



PEER EXCHANGE IN THE PARK

*NOTES FROM THE FALL 2021 PHOTOVILLE
EDUCATOR LAB IN BROOKLYN BRIDGE PARK*

THE 2021 PHOTOVILLE
FESTIVAL EDUCATION
PROGRAM IS PROUDLY
PRODUCED IN
PARTNERSHIP WITH
PHOTOWINGS AND THE
NYC MAYOR'S OFFICE
OF MEDIA AND
ENTERTAINMENT





FALL 2021 EDUCATOR LAB PEER EXCHANGE IN THE PARK SEPTEMBER 18, 2021 BROOKLYN BRIDGE PARK

Photography can be a tool for self-reflection or a tool for exploration for our students. It can be a medium to tell their own narrative or to interrogate the world around them. It can be a practice for learning leadership, collaboration, and project management. With all these possibilities and so many ways to approach them, the Fall 2021 Educator Lab offered a space for educators to exchange ideas and learn from their peers.

This Educator Lab was held on Pier 3 of Brooklyn Bridge Park which hosted many of the Photoville Festival's youth exhibitions in 2021. Participants heard from many arts educators who exhibited student work at the festival, with the goal of gaining new photo ideas and approaches to bring back to the classroom, or tools and reflection to deepen their practice.

Photoville Educator Labs, presented in partnership with PhotoWings and supported by the NYC Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment, are professional development workshops for educators to be inspired, connect and collaborate on ways to bring visual storytelling into the classroom. The program is free and open to educators of all subjects and of all ages, but the content will be focused on middle school and high school art teachers working in the DOE and in community programs.



Photoville is a New York-based non-profit organization that works to promote a wider understanding and increased access to the art of photography for all.

photoville.com



PhotoWings' mission is to highlight and help facilitate the power of photography to influence the world. We help photography to be better understood, created, utilized, seen, and saved.

photowings.org



The Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment (MOME) works to support New York City's thriving creative economy and make it accessible to all.

www1.nyc.gov/site/mome

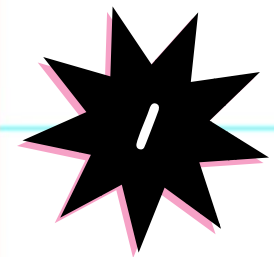


Photoville thanks Leica Camera USA, our 10th year festival anniversary partner as well as Brooklyn Bridge Park, our longtime partner who hosts the festival each year.

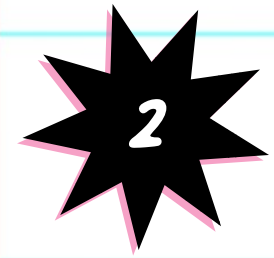
Additionally, thanks to Two Trees Management; The Chris Hondros Fund; Council member Robert E. Cornegy, Jr, NYC Council Member for the 36th District, Bedford Stuyvesant and Crown Heights; and our Friends of Photoville individual members—who have all contributed additional support for our education initiatives.

WHAT'S IN THIS NOTEBOOK?

This notebook showcases many exhibitions at the 2021 Photoville festival that were created by youth artists. Featured youth photographers and their educators shared their work and processes through Photoville Education programs such as:



PHOTOVILLE EDUCATOR LAB



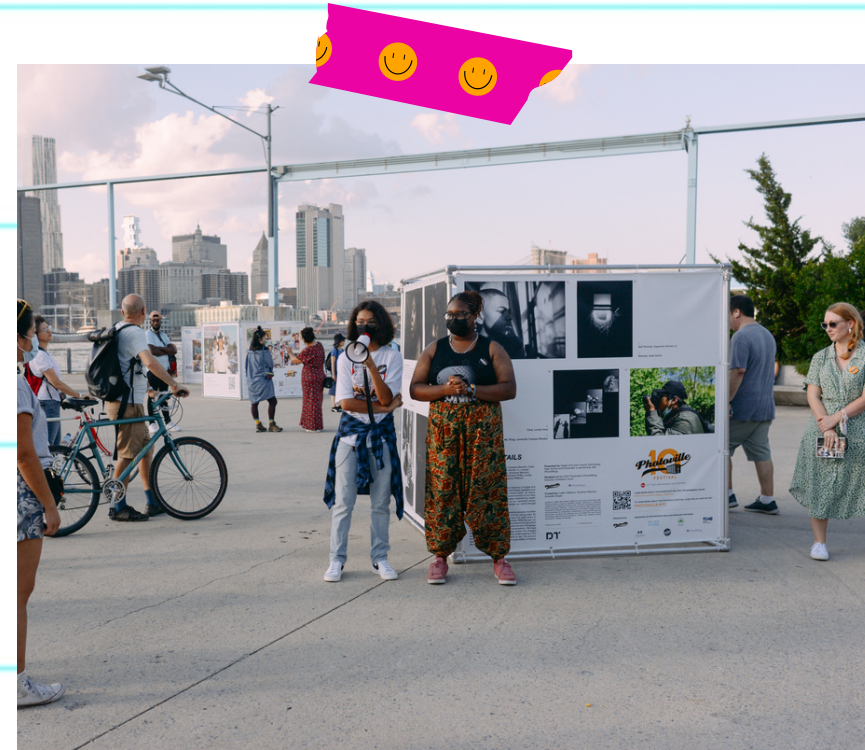
YOUTH ARTIST EXCHANGES



YOUTH DAY FIELD TRIP

This notebook collates the experiences and information presented during these programs into a shared resource for all.

Special thanks to the educators who curated these exhibitions and to our team of college Student Notetakers who took notes from their perspective and in their style.



Browse all their notes or flip to the ideas that resonate with you ➡

FEATURED STUDENT WORK

Photo credits: Nyasia Bailey; Amanda Vargas; Tearah Picard; Voyages Preparatory School; Daniel-José Cyan; Erica Fredes; Annette Palacios



Oral History Remix

page 6

Interview a notable community member to create an intergenerational multimedia project.

*based on the exhibition **dandoles sus flores***

"giving them their flowers" is a multimodal youth-led storytelling exhibit honoring matriarchs of color through collaged photographs and oral histories.



Collaborative Curation

page 9

Work with students from start to finish to conceptualize, curate and produce an exhibition.

*based on the exhibition **Small Details***

Highlighting acts of resistance and change through lens-based media. Each piece documents a "small detail" displaying moments and actions of change.



Self & Community

page 12

Photo activities for middle school students to reflect and build their personal and community identity.

*based on the exhibition **In Our Eyes***

"In Our Eyes" highlights photography from New York City public middle school students who see the light in themselves and the world around them.



Investigating Issues

page 16

Interview activists and critically think about a social justice issue.

*based on the exhibition **System Error***

"System Error" highlights the work of important activists who are on the ground working to reform our prison systems. Our exhibit hopes to inspire others as it did us—you do not need to be on the frontline or have a personal connection to bring change.



Connect, Dream & Re-Imagine

page 19

Storytelling and story-making honoring legacy, ancestry, and collective wisdom as queer, trans, Black, Indigenous, and POC young people.

*based on the exhibition **LEGACY***

"LEGACY", a photo exhibit by Lion's Tooth Project centering QTBIPOC youth's collective wisdom, insight, and stories as they dream and re-imagine themselves as future ancestors.



Video Artist Statements

page 23

Craft a personal statement about your process and your art.

