

# **CASA PITZER ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021**

**Tessa Hicks Peterson**  
**Academic Director, CASA Pitzer Program**  
**Associate Professor of Urban Studies**  
**Jessica J. Chairez**  
**Program Administrator, CASA Pitzer**  
**Jackie Contreras**  
**Operations Manager, CEC and CASA Pitzer**

## Letter from the Director

Over this past year, the triple pandemics of COVID-19, police brutality and economic devastation at once destabilized our country and shattered any previously held beliefs about equal access, treatment and rights ascribed by the American dream. Since the pandemic began, 34.5 million Americans have tested positive for COVID-19 (though the real number is likely much higher, considering how many marginalized communities lack access to testing), approximately 13 million Americans became unemployed and 1400 people have been lost to police shootings. These longtime social problems suddenly became more visible to those they do not touch directly and more dire to those most directly impacted.

It is also within the belly of this tragedy that we have witnessed unprecedented levels of resilience, generosity, and solidarity unfold. People have come together to care for one another, stand up for one another, and join forces to imagine new ways of being together. We have already reimagined new ways of connecting – students to teachers, community members to organizers, researchers to participants, – meeting for over 16 months through digital platforms that dissolve geographical and social distances. We have imagined new ways to fight old systems and invent new ones through the onslaught of organizing, strategizing and policy reforms related to immigration, deportation, detention, incarceration and policing. We have created new ways of understanding home, health, and wellbeing, from protecting ourselves and each other from COVID-19 to building new models for self- and community-care. We have created new means of protesting and rallying (in cars and online), broadened our bases, and increased critical awareness within constituencies who previously did not understand or participate in the work of social justice. We collectively slowed down, stayed home, and reduced our carbon footprints in ways unimaginable just months ago.

Our work at CASA Pitzer, like so many others, continues to grow and adapt within the parameters of this present moment. In the pages of this report, you will learn what we accomplished during this last year and the new plans we are dreaming up to deepen and expand our work of community-based education, research, and partnerships. This includes creating an even more vibrant community center in our downtown CASA space, even more community-campus research partnerships and courses with students, faculty and local partners, even more ways to advance our core values of healing justice and transformative movement organizing, and even more ways to recognize the powerful roles of our community partners play as co-educators. While we remain firmly grounded in the challenging realities facing our students and local community members in this time in history, we also cultivate bold visions and new strategies for advancing peace and justice. As Arundati Roy reminds us, “another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing.”

Onward!

*Tessa Hicks Peterson, PhD*

## THE PROGRAM

CASA Pitzer advances critical analysis and community partnerships around the most pressing issues in Southern California's Inland Valley. The CASA Pitzer community center (a large community space in downtown Ontario) brings local residents, organizers, activists, artists, and nonprofits together with Pitzer College faculty and students to build community and enact change. The CASA Pitzer academic program (a two-course community engagement and research program) facilitates student internships and community-based participatory research on issues of regional equity and justice pertaining to incarceration, immigration, education, environment, labor, art, culture, and health.

In our academic program, CASA students explore current movements, theories and narratives centered around critical social justice issues in our local communities and effective means for making social change. Courses highlight frameworks and practices of community-based participatory action research, transformative movement organizing, and healing justice, focusing on building peace, wellbeing and liberation. Students study social movement theory and strategy, regional equity and political geography, and research methodologies that are grounded in critical, feminist and decolonizing frameworks. Students apply theory to practice through interdisciplinary scholarship, in-class dialogues, writing assignments utilizing self-reflection and critical analysis, experiential learning, art activities, and direct engagement with local organizations and movements through CBPAR.

Our theoretical frameworks are grounded in a cross section of disciplines, including contributions from cultural studies, psychology, sociology, education, community health, and political studies. Course praxis (theory + action + critical reflection) plays out in large part through the program's intensive practicum (125-hour internship), class field trips, community co-educator speaker series, and interactive workshops that exemplify what we study. Students engage in hands-on applications of community-based education and develop greater awareness of their own positionalities and values, as well as local knowledge, assets, and approaches to social change.

Community-based participatory action research is the principle approach to our work with community partners, one that equitably involves community members, organizational representatives, and researchers. All partners participate in the process: contributing expertise, decision-making, and sharing ownership of what is produced. The aim of CBPR is to increase knowledge and understanding but also to integrate knowledge gained with interventions for policy or social change to benefit community members. There are various CBPR approaches that can be used to engage community members from initial engagement of the public to empowering communities that can lead to collective goals and social change. There may also be different levels of engagement for different stakeholders, though the emphasis on collective decision-making and ownership is paramount to this process.

## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Students must take two courses simultaneously, which include;

### Critical Community Studies (CASA 101)

This course examines the specific political geography, history and regional equity impacts within the Inland Empire, as well as critical approaches and theories of social change and community engagement. It highlights, in particular, healing justice and racial justice, through critical texts, discussions, guest speakers and experiential activities that include liberation arts, meditation, and constructive listening dyads. It includes a direct engagement with diverse scholars, activists, and practitioners who work in these areas, featuring, in particular, community co-educators from our local CASA partner organizations. These community leaders share how their organizations address justice issues through grassroots community organizing, policy advocacy, service providing, action research, and community-building work.

### Research Methods for Community Change (CASA 105)

This course explores diverse approaches to critical inquiry and community-based research, focusing on participatory action and project-based research. Students cultivate a “toolkit” approach to research needed to address the social problems of this moment, utilizing a variety of relevant methods such as interviews, focus groups, archival research, surveys, geographic information systems, and more. Students are partnered with CASA community partner organizations, and support them in research and direct-impact projects to address issues that directly affect communities in the Inland Empire on topics ranging from immigration, education, incarceration, environmental justice, community health, and labor rights. In collaboration with a partner organization, students design and complete project and community-based action research, as well as study theoretical frameworks and ethics involved in critical research practice. This allows students to contribute to longitudinal research that has been cultivated over dozens of years with our core community partners.

