that is being implemented across all CA2020 activities and programs. As survey and evaluation data is still being collected, we do not have a full assessment for all programs quite yet, but the opportunity to conduct a unified cross-program evaluation process is major development for the organization. We do however continue to learn from our experiences with CA2020 and look forward to incorporating these lessons into Stage II of the initiative in 2020.

Attendee response to the Federation's Democracy and the Informed Citizen survey questions however is promising:

Due to this event, I better understand the role that journalism plays in fostering an informed citizenry.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	57.97%	240
Agree	40.10%	166
Disagree	1.21%	5
Strongly disagree	0.00%	0
Not Applicable	0.72%	3
TOTAL		414

Due to this event, I better understand the role the humanities play in fostering an informed citizenry. (The humanities include history, literature, ethics, law, philosophy, and related studies.)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	54.99%	226
Agree	39.42%	162
Disagree	1.95%	8
Strongly disagree	0.24%	1
Not Applicable	3.41%	14
TOTAL		411

Due to this event, I better understand the role of local journalism in educating us about significant issues in our communities.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	58.39%	240
Agree	36.01%	148
Disagree	1.46%	6
Strongly disagree	0.24%	1
Not Applicable	3.89%	16
TOTAL		411

Due to this event, I intend to become a more critical consumer of media.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	45.32%	184
Agree	42.86%	174
Disagree	3.94%	16
Strongly disagree	0.49%	2
Not Applicable	7.39%	30
TOTAL		406

Staff Engagement

Given the multifaceted nature of the CA2020 initiative and its cross-program design, multiple California Humanities staff members have opportunities to contribute to the initiative.

Julie Fry, President & CEO

Sheri Kuehl, Director of Development

Felicia Kelly, Project & Evaluation Director,

Humanities for All Youth Voices Project Grants and Evaluation

John Lightfoot, Senior Program Officer

Democracy and the Informed Citizen, CDP NEXT GEN, Youth Docs

Lucena Lau Valle, Associate Program Officer

Humanities for All Youth Voices Quick Grants

Claudia Leung, Communications Manager

Debra White, Grants Manager

Kirsten Vega, Program Assistant

CA2020—NEXT STEPS

We anticipate the CA2020 initiative as currently designed to continue through December 2020. Many of the current programs are ongoing, such as Humanities for All, Youth Docs and CDP NEXT GEN. In January 2020, California Humanities will launch the second phase of CA2020: Democracy and the Informed Citizen and continue to engage a broad cross-section of young Californians in consideration of the vital connections between democracy and journalism. Still using the insight and perspective of journalists and the context and inquiry of the humanities to encourage reflection, dialogue, and civic engagement among youth as we approach the November 2020 national election, we plan to refine the initiative based on the successful fellowship and regional reporting models developed by Shasta and Bakersfield Colleges. In addition to free public forums with Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists, we will support CA2020 Journalism Fellowships for community college student journalists to conduct local reporting projects at all campuses.

Key partners in the next stage of the CA2020 initiative will continue to be California community colleges and we intend to maintain partnerships with the four campuses that participated in our inaugural year of this program—Bakersfield College, Foothill-De Anza, San Diego, and Shasta College—but we will expand the initiative to include four additional community colleges, doubling the reach of this project. New campus partnerships will be selected to further reflect the demographics and geography of California. We are also currently assembling an advisory panel of humanities scholars, journalists, students and others to provide insight and guidance as we further develop the initiative. We will establish stronger programming partnerships with humanities faculty and departments and extend the reach and impact of the CA2020 initiative through more collaborations with regional and statewide media outlets.

Thank you for your consideration of this nomination for the 37th annual Helen and Martin Schwartz Prize. If the committee requires any additional information or if we can address any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Senior Program Officer John Lightfoot at jlightfoot@calhum.org or 415.391.1474 ext. 314. We look forward to continued programming and grantmaking in support of increased participation in the humanities by young Californians.