*based on the exhibition **Teaching Creativity***

Teachers at two New York City public high schools share work made by their students during the pandemic. Students turned their lenses inward and made work exploring domestic life—sharing their photography with family and friends during this challenging school year.



Family Stories

page 26

Prompt students to look towards their family & culture with fresh and creative eyes.

*based on the exhibition **Teaching Creativity***

Teachers at two New York City public high schools share work made by their students during the pandemic. Students turned their lenses inward and made work exploring domestic life—sharing their photography with family and friends during this challenging school year.

COLLABORATORS



Educators

Wendy Barrales is an artist, educator, and founder of the WOCArchive. As a first-gen Xicana and daughter of formerly undocumented Mexican immigrants, I work to center my family's stories in my art, community organizing, & classroom.

Jacqueline Du has been a visual arts educator in New York City for over 10 years, working in all five boroughs with young people to strengthen individual confidence, deepen community care, and cultivate joy through the practice of art-making.

Caitlin Gibbons is an art educator whose love of photography began at age 9 while working with her grandfather. She currently works in Brooklyn, New York at Digital Art and Cinema Technology High School, where she has taught art and filmmaking for the past four years

Lion's Tooth Project: Natalia Guerrero (they/them), Fatmata Bah (they/them) and Shay Lin (they/them) inspires immigrant, queer, and BIPOC youth to have more agency around their personal stories, healing, and wellness through photography and earth medicine.

Brenna McLaughlin is a photographer and educator, currently teaching at the High School of Art and Design—a Career & Technical Education (CTE) school located in Manhattan, New York.

After over 30 years as a freelance commercial photographer, **Ben Russell** started a second career as a high school art teacher at the High School of Fashion Industries, the International Center of Photography and the Fashion Institute of Technology.

Yael Glick is an English teacher at Voyages Preparatory High School who often incorporates social justice topics into the classroom.

Notetakers

Alyssa Dickson is a photographer, writer and a student in the Department of Photography and Imaging at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.

Cydney Blitzer is a senior in the Department of Photography and Imaging at NYU Tisch.

Katherine Margall graduated with a BFA in Film and Television from NYU Tisch in May 2020 concentrating in Sound Design, Screenwriting, and Directing. She started taking photos in Junior Year as a hobby and continues to develop her voice as an artist within that medium.

Lauren Stone is originally from Los Angeles, CA. She is a recent graduate from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts where she majored in Photography and Imaging and minored in Art History. She is passionate about the world of curation and the history (and future) of photography.

Rachel Marcovich is a photographer and cinematographer, and a recent Columbia University graduate with a degree in Film and Media Studies and Visual Arts.



ORAL HISTORY REMIX

Interview a notable community member to create an intergenerational multimedia project.

*based on the exhibition **dándoles sus flores***

Notes by

Alyssa Dickson

Presenter

Wendy Barrales

Photo by Jennifer Florencio

EXHIBITED IN BROOKLYN BRIDGE PARK
FROM SEPTEMBER 18–DECEMBER 1, 2021
AS PART OF THE PHOTOVILLE FESTIVAL
WITH THE SUPPORT OF 10 YEAR
ANNIVERSARY PARTNER, LEICA CAMERA.

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

Inspired by the use of altares as tributes to those we admire, giving them their flowers is an exhibit honoring the tenacity of our matriarchs of color. Our collaged photographs are visual and aural altars for the living—celebrating Black and brown women who are often overlooked and under valued.

These five images were created by youth and adult community members with roots in Eritrea, México, and Panamá. The remaining individual panels showcase work by recent and current high school youth—whose pieces explore themes from their ethnic studies course and center the importance of art, oral histories, and the experiences of women of color.

We invite you to interact with our projects in two ways. First, slowly gaze at the photographs: Where is your attention drawn to? What's coming up for you? Next, scan the QR code and listen to our stories: What did you feel while listening? How did the movement of the visuals affect your understanding?

The practice of centering our matriarchal roots is part of reclaiming our histories and healing the absence of our stories. We hope this exhibit inspires you to preserve the stories of your abuelitas, lolas, adeys, and aunties—to showcase the brilliance we've inherited from our ancestors.

Learn more at photoville.nyc/giving-them-their-flowers

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

The Women of Color Archive (WOCArchive) is an intergenerational project preserving the visual and aural stories of our matriarchs of color. Founded in 2016 by Wendy Barrales, with a single interview of her abuelita Aída's life in rural Veracruz, the archive has grown into a digital platform that houses multiple projects created by former students and community members of all ages. Projects from the spring of 2018 and 2019, many of which are showcased in this year's Photoville Festival, are final projects that were created in a high school ethnic studies course and were archived at Weeksville Heritage Center.

Since then, WOCArchive continues to host intergenerational workshops to continue preserving the stories of all of our grandmothers and matriarchs to ensure these experiences are passed onto future generations.

We are a growing project and we welcome art and oral history submissions from our community. For more info, please check out the highlights on our Instagram page: www.instagram.com/wocarchive

Guiding Questions:

What draws your attention visually?

What did you feel while listening?

Who is a woman in your life whose story should be told?

Photo credits: Lauren Crothers; Jasmin Chang

PRESENTED BY



woc archive.



PhotoWings

Recipient of the 2021 Photoville & PhotoWings Educator Exhibition Grant

Featuring: Mistura Ajanaku, Naomi Aubin, Nyasia Bailey, Wendy Barrales, Jazmine Florencio, Jennifer Florencio, Raheal Mengisteab, Lilai Teckie

Curated by: Wendy Barrales and Jennifer Florencio



PEER EXCHANGE NOTES

★ Projects preserve the stories of mothers and grandmothers of color through:

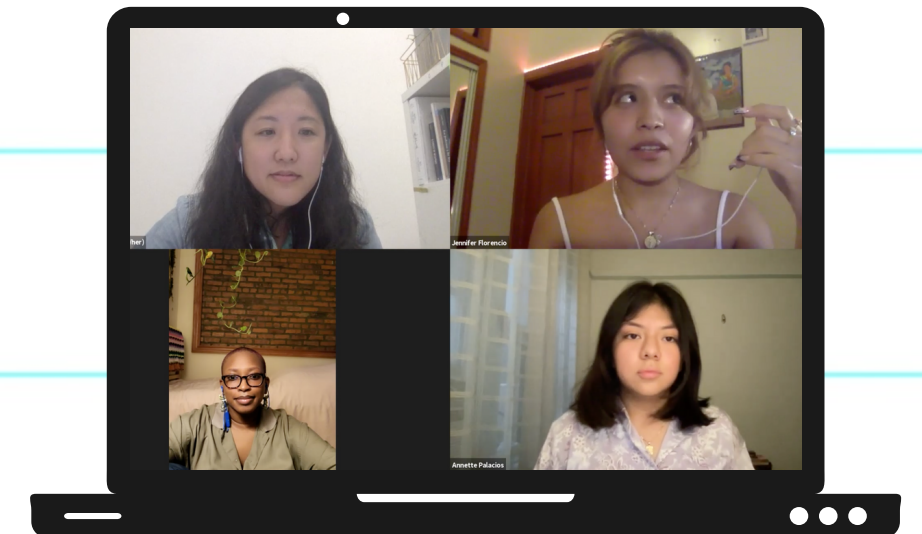
✿ Oral histories

- Stories of migration
- Stories that were heard for the first time by students
- Students saw where gaps were missing in the stories they had previously heard or seen and instead included the missing pieces so that their beloved matriarchs were depicted with compassion and honesty

✿ Art photography

- Using archival materials and photographs to create new works
- Created collages and audio pieces to pair with collages/image-based work
- Using symbols of migration, sisterhood, matriarch and motherhood in projects

Hear from the artists! [Youth Photo Exchange: Looking at our Ancestors](#) →



COLLABORATIVE CURATION

Work with students from start to finish
to conceptualize, curate and produce
an exhibition.

based on the exhibition *Small Details*



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ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

Created in community with students and teachers of Digital Arts and Cinema Technology High School, Small Details highlights acts of resistance and change through lens-based media. As minors, we are often dismissed or ignored in several sectors of our lives, yet as the next generation, we are greatly impacted by adults' collective actions. Rather than focus on our repressed voices, our show emphasizes the ways we empower our voices through photography.