### Credit-based community practicum

Students are required to complete a 125-hour research fellowship with one of our core eight-community partner organizations to produce rigorous community-based research or praxis, and to integrate classroom theory into practice through change-oriented work. They receive an additional credit for this investment of time and learning in/with our community partners.

## MAJORS CREDITED

CASA is designed for sophomores and juniors and it satisfies the following majors:

- Sociology
- Environmental Analysis
- Organizational Studies
- International Intercultural Studies
- American Studies

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FULFILLED

- Social Responsibility Praxis
- Social Justice Theory
- Intercultural Understanding (local)

## STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Outcome	Skills Gained
Apply Theory to Practice	Has a sophisticated notion of praxis that blends academic work with community engagement
Community Knowledge	Awareness of community strengths & the social construction of knowledge. Ability to assess and critically examine community needs as determined collectively by community members. Possesses leadership/teamwork skills within the community.
Self-Knowledge	Awareness of one's skills & can evaluate one's experience. Demonstrated awareness of own perceptions, biases, assumptions; issues of power, privilege, positionality. Exhibits development in sense of self, capacity, and moral reasoning.
Methodological Knowledge	Demonstrates a nuanced understanding and use of methods appropriate to sensitive community-based settings in the service of social change.
Analysis of Inequality & Power Relationships in Academic Literature & the Community	Ability to provide in-depth analysis of inequality and power relationships at all scales, from local to global, and can apply this understanding to community-based projects.

## CASA GOALS

- Work collaboratively with community partners on research, service, organizing, and action projects that confront injustice and work toward justice, equity, rights, wellbeing, and community building.
- Ensure work is responsive and accountable to the community, makes a positive impact, achieves long- and short-term goals, and generates meaningful community-building for all involved.

- Advance transformative movement organizing that nurtures wellbeing and healing in the work for justice
- Provide critical pedagogy-based teaching to our students about self, other, social problems, social movements, and effective methods for collective impact.
- Support, mentor, and critically teach our students, while respecting and learning from their knowledge and experiences.
- Create a space that is inclusive, welcoming, and supportive for community building, justice work, participatory action research, and personal and organizational development.

## CASA PRINCIPLES

**Disrupting & Affirming:** We aim to disrupt injustice and oppression while affirming equity, wellbeing, peace, joy, security, and connection within ourselves and within our communities.

**Interconnection:** Both the diminishing and healing of our humanity is interlocked in a “network of mutuality” (Martin Luther King, Jr.) We see that our liberations are bound together.

**Imagination & Creativity:** We are imagining the just world we want and creatively cultivating it together through community-based research, education, organizing, and healing justice.

**Place-Based:** We respect and affirm local knowledge, culture, assets, and power.

**Personal & Political:** We prioritize collaborations that are critically reflexive and generate personal and systemic transformation.

**Relational:** We create and sustain long-term, meaningful community partnerships that follow the lead of those most directly impacted by injustice in the community

## FACULTY & STAFF



**Tessa Hicks Peterson**

**CASA Director & Professor**

*Core course professor, community partnership and program oversight*

Director, Office of Consortial Academic Collaboration for The Claremont Colleges

Associate Professor, Urban Studies

**Field Group:** Cultural Studies/Urban Studies

**Campus Address:** Scott 108

**Phone:** 909.607.3061

**Email:** tessa\_hicks\_peterson@pitzer.edu

**Educational Background:**

MA, PhD, Claremont Graduate University:  
Cultural Studies

BA, University of California, Santa Cruz



**Jessica Juliana Chairez**

**CASA Program Administrator**

*Faculty, course, student & partner support; CASA space management, community liaison*

**Campus Address:**

200 S Euclid Ave Ontario, CA 91762

**Phone:** 909.607.9402

**Email:** jessica\_chairez@pitzer.edu

**Educational Background:**

MPH, Public Health, Loma Linda University

BA, Political Studies, Pitzer College (2013)





**Jackie Contreras**

**CEC Operations Manager**

***General financial processes, student awards and reimbursements***

**Campus Address: Scott Hall 108**

**Phone: 909.607.8183**

**Email: [jackie\\_contreras@pitzer.edu](mailto:jackie_contreras@pitzer.edu)**

**Educational Background:**

**BA, Studio Art, Pitzer College (2022)**



## GUEST FACULTY

Each year Pitzer faculty from across the disciplines rotate in teaching core courses in the CASA program. During the 2020-2021 academic year the following professors taught in the CASA program:



**Erich Steinman**

**Professor of Sociology**

***CASA 101: Critical Community Studies***

**Field Group: Sociology**

**Phone: 909.607.3838**

**Email: erich\_steinman@pitzer.edu**

**Educational Background:**

**MA, PhD, Sociology, University of Washington**

**BA, Government and International Affairs,  
Augustana College**

**Research Interests**

**Social movements; political sociology;  
culture; institutional theory, law and society;  
American Indians and indigenous people;  
race and ethnicity; public policy; and  
sexuality, sexual orientation and gender.**



**Barbara Junisbai**  
Professor of Organizational Studies  
***CASA 105: Research Methods for  
Community Change***

**Field Group: Organizational Studies**

**Phone: 909.607.1266**

**Email: [barbara\\_junisbai@pitzer.edu](mailto:barbara_junisbai@pitzer.edu)**

**Educational Background:**

**PhD, Political Science, Indiana University**

**MIS, Information Science, Indiana University**

**BA, International Relations, San Francisco  
State University**

**Research Interests**

**Comparative political organizations and  
institutions, authoritarianism,  
democratization, post-Soviet politics and  
society, learning-centered pedagogy and  
academic assessment**

## THE SPACE

CASA Pitzer is housed in the heart of downtown Ontario, California in the historic Frankish building. The building is overseen by the San Bernardino Housing department, with specific use for low-income residents of Ontario. CASA takes over the first floor and basement of this space, with high ceilings and a lot of light. Our facilities are equipped with a smart television, charging station and projector ready to use for meetings, presentations and workshops. CASA furniture is also easily movable in order to organize the space to fit the diverse needs of students and community partners while hosting trainings, events, and classes.

