



Lansing PhotoVoice Project

Oct 24 and Nov 14 , 2015

Audience

Lansing PhotoVoice Project 2015 participants included the following:

- 2 program leaders
- 10 high school student participants
 - 3 males, 7 females
- 11 MSU student mentors

Student participants are residents of Lansing, East Lansing, and Mason, MI.

This program is free for participants.



Funding

PhotoVoice is funded by the MCACA Community Composing Project grant in the amount of \$1,000 and by \$1,500 in funds from the Writing Center. Funding pays for transportation, pens and notebooks for each student, meals, and expenses associated with the printing of photos and other materials, as well as Writing Center backpacks.

Students are provided with a digital camera and tablet to take and edit photos. Equipment is returned to the Writing Center at the end of the program.

Objectives

PhotoVoice's mission is to build literacy skills within disadvantaged and marginalized communities. To achieve this, we utilize innovative participatory photography and both digital and traditional storytelling methods. These skills enable individuals to represent themselves and their communities and create tools for advocacy and

communication. Through this, and through developing partnerships, we deliver positive social change.¹ Our goal is to increase youth participation in arts and cultural programming. Expanding arts and cultural activities for all of our youth will stimulate a lifelong love for learning, provide safe outlets for self-expression, and encourage creative and critical thinking.

Outcomes

Student projects will go on exhibit, premiering at REACH Art Studio in Lansing. From there, the exhibit will travel to various locations throughout Ingham County including:

- The Broad Art Museum, Michigan State University
 - On exhibit April 2, 2016 for Family Day
- Wharton Center for Performing Arts, Michigan State University
 - On exhibit April 14, 2016
- MSU Federal Credit Union Headquarters, Lansing, MI

Contact hours between mentors and student participants totaled 1550.

Additional Significant Information

- PhotoVoice is a new program, but received high evaluations from participants, which bodes well for future events and recruitment.
- This project gives students a safe space/place to develop the critical thinking skills needed for active and involved citizens.
- This project was developed in response to our land-grant mission as well as BbD initiatives.

Contact Information

Trixie Smith, Director
The Writing Center and Red Cedar Writing Project
300 Bessey Hall
517-432-3610
smit1254@msu.edu
writing.msu.edu



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

¹ <https://photovoice.org/vision-and-mission/>