Each piece documents a “small detail” displaying moments of positive change—within ourselves, our families, and our communities. By exhibiting our complex world views, our hope is to uplift others to reflect on the many ways they can create change. While this year has been one of the toughest, photography recentered and grounded us. Our lenses became our voice, as our voice became a language, and through that language began larger conversations. We hope this series not only inspires, but also causes action. The changes we make now are small, but as we gain more understanding of the world we begin to build the future we want to see. The process starts now, and we are ready to take on the responsibility of shaping this world.

Learn more at photoville.nyc/small-details

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

Located in Cobble Hill, Brooklyn, Digital Arts and Cinema Technology High School provides a rigorous academic program dedicated to preparing students to be college and career ready. Through a specialized program that incorporates academic, creative, and technical skills, students are immersed in authentic learning experiences in the fields of digital art, film, and technology. By maintaining a collaborative and supportive learning environment, students who graduate from the Digital Arts and Cinema Technology High School are persistent, resilient, and capable of being successful in college and beyond.

Guiding Questions:

What's one way you enact positive change in your community?

PRESENTED BY



Recipient of the 2021 Photoville & PhotoWings Educator Exhibition Grant.

Featuring: Rhuri Brown, Leonardo Campos Rendon, Zada Gabriel, Alstaire Gibson, Lansan Kamara, Jesus Luna, Destinee Marcion, Maeve McKevitt, Danielle Philip, Lucely Sosa, Amanda Vargas, Nanakwame Williams, Angel Moriarty, Zaqurann Horton Jr., Shane Lohan

Curated by: Caitlin Gibbons, Destinee Marcion, Amanda Vargas



Photo credits: Lauren Crothers; Jessica Bal

PEER EXCHANGE NOTES

The project was created at the Digital Arts and Cinema Technology High School in Brooklyn.

The creators wanted to give voice to the students of the school, individuals that wanted to share a story. Since it is an art oriented school, students were already creating projects throughout the year that were later submitted to this exhibition. Students were working with what they had during quarantine, and curators **Caitlin Gibbons** (instructor), **Destinee Marcion** and **Amanda Vargas** (students) found it hard to choose which submissions to include. They decided to choose the ones that were focused on the small detail to present a creative, mind flowing community.



Destinee Marcion, student, curator of the show and creator of Mother 1 and 2

After almost two years of faces covered with masks, Marcion decided to focus on the small details of her mother's face. For her, learning the small details leads to better discussions and better communications.



Amanda Vargas, student, curator of the show and creator of Environments

Vargas decided to photograph a part of brooklyn she has been passing every day for years. She decided to look at the environment and highlight the small details to make sure to protect the environment.

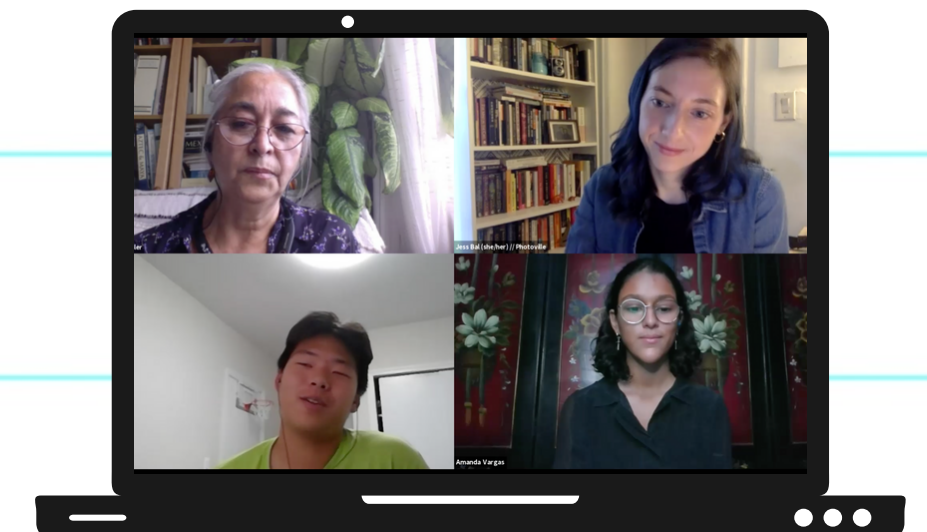


Q: Did focusing on the small details help coping with quarantine?

Destinee Marcion: "Yes. [It helped] recognizing details in peers and family, and focusing on the brighter things in life."



Photo credit: Rachel Marcovich



Hear from the artists! **Looking Inward, Looking Outward** ➔



SELF & COMMUNITY

Photo activities for middle school students to reflect and build their personal and community identity.

*based on the exhibition **In Our Eyes***

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ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

This exhibition features student artists from MS35 in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn. Throughout the 2020-2021 school year, whether learning remotely or partially in-person, student artists found time and made space to get creative. In visual arts classes, we reflect on ourselves and recognize what makes each of us so brilliant. As we see our own qualities, we can then notice the amazing traits of our peers and community. The arts are how we strengthen our communities. We imagine the future we want to see, voice the changes we all need, and then take the steps to build it. In Our Eyes highlights photography from New York City public middle school students who see the light in themselves and the world around them.

Learn more at photoville.nyc/in-our-eyes

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

Stephen Decatur Middle School 35, The Miracle on MacDonough is located in the historic neighborhood of Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn. Our school community takes pride in providing quality instruction on a daily basis while ensuring clear and high expectations for all students. To prepare our students for the 21st century, MS35 integrates the social-emotional needs of our students through sixth-grade Freshman Academy, seventh-grade Restorative Circles, and eighth-grade Civics and Community Service Projects. Students thrive towards mastery by engaging with rich texts through reading, writing, and discussion. They participate in classroom activities that encourage critical thinking and develop deeper understandings, while demonstrating these thoughts through a variety of student-centered and student-led tasks. They are immersed in an academically rigorous environment that fosters productive struggle in the 21st century. By the end of eighth grade, students will have the opportunity to take three high school Regents: algebra, living environment, and U.S. history & government. Community partners engage with our students through workshops and presentations, field excursions, and in-school residencies. Our caregivers are partners in each child's educational journey and we value the ability to communicate with each and every one of our families.

Guiding Questions:

What do you love most about yourself? Complete this sentence:

I am a.....