## LOCATION

200 S. Euclid, Suite B, Ontario, CA 91762

## HOURS

Monday through Saturday, 9:00 am to 6:00 pm

## SPACE USAGE

The space is open to all community partners and organizations within the Inland Empire, at no cost as long as there is a benefit to the community or social justice-oriented goal behind the event, for any and all programming such as;

- Informational Forums
- Meetings
- Focus Groups
- Retreats
- Cultural Performances
- Social Justice Organizing
- Film Screenings
- Art Workshops
- Education Workshops
- Office Space
- Theatrical Performances
- Community-based Participatory Research Labs

## HOUSED PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

CASA currently houses four local non-profit organizations:

- Huerta del Valle Community Garden (HDV)
- Riverside All of Us or None (RAOUON) and Starting Over Inc. (SOI)
- Youth Mentoring Action Network (YMAN)
- Motivating Action Leadership Opportunity (MALO)



## CASA PARTNERS

### THE ARTS AREA

The Arts Area provides professional development, civic advocacy, resource support, and fiscal sponsorship for the creative industries of the Inland Empire of Southern California, including the areas of San Bernardino, Riverside, and east Los Angeles Counties.

#### *Research Focus*

- Research arts education enrollment compared to access. What percentage of students actually have access/opportunity to take arts education, not just does the opportunity exist on some level.
- Of the students with access, what are the race and economic class demographics.
- Research correlations: access to arts education to students' overall school performance, truancy, non-academic activities.
- Quantitative and qualitative data collection on attendees at The Arts Area and sponsored projects' events (pending COVID-19 social distancing measures in CA).

<https://theartsarea.org/>

### HUERTA DEL VALLE COMMUNITY GARDEN (HDV)

Huerta del Valle is an urban farm and community garden that serves 62 families, who each maintain a 20 foot by 10-foot plot of land for just \$10 a year, giving them access to fresh food at low cost. Through growing food, they work toward sustainable community empowerment and health: creating meaningful work, building lasting skills and developing strong relationships within the city of Ontario.

#### *Research Focus*

- Create year-end report, using last year's as a template (including San Bernardino, Jurupa Valley and other sites, GAP certification, incubation program, etc.)
- Continue research by past interns: research proposal, GAP certification
- Map outreach locations

<https://www.huertadelvalle.org/>

### INLAND COALITION FOR IMMIGRANT JUSTICE (IC4IJ)

The Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice, is composed of 35 organizations that serve the immigrant community in the Inland Empire. The IC4IJ currently focuses on advocacy, changing the narrative, and capacity building. Our coalition engages in policy advocacy, community organizing and education, and rapid response to ICE and border patrol operations. We are collectively changing the narrative of the one million immigrants who live, thrive, and are a foundational part of the fabric of the IE. We are building organizational capacity through leadership development, cooperation, support networks, and shared regional strategies. Lastly, the IC4IJ provides resources such as training, technical support, and grants to coalition partners to further support their efforts and mission in the region.

### *Research Focus*

- Continue survey to help us identify how much street vendors contribute to the local economy in San Bernardino or Riverside
- Finalize survey to clarify which resources each of our 45 plus partners has available for our relaunch of a multi-use hotline

<https://ic4ij.org/>

### **INLAND EMPIRE IMMIGRANT YOUTH COLLECTIVE (IEIYC)**

The Inland Empire Immigrant Youth Collective is an undocumented youth-led grassroots organization in the Inland Empire. They are committed to creating a safe space for immigrant youth regardless of legal status, sexuality or other intersections that are crucial to the undocumented identity.

### *Research Focus*

- Support with Undocuhealth Ambassadors program
- Support with COVID information dissemination
- Undocumented Mentorship Academy planning

<https://theieiyc.org/>

### **RIVERSIDE ALL OF US OR NONE**

A local chapter of All of Us or None, is part of a national organizing initiative of prisoners, formerly incarcerated people, organized to action to end mass incarceration and the discrimination faced by formerly incarcerated people.

<https://riversideallofusornone.org/>

### **STARTING OVER, INC.**

Starting Over, Inc. specializes in providing transitional housing and reentry services for formerly incarcerated individuals while helping to build strong communities through recovery, civic engagement, and leadership development.

### *Research Focus*

- Create a participant handbook for those in transitional houses, based on curriculum and handouts proposed by spring intern, creating a weekly topic agenda, dialogue prompts and worksheet responses. Add self-help/care documents and self-awareness/self-assessment (triggers, etc.) to welcome packet/manual
- Explore partnerships with social work interns to facilitate weekly support groups
- Follow releases and re-entry in Riverside: what is needed in terms of tools and resources
- Analyze media positions in Riverside County
- Research Sheriff plans for release and re-entry

- Continue research by past interns: work toward transparency in Riverside County jails, investigate the media scene of Riverside County, research conditions for early releases in Riverside County

<http://startingoverinc.net/>

#### **WAREHOUSE WORKERS RESOURCE CENTER (WWRC)**

A local nonprofit, 501(c)(3), organization founded in 2011 dedicated to improving working conditions in the warehouse industry in Southern California. They focus on education, advocacy and action to change poor working conditions in the largest hub of warehousing in the country.

