

Past Projects

Revitalizing Arts (2016)

Based in Los Angeles, Revitalizing Arts was a 12-week arts boot camp -- created by Davis Project for Peace award winner, Kelly Hernandez '18 -- that addressed the racial disparities in youth incarceration in the United States, and offered an effective alternative to incarcerating adolescents. In an effort to establish sustainability, Revitalizing Arts built on the At Risk Youth Arts Program with LADADSpace and expanded to help first-time offenders get their record expunged and diminish the likelihood of recidivism, or a relapse into criminal behavior.

Inclusive Excellence (2015)

Recognizing that students in Chester face many obstacles on the way to high school graduation and on the path to a college degree, Mackenzie Welch '15 created "Inclusive Excellence." In Chester, 33.4% of people are below the federal poverty level and only 9.9% of residents hold a Bachelor's degree or higher. Unsurprisingly in the face of these statistics, few students in the College Access Center of Delaware County program have had the opportunity to go on college tours outside of the local area, and only a small fraction have ever been to a Historically Black College or University (HBCU). The purpose of Inclusive Excellence was to provide a point of inspiration for twenty low-income students of color in Chester to learn about college opportunities outside of the Philadelphia area, and explore HBCUs alongside historical museums in Washington. Inclusive Excellence also provided these students with tangible college application skills and a resume building experience.

Coding for Justice (2014)

Leah Gallant '15 provided an activist toolkit for the next generation of organizers to fight mass incarceration by starting a six-week camp in for eight young women between the ages of 14 and 18 with incarcerated parents through her project, Coding for Justice. The focus of Coding for Justice was computer science, political advocacy, and social media literacy. In order to practice these skills, the camp revolved around a social media fundraiser campaign to raise enough money and in-kind gifts for the camp to continue in the summer of 2015. Working with Families for Justice as Healing, an organization led by formerly incarcerated women that advocates for harm reduction alternatives to the war on drugs, Coding for Justice was located at the organization's office in Roxbury, a low-income neighborhood in Boston, MA. The project started at the beginning of June and concluded in August 2014.

Peace Innovation Lab (2013)

Peace Innovation Lab is a creative space for people in rural communities to come together to design, prototype and implement interesting models that contribute to local peace building and grassroots innovation efforts. Nimesh Chimire '15 spent the summer of 2013 in rural Nepal working on strengthening the Peace Innovation Lab model by collaborating with multiple stakeholders to introduce new models and projects that contribute to the overall objective of promoting the Lab as a local innovation hub - a resource place where local villagers can have access to tools and resources to solve their own problems.

You(th) for Peace (2012)

Since the educational system in India perpetuates existing socio-ethnic hierarchies and tensions, the You(th) for Peace program was designed to offer an alternative to the legacy of oppressive learning that fosters powerlessness and apathy. In summer 2012, we embarked upon an educative mission aimed at community building, fostering 21st century skills such as diversity awareness, critical thinking, leadership and communication abilities, and creating a vision of a peaceful, shared future. Working mainly in the area of Gujarat, India, "You(th) for Peace" (YFP) addressed some of the underlying factors which support a culture of conflict by fostering a vision for long-lasting, sustainable peace.

Pémon Health (2011)

Collaborating with local leaders and medical professionals, Pemón Health is committed to holistically improving the community health of Urimán's indigenous Pemón, Venezuela villagers through a number of sustainable and economical projects. In summer 2011, the group's main goal was to expand the local high school's agricultural program by constructing a dairy barn and offering villagers the tools necessary to sustain it and bring to the village the various benefits of dairy farming.

Taller de Paz (2010)

The goal of Taller de Paz (TDP) is to create fun, interactive, and educational workshops that provide the tools necessary for self-expression and empowerment for kids and their families who have been displaced by the 60+ year internal conflict in Bogota, Colombia to be agents of social change. In summer 2010, besides the normal programming of Taller de Paz (the four workshops: Art, Leadership, Inquiry, and Storytelling, outings with the kids, and graduation), the group set out to network with established Colombian organizations and to create a Comité de Padres (Parent Committee) in order to ensure the sustainability and future of TDP.

Project Madagascar Peace (2009)

The primary goal of Project Madagascar Peace in summer 2009 was to build conditions that contribute to peace through hygiene and sanitation practices in the village of Anamalotra in Toamasina, Madagascar. The secondary aim of the project was to find ways to sustain the project and to ensure that the families utilize the latrines through community involvement and training.

Swarthmore Bosnia Project (2008)

Based in Zenica, Serbia in summer 2008, the Swarthmore Bosnia Project taught English as a second language and non-violent methods of communication to children affected by the Bosnian genocide. In a culminating event, the group created a mural together as a way to demonstrate the power of communication and cooperation.