Photo credits: Jessica Bal; Jasmin Chang

PRESENTED BY



and Stephen Decatur Middle School 35 Arts Department

Recipient of the 2021 Photoville & PhotoWings Educator Exhibition Grant

Featuring: Imani Anthony, Chloe Baker, Keysha Calderon, Zeeyana Carter, Daryus Coachman, Ianthe Collins, Caleb Cooper, Wesley Francois, Antwione Fulmore, Danica Gittens, Kendell Graham, Alyssa Ivory, Terrell King, Benjamin Lewis, Aaliyah Littles, Denisha McMullen, Jahmani Morgan, Ion Padilla, Aerin Quail, Naomi Sergeant, Lorenz Watts, Deborah White, Quadir Wilson, Andreas Williams, Sharese Williams

Curated by: Jacqueline Du



PEER EXCHANGE NOTES



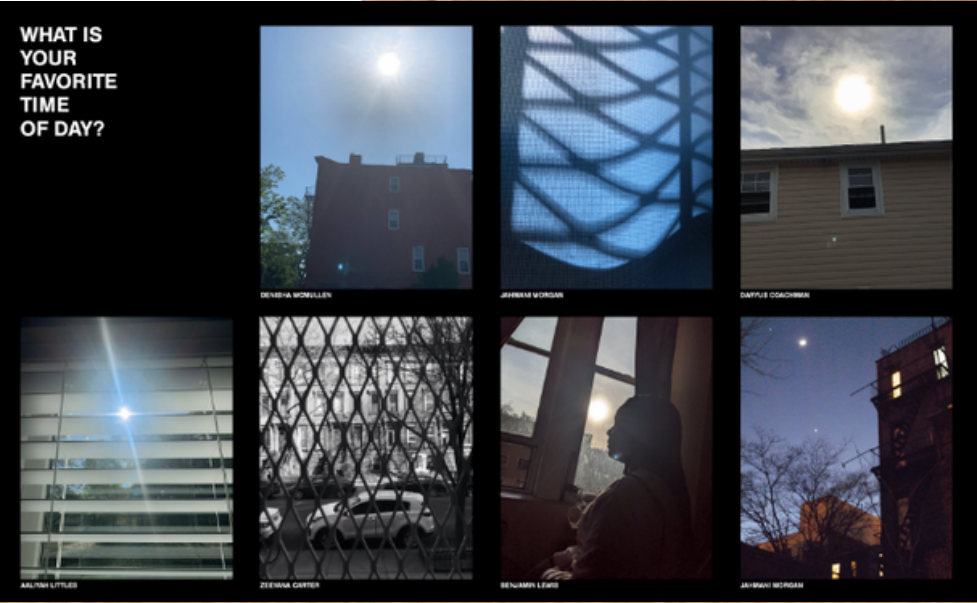
- ★ Jacqueline Du: curator | Works at a middle school in Bedstuy (MS 35)
- ★ Exhibition features student work about the pandemic. Experiences all over the country



3 different projects:



Finding the alphabet in the real world (letters)



Favorite time of day



Self-portraits with a writing component

PEER EXCHANGE NOTES



How it came together

- Main projects completed
- Those that stood out/shined
- All about the students: what they were seeing in daily lives/who they are



“I AM” project

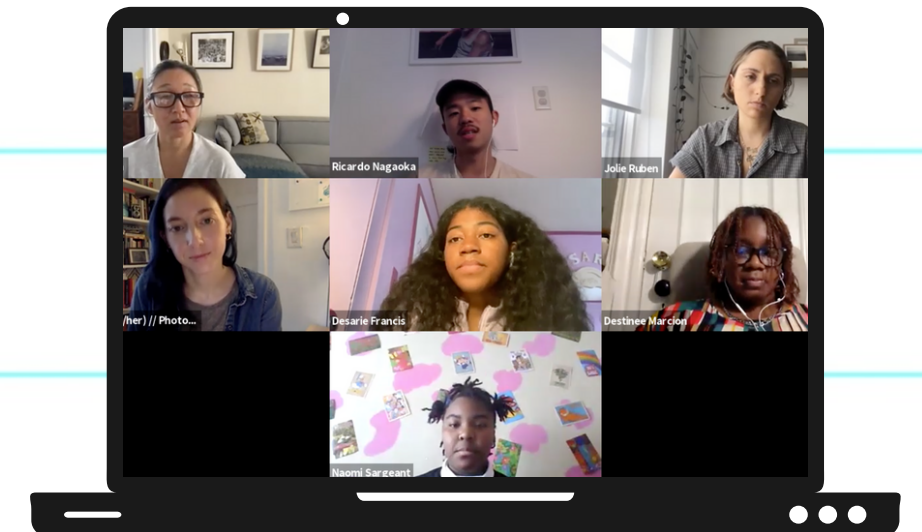
- Affirms students and builds their confidence
- Confidence in creativity
- Kids were able to support each other (showing work to others takes a lot of confidence)
- Builds classroom community/connection



Influence from other artists

- Susan Meiselas: Eyes Open
- Ben Russell
- Aperture: Go Photo! An Activity Book for Kids

Hear from the artists! **Youth Photo Exchange: Looking Inward** ➔





INVESTIGATING ISSUES

Interview activists and critically
think about a social justice issue.

Notes by

Katherine Margall

Presenter

Yael Glick

*based on the exhibition **System Error***

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ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

"System Error" is meant to trigger critical thinking and active citizenship—to promote compassion and empathy, and to inspire the social justice activism in all of us. We interviewed on-the-ground activists to explore and learn about social change and advocacy specifically pertaining to prison reform. We took photos and testimonies from activists who fight for systemic change. Inspired by their stories and hard work, we created this exhibit to highlight the importance of their work.

What we have learned as a class is that you don't need to be on the frontlines, or have a personal connection to bring change. Our goal is to share activists' stories—to raise awareness about societal injustices and bring real change to our communities as well as society at large.

Learn more at photoville.nyc/system-error

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

Voyages Preparatory High School is an alternative school located in the vibrant community of Elmhurst, Queens. Our school provides an enriching learning environment that nurtures and supports each of our students. Our rigorous standards challenge all students to rise to their full potential and become the best global citizens they can be.

Guiding Questions:

What's something new you learned about the criminal justice system?



Photo credits: Jessica Bal; Jasmin Chang



Recipient of the 2021 Photoville & PhotoWings Educator Exhibition Grant.

Featuring: Kelbe Abreu, Jamel Agyeman, Alan Chavez, Roberto A. Fernandez, Geislineth Ferreira, Jennifer Galdamez, Himadri Parmar, Anajelli Rames, Jerry Rivera, D'Andre Smith, Alan Tenecela, Vanesa Valesquez

Curated by: Himadri Parmar, Geislineth Ferreira, Cristian Mejia



PEER EXCHANGE NOTES



Introduction

- Goal = examine social justice in communities
- Worked with photojournalists and activists in certain fields
- Common thread was prison reform > led to the photography exhibition title "System Error"
- Students interviewed and took photos of the activists



Question + Answer



How did this project happen?

The teacher and students came across a professional development event where a high school did a similar photography exhibition. The teacher gained lots of support to make this project happen by making it worth an English credit. Students worked with a photojournalist who ran a two day trip teaching them how to talk to people when approaching them for interviews.



How did they do the photoshoots?

After the students chose an activist to interview, students broke into groups and each of them were assigned roles (ex. One student interviewed the activist, another took the activist's photos). They worked with limited resources, shooting on school grounds and employing symbolism into their photography.



Did the exhibition lead to further connections?

The photojournalists and organizations that supported the project continued their connection with the students, some of them bringing the students on as interns.



How much guidance was involved?