##### *Research Focus*

- Research on Youth Civic Engagement Program
- Support for parent trainings focused on college resources, school type differences and politics/stigma of trade schools

<http://www.warehouseworkers.org/about/>

#### **YOUTH MENTORING ACTION NETWORK (YMAN)**

The Youth Mentoring Action Network was founded in 2007 with the mission of leveraging the power of mentoring to create a more equitable and just society for young people. Founded by two veteran educators who understood the importance of making solid connections with young people, they recognized that young people were at their best when their voices were heard and they felt fully supported.

##### *Research Focus*

- Support mentoring program, which includes 40 mentors
- Outreach to community members
- Quality assessment – current programs
- Data collection

<https://www.yman.org/>

#### **MOTIVATING ACTION LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

Welcome to MALO, or Motivating Action Leadership Opportunity, a nonprofit organization that serves Tongan Americans in the Inland Empire area through youth mentorship, job readiness, resource literacy, and cultural gathering events.

<https://malotongaie.org/>



## EVENTS

**FALL 2020 SPEAKER SERIES**

# RACIAL AND HEALING JUSTICE

Hosted by Professor Hicks Peterson and CASA Pitzer

This Fall our CASA program will highlight racial justice and healing justice within our work of community-based research and engagement, inviting activist scholars and community leaders to discuss strategies for social change on these topics from the frameworks/issues/lived experience in which they operate.

**SEPT 1ST, 11AM-12PM PST | Disrupting Injustice and Mobilizing Social Change with Tessa Hicks Peterson**

**SEPT 15TH, 11AM-12PM PST | Community Formations & Social Justice Curriculum with Michelle Tellez**

**SEPT 22ND, 11AM-12PM PST | The Trauma (and Healing) of Injustice with Hala Khouri**

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**OCT 6TH, 11AM-12PM PST | Critical Education and Mentoring with Torie Weiston-Serdan and Cade Maldonado**

**OCT 13TH, 11AM-12PM PST | Labor, Race, & Space in the IE with Juan de Lara and Sheheryar Kaoosji**

**OCT 20TH, 11AM-12PM PST | Structures of Surveillance/Visions of Restorative Justice with Susan Phillips**

**OCT 27TH, 11AM-12PM PST | Re-creating our Community Spaces: Transitional Housing and Community Gardens with Vonya Quarles and Arthur Levine**

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**NOV 3RD, 11AM-12PM PST | Immigrant Justice in the IE with Javier Hernandez and Angel Fajardo**

**NOV 10TH, 11AM-12PM PST | Art as Culture, as Resistance, as Industry with John Machado and Lolofi Soakai**

Co-Sponsored by: *the Presidential Racial Justice Initiative (RJI)*

Zoom Details: <https://pitzer.zoom.us/j/96435826013>  
FMI: [Jessica\\_Charez@pitzer.edu](mailto:Jessica_Charez@pitzer.edu)

CASA PITZER SPRING 2021

# RACIAL AND HEALING JUSTICE

## SPEAKER SERIES

This Spring the CASA Pitzer Program will continue its Racial Healing and Justice Speaker Series which highlights racial justice and healing justice within the work of our community-based research and engagement. Join us as we invite activist scholars and community based leaders to discuss strategies for social change on these topics from the frameworks, issues, and lived experience in which they operate.

**February 23rd | Finding Community & Social Justice in the Academy**

**March 9th | The Trauma (and healing) of Injustice**

**March 30th | Critical Education & Mentoring**

**April 6th | Labor, Race & Space in the IE**

**April 13th | Re-creating our Community Spaces: Transitional Housing and Community Gardens**

**April 20th | Immigrant Justice in the IE**

**April 27th | Art as Culture, as Resistance, as Industry**

**Co-Sponsored by:** **Zoom Details: <https://pitzer.zoom.us/j/7728925659>**



Racial Justice  
Initiative  
PITZER COLLEGE

FMI: [Jessica\\_Chairesz@pitzer.edu](mailto:Jessica_Chairesz@pitzer.edu)

# Know Justice, Know Peace

## A Transformation & Justice Community Collective

SPRING 2021: ORGANIZATION DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

This training focuses on organizational and personal development on the topics of transformative movement organizing and healing justice. It includes time to learn, share, reflect, practice, and implement meaningful trauma-and healing-informed knowledge and skills, which translate into policies and practices for individual, interpersonal, and institutional transformation. There is also an optional Healing Practices workshop series, open to all participants. Access trainings and workshops via <https://bit.ly/CASAPZ>

TRAINING SCOPE TIMELINE

- FEB 5th**  
3-5 PM  
**Introduction to Program Aims, Frameworks, Outcomes, Trajectory, Commitments with CASA Team**  
Healing Practice: Active Listening by Scarlett Duarte, February 12th, 3-4 PM
- MAR 5th**  
3-5 PM  
**Trauma and Healing-informed Training for Sustainability of Frontline Workers with Hala Khouri**  
Healing Practice: Somatic Experiencing by Hala Khouri, March 12th, 3-4 PM
- APR 2nd**  
3-5 PM  
**Embodied Practices for Healing and Resilience with Hala Khouri and Scarlett Duarte**  
Healing Practice: Spiritual Grounding and Renewal by Haize Hawke, April 9th, 3-4 PM
- MAY 7th**  
3-5 PM  
**Healing Resistance: Nonviolence Philosophy for Organizers with Kazu Haga**  
Healing Practice: Forgiveness Practices by Jacoby Ballard, May 14th, 3-4 PM
- JUNE 4th**  
3-5 PM  
**Alternative Organizational Structures for Justice & Liberation with Kazu Haga**  
Healing Practice: Medicinal Plants by Estela Roman, June 11th, 3-4 PM
- JULY 2nd**  
3-5 PM  
**Transformative Movement Organizing with Movement Strategy Center**  
Healing Practice: Ceremonial Practices by Susy Zepeda, July 9th, 3-4 PM
- AUG 6th**  
3-5 PM  
**Bringing It All Together with CASA Team**  
Healing Practice: Physical and Mental Fitness by Nina Watson, Aug 13th, 3-4 PM
- SEPT 3rd**  
3-5 PM  
**Action and Accountability Plans for Transforming Self and Orgs. with CASA Team**  
Healing Practice: Creating Community Healing by Margo Okazawa-Rey, Sept 10th, 3-4 PM

