



jesikah maria ross

Urban youth document their local neighborhood conditions to help policy makers see the conditions that affect their lives and to express their hopes for the future through a joint initiative of the Davis Humanities Institute and the Center for Regional Change.

The Art of Regional Change

The Art of Regional Change (ARC) brings UC Davis scholars, students, and artists together with community groups to collaborate on media projects that critically examine the struggles of the past issues of today, and possibilities for a better future. Established in 2008, ARC is a joint initiative of the Davis Humanities Institute and the Center for Regional Change and is directed by media artist and Community Development alumna jesikah maria ross. ARC projects include public presentations in schools, community centers, museums and council chambers where project participants share their work and engage audiences in dialogue, storytelling and problem solving.

This multi-faceted approach to interpreting community life provides dynamic opportunities for engaged scholarship, artistic practice, social change, as well as

personal and professional growth for all those involved. Such collaboration yields a range of scholarly and artistic works (documentary films, exhibits, publications, websites) as well as opportunities for critical engagement between the university and community organizations working throughout the Central Valley and Sierra Nevada Mountains. In so doing, ARC creates community-based media arts projects that explore contemporary history, life and culture, and supports scholarship, creative work, and civic engagement. These efforts further the public roles of the arts, humanities, and social sciences, and builds the capacity of faculty, students, and community partners to collaborate on projects that generate outcomes that have an impact in university and community settings.

“The best thing about this project was that I got a better sense of community. It made me feel hopeful.”

—Catie Watkins
Up from the UnderStory
Youth Participant
West Point, Calaveras
County

<http://artofregionalchange.ucdavis.edu>

PASSION FOR THE LAND

Ranchers and Cooperative Extension agents partner with media artists and university scholars to produce and present digital videos on current challenges to agricultural viability and rural community life in the Sierra Valley. The media pieces are being used in outreach efforts designed to help policy makers get a ground-level perspective on resource stewardship and inform regulatory processes that impact working landscapes.

Faculty participants include Ryan Galt, Community Development and Louis Warren, History.

“I got to see the impact of modern sprawl affecting farming communities. I can intuit many things from a lecture and some readings, but those very same things don't have much meaning until we experience them and engage the people and communities we learn about.”

Frank Davis, Undergraduate Student, Community and Regional Development

YOUTH VOICES FOR CHANGE

Urban youth collaborate with university artists, humanists, and social scientists to document the neighborhood conditions in West Sacramento that affect their lives and express their hopes for the future. Together, they generated a comic book and web-map featuring videos to help policy makers design programs that better reflect the voices, concerns and dreams of typically underserved youth.

Faculty participants include Miroslava Chavez-Garcia, Chicana/o Studies; Patsy Eubanks Owens, Landscape Architecture and Environmental Design; Robert Irwin, Spanish and Michael Ziser, English.

UP FROM THE UNDERSTORY

Rural youth, community leaders, media artists and university scholars collaborated to document community revitalization efforts in the Blue Mountain region of the Sierra Nevada. Together, they created photos, maps, videos and a project blog telling the story of the area's cultural and economic renewal.

Faculty participants include Ryan Galt, Community Development; Julie Sze, American Studies; Julie Wyman, Technocultural Studies and Michael Ziser, English.



Rancher Dave Goss is interviewed by ARC Program Director jesikah maria ross for the Passion for the Land Project which documents how rural residents are preserving natural and cultural resources for future generations.