Not a lot. The students ran the class down to professional interviews. The teacher initially helped with emailing supporters and building up the students' confidence. Then the organizations stepped in with further resources.



Any valuable learning experiences?

Having a class where the students can express themselves creatively, learn who they are, and learn through experience (experiential learning) is important.



CONNECT, DREAM & RE-IMAGINE

Storytelling and story-making honoring legacy,
ancestry, and collective wisdom as queer, trans,
Black, Indigenous, and POC young people.

*based on the exhibition **LEGACY***

Notes by

Cydney Blitzer

Presenter

Natalia Guerrero,
Fatmata Bah, and
Shay Lin Gutierrez

Photo by Fatmata Bah,
Untitled from the Les
Fleurs series (2021)

Pictured:
Danielle Arieta-Davis

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ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

"LEGACY" centers the stories and photo journeys of Black, Indigenous, POC, Queer and Trans youth in their roles as story-tellers and story-keepers as part of their collective liberation. This work has been an opportunity to envision and hold space where youth can dream and re-imagine a world that honors their wellness, ancestral medicine, traditions, and stories, as well as their role in building new ones. As Robin Wall Kimmerer shared in Braiding Sweetgrass: "We are not just storytellers, We are also story-makers."

Lion's Tooth Legacy Photo Project, uplifts the stories of seven immigrant and first generation youth photographers. Stories that reflect on the intersections of family, ancestors, joy, race, gender, faith and radical self-love as a way to deconstruct the legacy we choose to carry, heal and part ways from, but also build as future ancestors.

Learn more at photoville.nyc/legacy-connect-dream-re-imagine

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

Lion's Tooth Project inspires immigrant, queer, trans and BIPOC youth to have more agency around their personal stories, healing, and wellness through photography and earth medicine. We believe in the healing power of community, story-telling, story-keeping, and connection to the earth. We center the voices of QTBIPOC youth by connecting in our legacy, joy, and experiences as a tool for liberation.

Offering year-round intentional and youth-led programming we encourage young people to explore / honor their identities, understand the world around them, build leadership skills, and define what wellness and healing mean for them.

Follow us on IG @lionstoothproject to listen to our Hive Mind IG LIVE conversations with LEGACY photographers! Live weekly, September 2021.

Guiding Questions:

What is our legacy as future ancestors?



PRESENTED BY



NYC Parks

Featuring: Daniel-José Cyan, Fatmata Binta Bah, Lea Ibragimov, Shay Lin Gutierrez, MarTaze T. Gaines – "Taz," Miyagi Scott, and Nathalie Flo

Curated by: Lion's Tooth Project



Photo credits: Jasmin Chang; Jessica Bal

PEER EXCHANGE NOTES

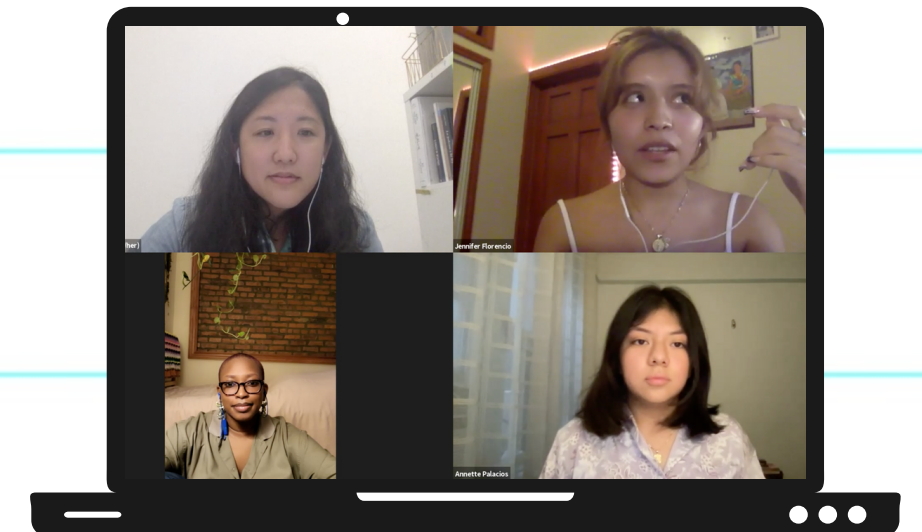
* This year, Photoville deviated from its usual practice of exhibiting photographic work in large shipping containers. Instead, the projects were displayed in many different locations around the Manhattan Bridge/Dumbo area, simultaneously allowing its spectators space to breathe and the freedom to walk between locations including grassy lawn space and waterfront piers.

* I was tasked with taking notes for LEGACY, a collection of images assembled and curated by students from the Lion's Tooth Project. Included on the prior page is the excerpt or statement of intent included on the Photoville website for this body of work.

If you visit the Photoville website, you can read about the seven artists who shared their stories. Their photographs are vibrant and poignant, expressive and confrontational, vulnerable and full of character. Although the educator lab was ultimately conducted quite a distance from Legacy's main exhibition, located at Old Fulton Street and Prospect Street, three individuals came to speak about the work. First was [Natalia Guerrero \(they/them\)](#), the founding creative director of Lion's Tooth, who introduced [Fatmata Binta Bah \(they/them\)](#) and [Shay Lin Gutierrez \(they/them\)](#). Their intention was to facilitate a conversation between and among all of the creatives and educators through questions.

[Fatmata Binta Bah \(they/them\)](#), one of the peer leads and photographers showcasing in Legacy, spoke briefly about what they and their peers had been thinking about while working on the project: "For the past two years we've been thinking about what our future work as ancestors is going to look like. While we are still very young, we know the legacy that has been handed down to us from our families and what we want to continue, what we want to leave behind, and what we want to bring in to feel healthy and feel loved and all the things that we need. At Lion's Tooth Project, we've been looking at Legacy and each of us has approached it in a different way. Some people are looking at mementos, others are looking at particular matriarchs or people in their family, other people are reimagining a new world for themselves and their families through their work."

Hear from the artists! [Youth Photo Exchange: Looking at our Ancestors](#) ➔



PEER EXCHANGE NOTES

* **Shay** also took a moment to introduce themselves and greet the attentive crowd before **Natalia** reclaimed the megaphone.

* “So something that we wanted to do, this is really an opportunity to have a conversation around why this work is important, not just the work that we’re doing but the work that all the educators and young people are doing in this plaza and in the classroom. For us, particularly, when we’re thinking and centering black, indigenous, POC, and queer young people, we’re thinking about what we can do for them so that they feel seen, affirmed, and can reimagine, and dream.” Natalia then recalled the original dreamers who either willingly or unwillingly, immigrated to this country with their own hopes and expectations, that they might someday attain a position of equality in society that would allow them the same rights as everyone else. Their past actions and their efforts allow their descendants to create this work, to reimagine the world, and dream of a better future in which they feel they belong. In other words, the young people of today are a reflection of those who came before, constantly moving forward while never forsaking the past.

Once **Natalia** opened the floor for discussion, one audience member mentioned safe spaces and asked the artists if they found that their work had expanded those safe spaces in some way.

Fatmata responded “I think seeing people do certain things let’s you know what is possible, even if you couldn’t have imagined it for yourself. Being a part of Lion’s Tooth Project and seeing the work that Natalia has created with other young people has reaffirmed for me that what I have to say has value even if outside forces are saying otherwise. In that way, I am then able to carry that same energy and affirm other people without shutting down their voices, their ideas or imagination.” It reminded me again of how we learn from the past. How seeing the successes of others can empower an individual to believe in their own capacity to bring about change. **Fatmata** also acknowledged that maintaining safe spaces can be difficult when there are so many individual voices and intentions within the collective.