# CASA PITZER RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM SPRING 2021



**MAY 14TH @ 4PM**

With Presentations By:

- Know Justice, Know Peace Research Team
- Amanda Gomez | Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice & The PLACE Collaborative
- Melanie Andreo & Shania Sharma | Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice
- Sonya Hadley | Starting Over Inc.
- Michael Griggs | Starting Over Inc.
- Mateo Henriquez | Inland Empire Immigrant Youth Collective
- Tyler Benedict & Vivianna Plancarte | Warehouse Workers Resource Center
- Chaiyia Taylor-Jackson | Youth Mentoring Action Network
- Sophie Arens & Daisy Chaudruc | The Arts Area
- Baylen Altizer | Huerta del Valle Community Garden

[HTTPS://PITZER.ZOOM.US/J/86380981634](https://pitzer.zoom.us/j/86380981634)





Fall 2020 Research Symposium

# CASA PITZER

December 4, 2020  
4:00 PM

## JOIN US TO LEARN ABOUT COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH PROJECTS

**Ada Cohen, Lincoln Pantell, Sonya Hadley**

*Riverside All of Us or None/Starting Over*

**Aditi Madhok, Laila Kent**

*Warehouse Workers Resource Center*

**Amanda Gomez**

*Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice*

**Clayton Durning, Katie Meitchik**

*Youth Mentoring Action Network*

**Rosalina Ramirez**

*Huerta del Valle Community Garden*

**Zyana Slade-Bridges**

*The Arts Area*

**Cindy Gaytan, Dalia Saper-Paris, Keely**

**Nguyen, Therese-Julia Uy, Vanessa Reyes**

*Know Justice, Know Peace*

Zoom: <https://pitzer.zoom.us/j/96435826013>

## STUDENT IMPACT

### BY THE NUMBERS

The following information outlines community and internship work done by CASA Pitzer students in collaboration with CASA community partners. Students are required to spend a total of 100 hours in the community as a requirement for the CASA 105 Research Methods for Community Change course.

	Fall	Spring	Total
Students	9	10	19
Hours	1,000	1,000	2,000

## STUDENT PARTICIPATION

Students provided nearly 3,000 hours of volunteer time to our community partners

## QUALITATIVE PROJECTS

### FALL 2020 | Pitzer Undergraduate

Clayton Durning, "Workforce Development Programs"

<https://pitzer.box.com/s/ks1g9hzskpt1lnhx0bz9cp9i166byark>

Zyana Slade-Bridges, "Art is Everything"

<https://pitzer.box.com/s/qye5l43djb3w913iqj36v7b5esobya6>

Lincoln Pantell, "2021 Riverside County Budget Proposal: A Gateway to Change"

<https://pitzer.box.com/s/wd68q99nmecy41wsgolch9iy62ot96lq>

Rosalina Ramirez, "Community Building and Healing in the Food Justice Movement"

<https://pitzer.box.com/s/f23mno89fjvp2ga80nk0ro9m9hp5zhrh>

Ada Cohen, "Dialing In: Implementing the Riverside Jail Supportline"

<https://pitzer.box.com/s/tep8l9fddpwp5ovkt62ta8nq4h1oxj>

Amanda Gomez, Street Vending in the Age of COVID-19

<https://pitzer.box.com/s/rlv73o7cbymtlesr3vo2iah7zzq>

Sonya Hadley, "Riverside Jail Closures: Assessing the True Costs of Jails on Communities in Riverside County"

<https://pitzer.box.com/s/8f93ajh71bmdjgo4ubj8cfsk0wrolxeh>

Laila Kent, "How to Build Collective Resistance within the Warehouse Worker Resource Center: Start with Healing Resilience"

<https://pitzer.box.com/s/v1m44dqlueug4bgm7u4rpejc9q8zs99m>

Aditi Madhok, "Counter Surveillance"

<https://pitzer.box.com/s/sojm3pnoz4qn65sualkoujogqdk66xy3>

Katie Meitchik, "A Culmination of Foundational Social Justice Curriculum: The Impact of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Education on Youth"

<https://pitzer.box.com/s/pstjrrz6fk6i12qqpwg zgpto94n9f64v>

### SPRING 2021 | Pitzer Undergraduate

Melanie Andreo, “Building, Rebuilding and Maintaining Trust Between Grassroots Organizers and the Immigrant Community in the Inland Empire”

<https://pitzer.box.com/s/zkyzwijm7vujdegv69qlvggt86pcue3d>

Shania Sharma, “Building, Rebuilding and Maintaining Trust Between Grassroots Organizers and the Immigrant Community in the Inland Empire”

<https://pitzer.box.com/s/zkyzwijm7vujdegv69qlvggt86pcue3d>

Michael Griggs, “Improving County Jail Conditions: A Community Approach”

<https://pitzer.box.com/s/233yfzh6h42vy21951c47hkdgouo6f7q>

Vivianna Plancarte, “Exploring the Experience of Warehouse Worker Resource Center Promoters: Evaluating COVID-19 Worker Outreach Project Strategies”

