Humanities Engaged
The Art of Regional Change

Convener/Moderator: jesikah maria ross
Panelists: Micheal Ziser, Holly George & Patsy Euanks Owens

Humanities Matter Conference
Riverton, Wyoming
October 24, 2009
Art of Regional Change

Located at UC Davis, California
Cross college collaboration
Founded in 2008
Director: jesikah maria ross
Scholars, students, artists, and community members have so much to say to each other...but rarely meet.

The Art of Regional Change (ARC) seeks to change that.
ARC Media Arts Projects

- Strengthen communities
- Generate engaged Scholarship
- Inform regional decision-making
ARC Model

- Created in partnership with community group
- Address local questions, issues, needs, hopes
- Generate community and public media pieces
- Produce interpretive essays & materials
Up from the UnderStory

- ARC pilot project, 2008
- Calaveras County, CA
- Intergenerational digital storytelling
Existing Maps

Mike Ziser
Assistant Professor
English Department
Countermaps
Biological + Cultural Geography
Reconnecting the University
UnderStory Media Outcomes

- Blog
- Mapping Workshop
- Video
- Digital Stories
- Community Celebration
- University Event
- DVD Distribution
- PBS Documentary
Why did I get involved?

Patsy Eubanks-Owens
Associate Professor
Landscape Design

• Good match with my research & teaching
• Potential to influence community change
• Persuasive partners
Youth Voices for Change

- Multi-disciplinary research
- Youth well-being & regional prosperity
- Participatory Action Research

- West Sacramento
- Sactown Heroes
- Youth Perspective
  - Discussions
  - Youth-produced media
  - Dissemination
My Role

- Team lead
- Hands-on involvement
- Continuity & sustainability
- Student guidance
Their Stories

Education
I think that schools... need to like ask the opinions of students

Social Capital
It’s a good place to ... hang out with your friends and that way you won’t be bored, like sitting around in your house doing nut’in...
The Impact

- The youth
- The community
- My work
Passion for the Land

Personal Stories from Sierra Valley
Economic, Environmental and Social Contributions and Challenges

Holly George
Cooperative Extension Director
Plumas-Sierra Counties
Agricultural Viability Questioned
Costly Environmental Regulations
Threats of Residential Development
Sustainability of Rural Communities
Our Process to Amplify Rural Voices

Talk, Share, Write Scripts, Gather Images & Music, Learn New Technology, Celebrate & Reach Out to Others
The Next Hundred Years
Benefits & Value

• Capacity Growth
• Unique Media Pieces
• Stories for Change
• Local Voices in Discussions/Decisions
• Commitment to Community Engagement
• Positive Public Response

YouTube.com/PassionForTheLand
Engaged Humanities Benefits

- Community based learning
- Public scholarship
- Organizational capacity
- Community media pieces
- Local voice in decisions
- Stories for change
Engaged Humanities Challenges

- Mutual Benefits
- Time/Process
- Staying Flexible
- Calculating Costs
- Burn Out
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artofregionalchange.ucdavis.edu