Natalia added, “when working with young people it’s important to understand that there are both individual and collective layers entwined in the creative process. Something that has worked for us is making sure that we are creating that space with each individual person to understand not only their creative journey but also what’s going on for them in that moment.” They then talked about how courageous spaces are also necessary to the process. How we need to hold each other accountable without shying away from difficult conversations. In response, an educator in the crowd affirmed that trying to create that kind of space from Day 1 can be really beneficial.

Natalia concluded the discussion with one particularly powerful sentiment. “Safe spaces can be life saving spaces for the young people involved.”



Fall 2021 Educator Lab



VIDEO ARTIST STATEMENTS

Craft a personal statement about your
process and your art.

Notes by

Alyssa Dickson

Presenter

Brenna McLaughlin

Photo by Erica Fredes

based on the exhibition
Teaching Creativity:
Making Art in a Pandemic

EXHIBITED IN BROOKLYN BRIDGE PARK
FROM SEPTEMBER 18–DECEMBER 1, 2021
AS PART OF THE PHOTOVILLE FESTIVAL
WITH THE SUPPORT OF 10 YEAR
ANNIVERSARY PARTNER, LEICA CAMERA.

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

Students of the High School of Art and Design will display work they made during remote learning due to the pandemic. Students increased their experience of photography, and shared it with those they photographed. They were asked to engage in projects on a much more independent level during remote learning. In this exhibit, students portray these experiences through self-reflection and interviews with their families. Through their work, they teach their families, friends, and associates about photography.

Learn more at photoville.nyc/teaching-creativity-making-art-in-a-pandemic

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

During one of the most challenging years of our lives, our students made incredible images that captured so many aspects of their experiences. As you can see, our students continued and increased their capacity to create invigorating images with perseverance and heart. We look at this past year, a year in a pandemic, where students got to pause and think about what really matters to them. Students increased their shared experience of photography to those they photographed and were asked to engage in projects on a much more independent level during remote learning. In this exhibit, students highlight this incredible work. By clicking on the QR codes next to the students photographs, you will be able to hear from the students directly.

Guiding Questions:

How do we adapt in challenging times to create art that reflects our experiences?

How does hearing from the artist directly help us understand their approach?

Photo credits: Jessica Bal; Lauren Crothers

PRESENTED BY

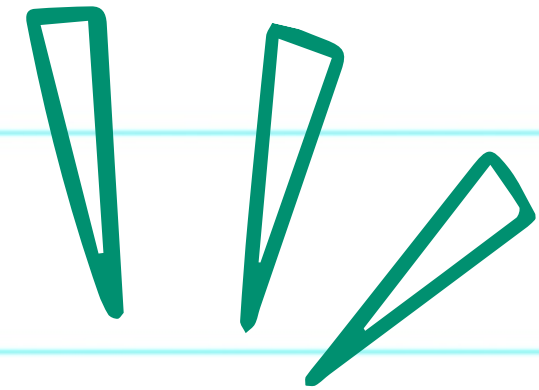


Featuring: Brianna Brand, Desarie Francis, Erica Fredes, Fiorella Vasquez, Giovanna Gordon, Kamila Bartoszewicz, Lynnet Taveras, Mara Matthews, Mosijah Roye, Samantha Negroni, Adriana Torres Moran, Annette Palacios

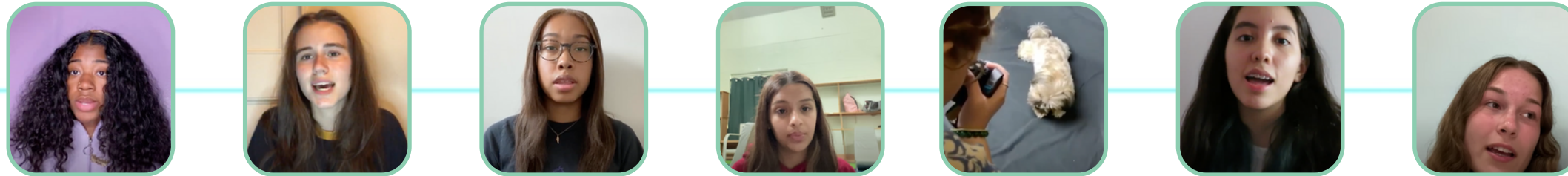
Curated by: Brenna McLaughlin and Ben Russell



PEER EXCHANGE NOTES

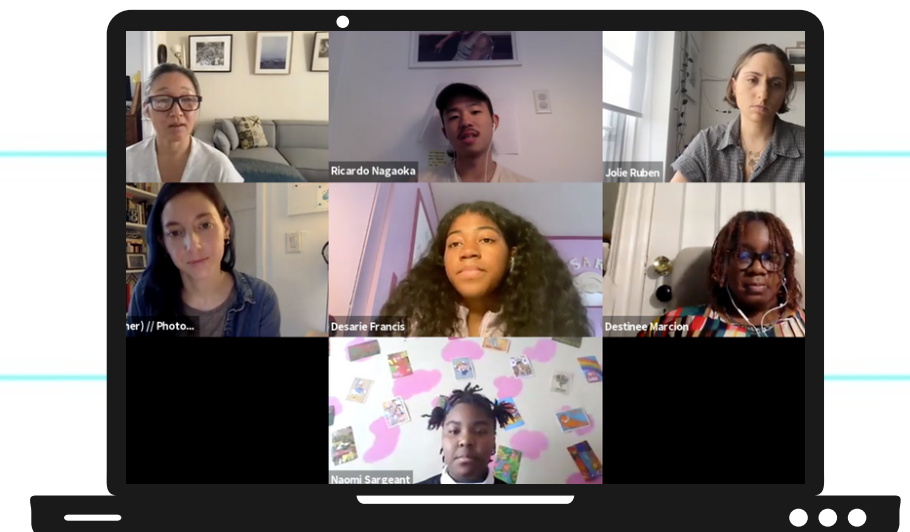


- ✿ Watch artist statement videos recorded by the student artists at the Photoville website.