<https://pitzer.box.com/s/fu8twbco4k6l5rd203huleqzdw bq8eq>

Mateo Henriquez, “Undocuqueer: Navigating a Gendered Language in the Intersections of Undocumented & Queer”

<https://pitzer.box.com/s/ube54vfdk0cc356z24ng4ybqcuinx8if>

Chaiyia Taylor-Jackson, “Final Research Project: Youth Mentoring Action Network”

<https://pitzer.box.com/s/mfvmbbnjbn7zz2uhc5rcs4akdre9daxh>

Daisy Chaudruc, “Inland Arts: An Examination of Potential Growth Economic and Educational Infrastructures for the Inland Empire’s Artistic Community”

<https://pitzer.box.com/s/oyb7bli9srsjh2oubvq59irfv8h0gymc>

Baylen Altizer, “Fundraising Futures for Community Gardens”

<https://pitzer.box.com/s/g82tbbi0z1b8tru97fbigvg2fvqsj1ys>

Tyler Benedict, “CASA Pitzer: Final Research”

<https://prezi.com/i/kthcnefctulh/final-casa-project/>

### Summer 2020 | Claremont Graduate University

Holkenbrink-Monk, “Sidewalk Vending: Community-Based Research”

<https://pitzer.box.com/s/Ore1gxk2p6quyql7a0xlak3z4rr3jyg3>

Mungia, Levine, “The Arts Area: Art Education in Ontario”

<https://pitzer.box.com/s/wo4lbt1y391dxur9wrgenuowa1x92ei>

Dunkley, George, Hill, “Critical Mentoring During a Pandemic & Uprisings”

<https://pitzer.box.com/s/jmvkif252wgi863h6k32gx5pcndvk8wk>

Flores, Ocasio, “Reaching Back and Lifting Up: A Qualitative Research Study of Critical Mentoring in the Inland Empire”

<https://pitzer.box.com/s/0hb5qc8mqve9jl3zcn24ad0yz2acr xk3>



## COMMUNITY PROJECTS

### PLACE Collaborative Grant

#### *IMMIGRANTS OF THE IE: An Arts and Action Collaboration*

The PLACE Collaboratory was launched in Fall 2019 with aims to bring together a group of academic-community partnerships, involving eleven academic institutions from diverse sectors and regions, in a civic engagement initiative sponsored by Bringing Theory to Practice (BTtoP). The collaboration aims to distill best practices for such partnerships, to model the role of the humanities and public-cultural work in sustaining them, and to pursue a strategy of networked collaboration in disseminating them across higher education. Pitzer College, because of the work of the CEC and CASA Pitzer programs and centers, was invited to be involved in this national PLACE Collaboratory and was generously awarded \$37,000 over two years.

Pitzer's PLACE team consists of undergraduate students, Ray Hill-Cristol and Amanda Gomez; Pitzer alum/ Claremont Graduate student, Christian Cabunag, and associate professor/CASA director, Tessa Hicks Peterson alongside community partners from Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice (Lyzbeth Mendoza, community engagement and policy director; Jessica Hernandez, digital media coordinator, Ramon Morales, community leader) and from the Inland Empire Immigrant Youth Collective, Najayra Valdovinosoto. This group met weekly throughout most of the two-year project. They explored various arts-based community projects and decided collectively to launch a collaborative community photography art project, focusing on the lived experience of being an immigrant in the local region.

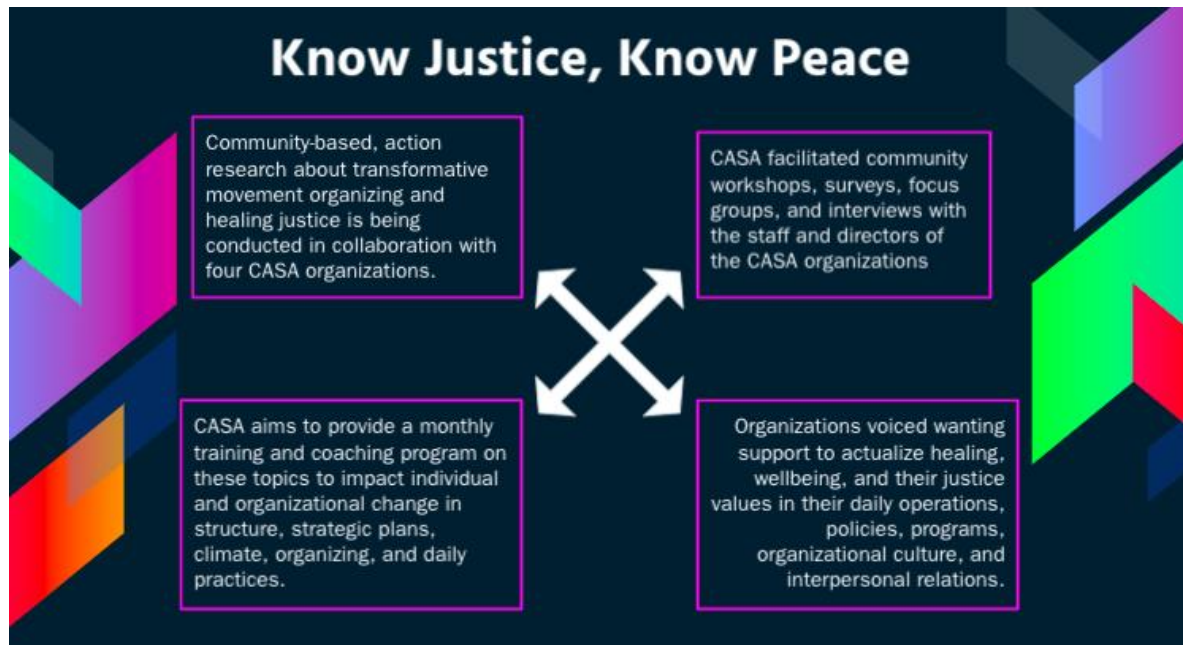
The PLACE Immigrants of the IE community art and action collaboration was officially launched April 14, 2020 with ten community artist participants from ICIJ and IEIYC (primarily undocumented immigrants, from teenagers to grandmothers, brand new artists to seasoned ones, community activists to street vendors). The PLACE team and community artists engaged weekly check-in digital gatherings where participants and team leaders continued conversations to build community, discuss how the photo-taking process was going, shared photography tips and suggested themes, and demonstrated our support for this budding community. Given the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic just weeks before the launch of this project, we spent a great deal of energy building a community to help process and ground us amid a time of great fear and loss, and to use photography as a way to document both losses and hopes during this time. At the close of June 2020, we formally ended the photo-taking portion and engaged in a process for collective editing and curation of photos. Each participant curated their own selection of top ten photos, provided descriptions of each and a biography about themselves. We met to look at and provide feedback on the photos and debrief about the process of taking them, writing and reflecting on them, and thinking together what shape the public exhibit should take.

