

**February 16, 2021**

**Opening from Marni:**

- Letting folks know that we will be building out the page on the CAAN site to share out materials from this Community of Practice (including presentation recordings) - <https://www.ahacentre.ca/sharing-space.html> A form will be distributed if you would like to share about your projects!
- Quick Mentimeter check-in

(Mentimeter slides will be saved and highlights shared)

- A presentation from Kelsey Timler

**ART Justice**

- Before COVID – Kelsey worked with this team with people in prison (federal corrections system)
  - Work to Give – Indigenous people (primarily men) - making items that were gifted.
- Invited to this work as outside academics
- This work was incredibly meaningful – a lot of boredom while inside.
- Problematic element – sending items up to Indigenous communities who were expected to be grateful. Men in prisons wanted to know who was receiving the items and what they could do better; people receiving the items wanted to know more about who was making them and how they could help.
- COVID – all research in institutions was stopped indefinitely. Not just research – *all programming*. People to this day are spending 23.5 hours a day in their cells. Lack of food and engagement. Early on, guards were refusing to wear masks and provide hand sani. People are going long periods of time without food and the food quality has gotten even worse.
- Team thought, how can we help? Sitting on a lot of grant money – so they reached out to their funders to ask if they could bring art supplies into the institutions (had learned that creative work has a meaningful impact).
- Partnered with a local Vancouver art store – drew together a team of peers and Elders.
- Kits – include stamped envelopes, high quality art supplies, medicine bundles from Elder Roberta Price, teaching prayer/meditation workbook
- Trying to figure out reciprocity with people in prison and people who are not in prison in the midst of pandemic.
- Looking for ways to share the art – one way is holding a gallery showing – looking into getting day passes for incarcerated artists to come and also digital options to access the gallery showing.
- Truth from Shadow – peer led writing workshops – three storytellers who have completed the workshops. These have been recorded and are being turned into shadow art presentations. Looking to take this curriculum into prisons.
- What's helped? A: Pre-existing network of relationships. Overlapping flexible funding. Increased social awareness of people in prisons.
- What's made this hard? A: Unsustainable funding. Staying connected with artists and storytellers. Complexity of prison cultures and environments.

- Next steps – expanding art kit contents, expanding opportunities for reciprocity, studying impact, building sustainability, continuity post-release
- Q: Was it difficult to pivot the research to the kits? A: Shockingly easy! Sent emails (included links to UN, cited and had an argument stream). Framed it as well aligned with the work they were doing beforehand. Funders saw it as adapting to COVID.

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- Q & A
- Comment from the chat: These kits mean so much to our brothers inside, I work with many of them at Pacific Mission and Mountain they shared with me the poems that they were sent and the medicine From Elder Roberta was much needed and they loved the gift
- Discussion about partnerships with saw mills for providing wood/supplies. Kelsey also mentions work around social enterprise art galleries.
- Q from the chat: can you clarify what a living wage is? A: In Vancouver, it's \$26 an hour – not just minimum wage but enough to live well (good food, safe housing, recreation/time off). Living Wage Canada calculates it for different regions.
- Comment from the chat: Can also just buy a floppy disk reader from the internet and extract the data on your work computer (plugs into a usb outlet)
- Comment from the chat: i have a usb floppy disk reader I gt from staples some years ago
- Q: Is there a plan to expand this project across Canada? A: Elder Roberta's vision is that this is across the work and they have been guided by her. Kelsey has reached out to some academics in AB who do similar work in the Prairies – figuring out how to work together.
- Please reach out to Kelsey if you are interested in participating or joining this work:  
Kelsey.timler@ubc.ca
- Q: Have they connected with UBC Art? A: They have connected with community artists – also thinking about putting the art on products to bring money back into the project.
- Comment from the chat: i am with a group who goes into 4 prisons here in edmonton - email at carriel@caan and we can talk
- Q: How can we help? A: If folks want to send messages to Kelsey for the artists, please do!
- Q: In analysis phase with lots of projects – Kelsey mentioned starting this work post-COVID – any ideas of what will look like? A: Haven't done data collection – drafted a survey that they are hoping to be distributed. But sitting face to face with people will have to wait until after the pandemic. In the process of cleaning transcripts from the storytelling workshop.
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- Discussion
- Comment from chat: Maybe a menti question.... NVivo or other software? Suggestions: Quirkos! (Diandra explains that Quirkos is a friendly, visually based software where you can drag codes around – creates automatic reports that are easier to read than NVivo. You can also buy a mini license for 3 months for \$35 USD and share the login info).

- From last meeting a couple of discussion points that we didn't get to discuss too much were: 1) how do you build and maintain relationships during COVID and 2) ideas about how to support recruitment during this time... do these still resonate as discussion items?
- CAAN had a virtual staff retreat last week – good opportunity to build relationship. One of the things that keeps coming up is desire for community to be created – create a space similar to this (more social).
- Comment that it is important to stop “talking shop” when we connect now – to create space to talk about what is going on without feeling like it is going to go somewhere else.
- Engagement emails need to be shaped around “how can we support you in developing COVID-related STBBI resources” “what are things that are changing around COVID” - meeting people where they are at.
- Comment: what are the youth doing for platforms? How can we pivot to use the platforms that the youth are using?
- How to do recruitment? Comment: Peer Leaders have been talking to people who might be interested in participating, alumni pages for people who have been in prison, putting things on poles (snowball, relationship-based). Zoom get-togethers. Tea and walk.
- Comment: Instagram stories and posts are great for recruitment because if you have a “business account” you can see the reach of your posts/stories, who the main sharers are and how many “views” you’ve had (to put into your methodology).
- Comment: Putting ethics through the DTES Community Research Ethics Board – you can point to this when doing ethics through institutions (share that this Board has reviewed). There is a cost for this.  
<https://open.library.ubc.ca/cIRcle/collections/ubccommunityandpartnerspublicati/52387/items/1.0377565>
- Comment from chat: maybe an interesting future presentation to invite someone from CIHR to join us? Talk about funding. LOL - a tour through Financial admin guidelines?! Boring on some level but so critical to know how to navigate and address where we have flexibilities. demystify what Community based research looks like with our funders