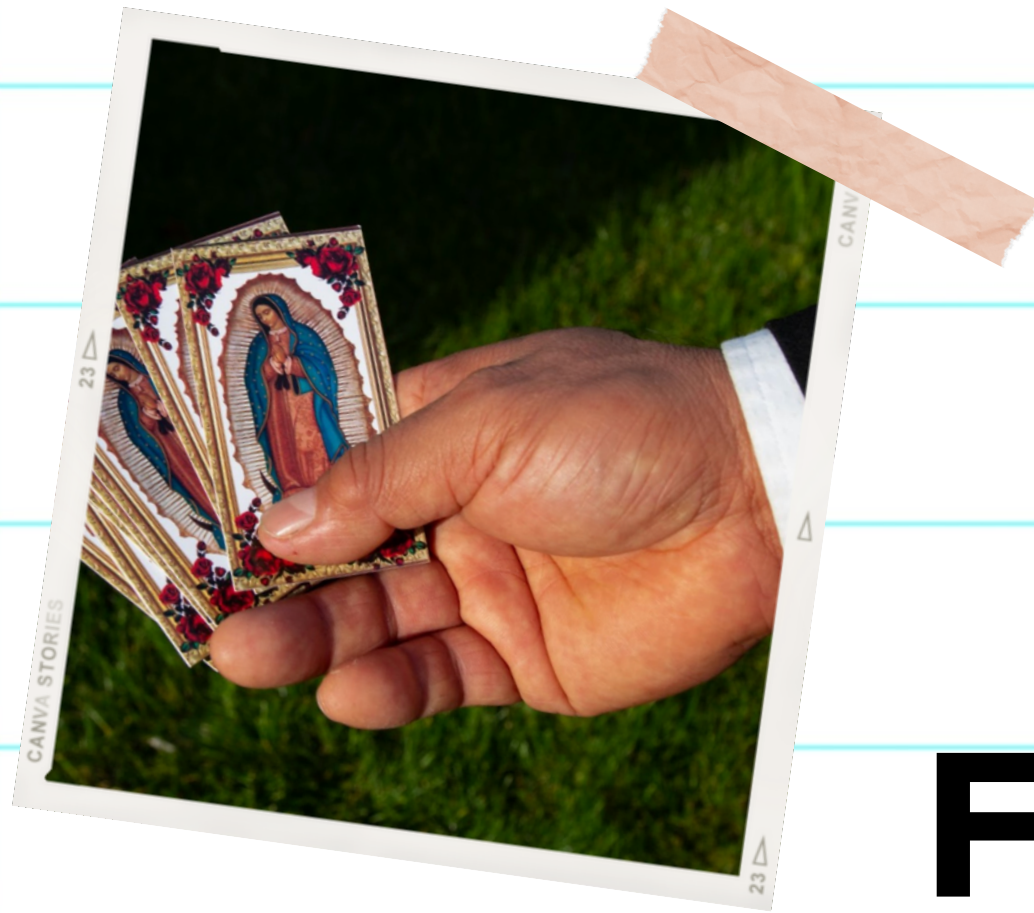
- ✿ A crossover project between two schools where students got to teach other students
 - Students shared stories, heard different stories and learned from one another through their art practice
- ✿ Students created the work remotely and were given the opportunity to have their work shown through a juried process
 - Challenged students to create a body of work with a artist statement
- ✿ Students got to listen to real world professionals and engage in an internship program while working on their projects

Hear from the artists! **Youth Photo Exchange: Looking Inward** ➔





Fall 2021 Educator Lab



Notes by
Rachel Marcovich

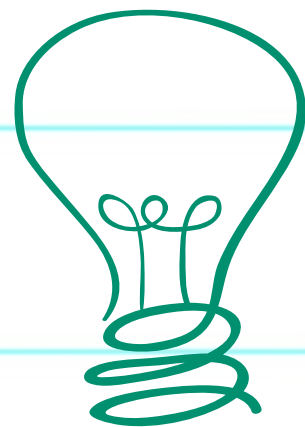
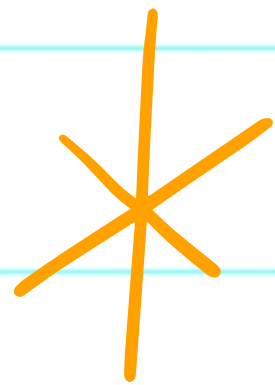
Presenter
Ben Russell

Photo by
Annette Palacios

FAMILY STORIES

Prompt students to look towards
their family & culture with fresh and
creative eyes.

based on the exhibition
Teaching Creativity:
Making Art in a Pandemic



EXHIBITED IN BROOKLYN BRIDGE PARK
FROM SEPTEMBER 18–DECEMBER 1, 2021
AS PART OF THE PHOTOVILLE FESTIVAL
WITH THE SUPPORT OF 10 YEAR
ANNIVERSARY PARTNER, LEICA CAMERA.

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

Photography students at the High School of Fashion Industries had to turn their lenses inward this year and explore domestic life in a deep and meaningful way. My students' creativity during the pandemic has led me to learn so much more about their family lives and cultures. The population of HSFI is 57% Hispanic—a rich mix of Dominican, Mexican, Ecuadorian, and Puerto Rican cultures—which I, as a white teacher of European descent, have known little about. This year my students have become my teachers, guiding me through the experiences of Hispanic immigrants living and surviving in New York City.

Learn more at photoville.nyc/teaching-creativity-making-art-in-a-pandemic

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

The mission of the High School of Fashion Industries is to provide challenging, creative, and effective career, technical, and academic training for New York City students. The faculty and administration of our school—working with the cooperation of the parents and student body—seek to provide a unique learning experience and a specially tailored program for all students who have an interest in a fashion-related field.

Guiding Questions:

What does home look like for you?

If you had to choose one person, place or thing to photograph that represents home—what would that be?

Photo credits: Jessica Bal; Lauren Crothers

PRESENTED BY



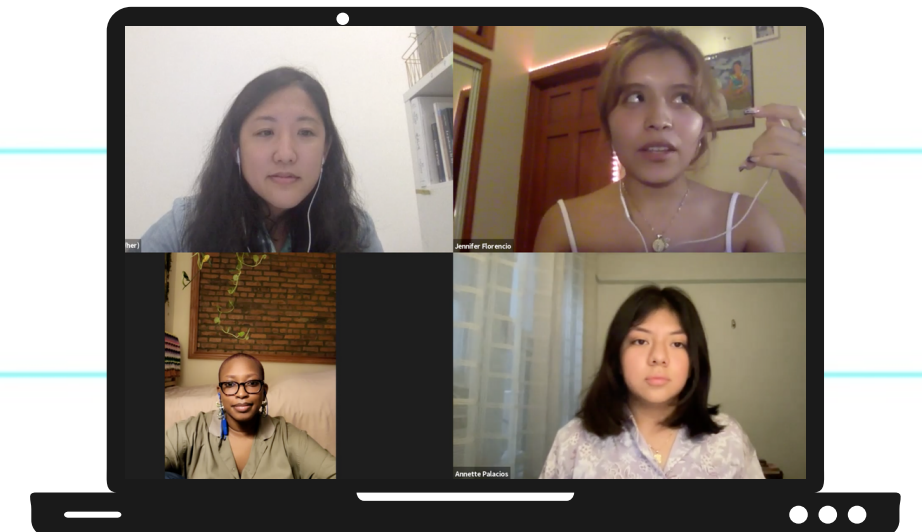
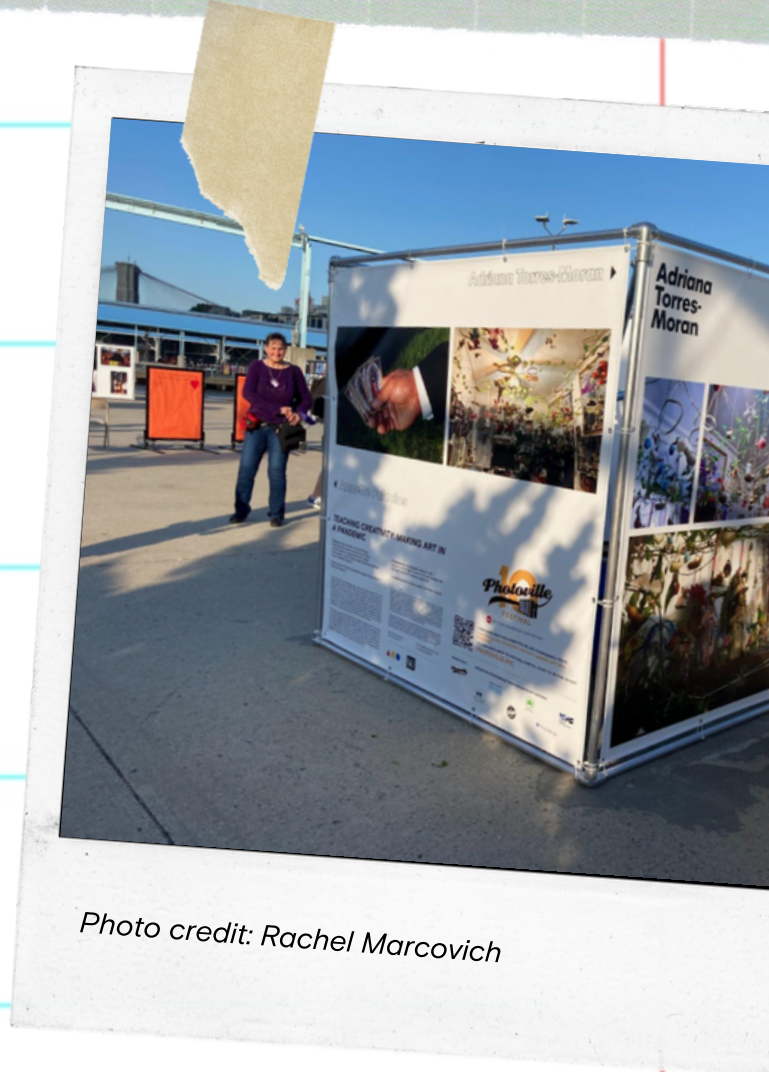
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Curated by: Brenna McLaughlin and Ben Russell