This final conversation resulted in a number of ideas, including using the photos online in photo galleries of our participating organizations' websites and integrating photos into relevant immigrant justice digital campaigns of ICIJ and IEIYC. Next steps included creating our own website to highlight all photos and the artists, and hosting an online launch party with artists and guests.

Pitzer alum, Chris Cabunag created both the website and later large banners to be used for in-person events, advocacy efforts, and gallery viewing for educational, promotional and personal uses. Concentrating on the themes that emerged in the photography process (themes centering family/home, work, detention and health), Chris created graphic designs using a selection of photographs into four thematic-based banners which will hang at CASA, the respective partnering organizations, and also used for other place-based showings and organizing actions. Meanwhile, Pitzer student Amanda Gomez, designed a coffee-table photography book that incorporates a description of PLACE and the partnering organizations, all artist photographs and biographies, and a critical analysis of the themes. The leadership team spent considerable time planning, designing, revising and sharing with colleagues the book and banner designs, which took most of the Fall and Spring semesters.

This summer of 2021, the final book and banners (both of which are bilingual) will be published/printed and distributed/displayed in various areas. The leadership team aims to host a number of book and banner launch parties, inviting artists and their friends, families, organization staff and team leaders and the public to view the photos and discuss with the artists the process and what it meant to them in meaning-making around their lived experiences of immigration in our region. You can view the website [here](#) and the book will be available for viewing and sale soon on our website.

## Know Justice, Know Peace: A Transformation and Justice Collective



Centering wellness in justice work and justice in wellness work is both a timeless and timely issue. The impacts of COVID-19, racialized violence and economic hardship only magnify pre-existing conditions of inequity as they relate to wellbeing and to the fragility of wellness of those working at the frontlines. This project aims to highlight and examine this, find and put to use tools and training workshops to address it, and provide models for others to use to effectively change our justice organizations and movements to be more trauma- and healing-informed in analysis and practice. This is the moment to build the support, resilience and tools for wellness that will help us not only survive the injustices of today, but actually thrive as we dismantle injustice and build the world we want.

### Project Process:

Based on informal discussions throughout 2019 between CASA faculty director and members of each of CASA's community partners and students, interests in the topics of healing justice emerged, with requests for more information and support in this vein. A formal community-based action research project was launched June, 2020 with CASA faculty director, Tessa Hicks Peterson, trauma-therapist and community leader, Hala Khouri, and Justice Hub office manager, Scarlett Duarte, as the primary leads, alongside 2 Pitzer students, Keely Nguyen and Dalia Paris-Saper and 3 Claremont Graduate University students, Vanessa Reyes, Cindy Gaytan and Therese Julia Uy.

The launch of the community-based action research project first focused on exploring self/organizational reflections on if/how/where/why and where/why not wellness, healing, trauma-informed practices and transformative organizing exist in daily operations and strategic vision of

organizations (on personal, interpersonal, institutional, structural/systemic levels). This took place through digital surveys, focus groups and interviews with staff of CASA organizations. 26 surveys and 7 focus groups were recorded, transcribed, coded and thematically analyzed, producing a full and executive report of these findings (July, 2020).

The next step of this project (Fall/Spring, 2020-21) involved assessing the main issues that emerged in this study and seeking trainings, tools, workshops, curriculum and programs that address them. The research team then developed an in-depth training and practice program, involving thematic explorations of trauma-informed care, mindfulness and embodied practices for regulation of trauma and stress, self and community care practices, healing resistance philosophy, alternative/restorative organizational practices and transformative movement organizing. The program involved two sessions monthly over an 8 month period, with assessments, pre and post-reflection offerings, and ongoing research throughout. The research team (mixed with Pitzer and CGU students) co-enrolled in an advanced CASA research course in Spring 2021 to advance this research and implementation. The group also raised funds to pay stipends to consultants, interpreters/translators, student researchers and staff from each organization for their participation.

The work of summer 2021 is concentrated on conducting another assessment to see the impact of the training program after 5 months of implementation and to help staff articulate organizational development action plans to integrate knowledge, skills and practices from the program into their organization policy and practice. The student research team is also co-authoring an academic publication on the research findings thus far.

Future plans (2021-22) include making this scalable, helpful to those on the ground, impacting community-based organizations and movements so that other organizations can use to follow this same process into the future, thus contributing to gap in existing justice work that does not center or sustainably practice wellness, healing and transformative movement organizing in the work. This will include creating a training program that is accessible to more community-based organizations and a resource manual that can be used in the creation of strategic plans that integrate wellbeing practices and justice values into organizational structure and daily practice, climate and culture, programs and organizing. The research team also plans to publish articles about the process and impact of the program development and implementation.