PEER EXCHANGE NOTES

- ★ Making the home an interesting subject matters for the students.
- ★ A collaboration between two schools. The educators met during a previous session of Photoville's education lab and decided to collaborate and create a shared project.
- ★ The project was created by film and photography students. The application process was competitive- students had to submit their work plan and artists statements and were chosen by a jury. The instructors gave priority to students who had not presented in Photoville in the past.
- ★ In addition to the photographs the exhibition included QR codes for visitors to scan and watch video essays that the students created as a part of their process.
- ★ The individual projects were created remotely.
- ★ As a part of the project:
 - The schools provided students with expensive equipment including lighting gear.
 - The educators partnered with artists for mentoring programs
 - Students were inspired by the artists' stories when making their own.
 - One school offered an internship program that allowed students to work more closely with the artists.
- ★ The project was a part of the AP Art program at the school (there is no AP in photography, and therefore it can be offered as a part of a studio art program). It was a year round project and each student had to present 15 photographs at the end of the year.
- ★ For educator Ben Russell, the year of remote learning was very challenging. Through the computer screens he got familiar ("maybe too familiar") with the students' bedrooms and homes. It was very powerful for him, and through the houses and projects of his students he learned a lot about the Hispanic culture of the school.



Hear from the artists! **Youth Photo Exchange: Looking at our Ancestors** ➔

WATCH YOUTH PANELS ONLINE!

+ MANY MORE PHOTOVILLE SESSIONS
& EDUCATION VIDEOS

THE 2021 PHOTOVILLE FESTIVAL
EDUCATION PROGRAM IS PROUDLY
PRODUCED IN PARTNERSHIP
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NYC MAYOR'S OFFICE OF MEDIA
AND ENTERTAINMENT



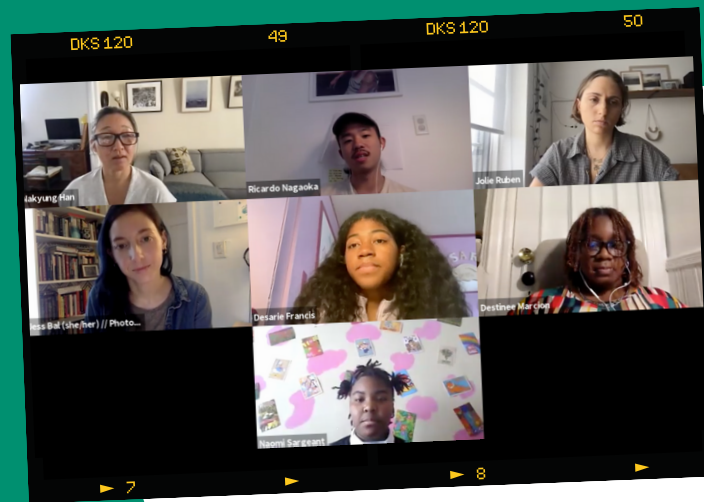
Youth Photo Exchange: Looking Outward

[CLICK HERE TO TUNE IN](#)



Youth Photo Exchange: Looking at our Ancestors

[CLICK HERE TO TUNE IN](#)



Youth Photo Exchange: Looking Inward

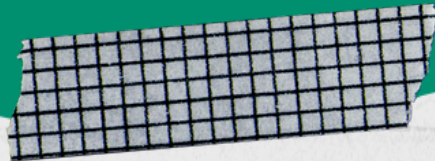
[CLICK HERE TO TUNE IN](#)



ICP Teen Storytellers Impacting Change

[CLICK HERE TO TUNE IN](#)

LEARN ABOUT ADDITIONAL YOUTH EXHIBITIONS AT PHOTOVILLE 2021



An Incredible Freedom

Amidst the overwhelming circumstances of our time, what do these young photographers of New York City feel free enough to look closely at?

presented by East Side Photo Program and Photoville in partnership with PhotoWings. Recipient of the 2020 Photoville & PhotoWings Educator Exhibition Grant

photoville.nyc/an-incredible-freedom



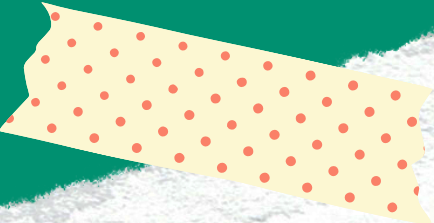
Photo credits: Jessica Bal

ICP at THE POINT: Picturing Sorrow and Joy

ICP at THE POINT: Picturing Sorrow and Joy is an exhibition of photographs by students from the International Center of Photography's partnership with THE POINT CDC.

presented by The International Center of Photography and NYC Parks - Barretto Point Park

photoville.nyc/icp-at-the-point-picturing-sorrow-and-joy



The People that are Within These Frames

The Bronx Documentary Center's both senior and junior photo leagues were asked by the New York Times to make self-portraits; how they defined self-portrait was up to them. Their resulting images are an insight into who they are and what they've reflected on at home during the time of COVID-19.

presented by Bronx Documentary Center

photoville.nyc/the-people-that-are-within-these-frames



PHOTOVILLE YOUTH DAY

Photoville Youth Day was an afternoon, in-person field trip for students to visit Photoville in Brooklyn Bridge Park. Students had the opportunity to do a walking tour of the exhibitions, where they heard from professional Photoville artists, such as **Michelle V. Agins (A Retrospective Of A Pioneering New York Times Photographer)**, **David Gonzalez (Bronx Life)**, and **Guerdley Cajus (Lakou Nou 2021)**, as well as explored the youth exhibitions in the festival. The field trip ended with a (socially distant) pizza party and celebration.





Fall 2021 Educator Lab

We want to hear from you!

How are you using this toolkit?

What ideas or thoughts has it sparked?

Please write to us at

education@photoville.com

or tag us on social media to share how
you're using our education resources.

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