## **Claremont Graduate University-Education 574: Community Based Participatory Action Research and Transformative Movement Organizing**

Every summer, CASA Academic Director has taught a graduate Community Based Participatory Action Research course during the summer that connects graduate activist scholars with a number of CASA community partners in order to maintain community-based research work during the summer (when Pitzer students are gone) and to provide partners with the additional skills and experience that graduate students bring. The course takes place over 6 weeks, with the scope, form and content of the final research was determined collaboratively by the community partners and student teams to address the needs expressed by the community. Typical action research projects have included such things as a story map or other mapping project, white paper, event planning, grant writing, social media graphics, curriculum, interview series, research template, zine, design project, and other action research creative endeavor. This summer action projects include:

- Pairing graduate students as peer mentors/coaches with Participatory Action Research Fellows (a fellowship sponsored by CASA partner, Starting Over Inc, to train and support formerly incarcerated individuals undertake participatory action research projects in their communities)
- Pairing graduate students with the student research team of “Know Justice, Know Peace: A transformation and justice collective” to co-facilitate focus groups and surveys with the three primary partnering organizations in this program to assess the impact of the program and to help staff articulate organizational development actions plans to integrate knowledge, skills and practices from the program into their organization policy and practice.

## SUPPORT

CASA Annual Expenses 2020-2021	
Community Support (as part of PLACE and KJKP grants)	\$14,000.00
Events	\$500.00
Meeting Expenses	\$127.00
Programming Supplies	\$303.00
Student Transportation	\$147.00
Project Expenses	\$14,650.00
Space Operating Costs	\$19,704.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$49,431.00</b>

Know Justice, Know Peace	
Speakers	\$4,000.00
Community Support	\$1,500.00
Program Translation	\$800.00
Events	\$500.00
Library	\$350.00
Research Assistants	\$5,500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$12,650.00</b>

PLACE	
Community Support	\$10,000.00
Research Assistants	\$4,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$14,000.00</b>

<b>CASA Funding 2020-2021</b>	
<b>Racial Justice Initiative Grant</b>	<b>\$2,450.00</b>
<b>Teaching &amp; Learning Committee Grant</b>	<b>\$1,600.00</b>
<b>Strategic Initiative Fund Grant</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<b>Pitzer Gift Campaign</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>
<b>Bringing Theory to Practice Grant (will roll over)</b>	<b>\$22,000.00</b>
<b>Justice Education Initiative Grant</b>	<b>\$2,500.00</b>
<b>Office for Consortial Academic Collaboration</b>	<b>\$3,000.00</b>
<b>Dean of Faculty Research Assistants</b>	<b>\$2,500.00</b>
<b>Annual Budget</b>	<b>\$20,960.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$54,810.00</b>



## LOOKING FORWARD

### The CASA Program Fund

At the end of fiscal year 2021, CASA Pitzer was granted a generous donation from an anonymous alumna. This is a restricted fund with spending decisions managed by the director of CASA Pitzer in collaboration with, and upon approval by, the Dean of Faculty. Specifically, gifts to this fund will be used to initiate forward-thinking goals of the CASA program, including but not limited to:

1. Uplift CASA community partners. Provide honoraria to CASA's core community partner organizations whose staff teach, mentor, and guide Pitzer students every semester in their research practicums and who contribute invaluable knowledge to the Pitzer community through CASA's community-based speaker series and other related programs and events.
2. Expand the vibrancy of CASA as a community center. Host arts, education, and special events that build community awareness and sponsor workshops for students and local nonprofits around trauma-informed service work, civic engagement, grant writing, and community research and evaluation training programs.
3. Broaden CASA's curricular reach. Initiate a Faculty Fellows Program, providing both course and research development funds to faculty in diverse and interdisciplinary fields to work with current and new community organization partners. Through this program, CASA will be positioned to attract a wider representation of faculty, students, and majors as community stakeholders—and importantly, deepen the perspective, reach, and impact of CASA's social justice work. While CASA's preliminary focus is on Pitzer faculty and students, a longer-term goal is increased connections within The Claremont Colleges and with other local academic institutions, museums, and community groups.
4. Advance wellbeing of students and community-based justice-oriented organizations. Grow CASA's Know Justice, Know Peace: Transformation and Justice Collective, a special initiative to provide resources, tools, and training to assist students, organizations and leaders involved on the frontlines of injustice and collective trauma to enhance wellness and sustainability. CASA currently facilitates regular training sessions for a small cohort of students and staff from four social justice organizations and has aspirations to expand the reach and depth of this program to other students and organizations in the region.

Large-scale, long-term fundraising priorities:

Fiscal support to increase personnel, facilities and programming funds would expand CASA's reach and impact, allowing us to:

- Collaborate with community partners to rent another community space for a new social innovation initiative that would operationalize workforce development for students and community members of CASA partner organizations by way of farm-to-fork cafe and freedom school (multiple core community partners are deeply invested in such a future collaboration and a shared proposal for such an initiative will be crafted Fall, 2021).
- Purchase a vehicle to transport students to the CASA space & internship sites.
- Transform the basement into a functional & user-friendly space.

- Create a second CASA cohort and offer more classes in the program.
- Expand scope and impact of community projects such as our Racial & Healing Justice Speaker Series, Community Arts Project: Immigrants in the IE, and Know Justice, Know Peace: A Transformative & Justice Collective.

Envisioning a sustainable future that enables us to become the premier community-based research institute in the Inland region, requires both short-term/small-scale and long-term/large-scale funding. We welcome all donations (of time, energy and funds)! We also invite you to visit CASA's website and participate with us in all that we do.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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