

STATES OF

INCARCERATION

A NATIONAL DIALOGUE

OF LOCAL HISTORIES

EXHIBITION PAMPHLET

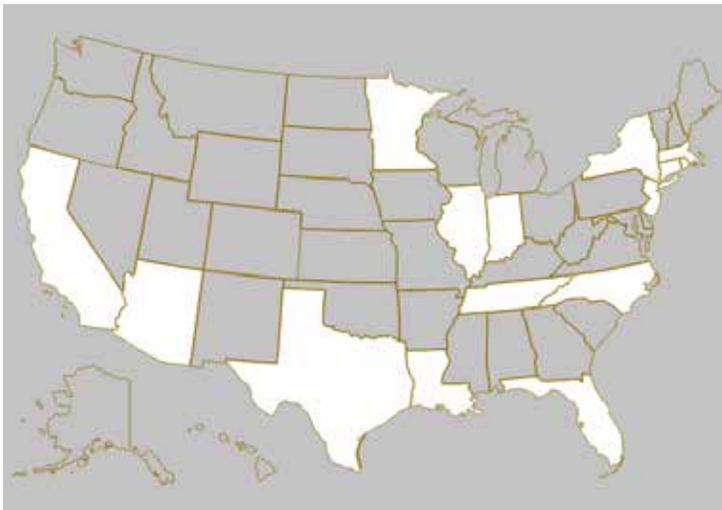
ABOUT STATES OF INCARCERATION

States of Incarceration was created by over 500 students and others deeply affected by incarceration in 20 cities, and growing. They grew up in a United States that incarcerates more of its people, including immigrants, than any country in the world – and at any point in its history. Recently, they have witnessed a new bipartisan consensus that the criminal justice system is broken and the intense conflict over how to fix it.

In 2015, they came together to ask: How did this happen? What new questions does the past challenge us to ask about what is happening now? To find answers, they examined their own communities' histories. Through courses at 20 universities, local teams shared stories, searched archives, and visited correctional facilities. Each team created one piece of a nationally traveling exhibit and website, statesofincarceration.org.

Together, they created a diverse genealogy of the incarceration generation. It challenges all of us to remember our own past and use the insights of history to shape what happens next.

Your history — and that of your community — will tell a different story that teaches us all something new. Join the national dialogue by hosting the exhibit, hosting public dialogues, contributing your community's history to the exhibit through the SOI process, or participating in the online discussion.



States of Incarceration is a project of the Humanities Action Lab, a coalition of universities led by Rutgers University-Newark working with issue organizations and public spaces to create traveling public projects on the past, present, and future of pressing social issues.



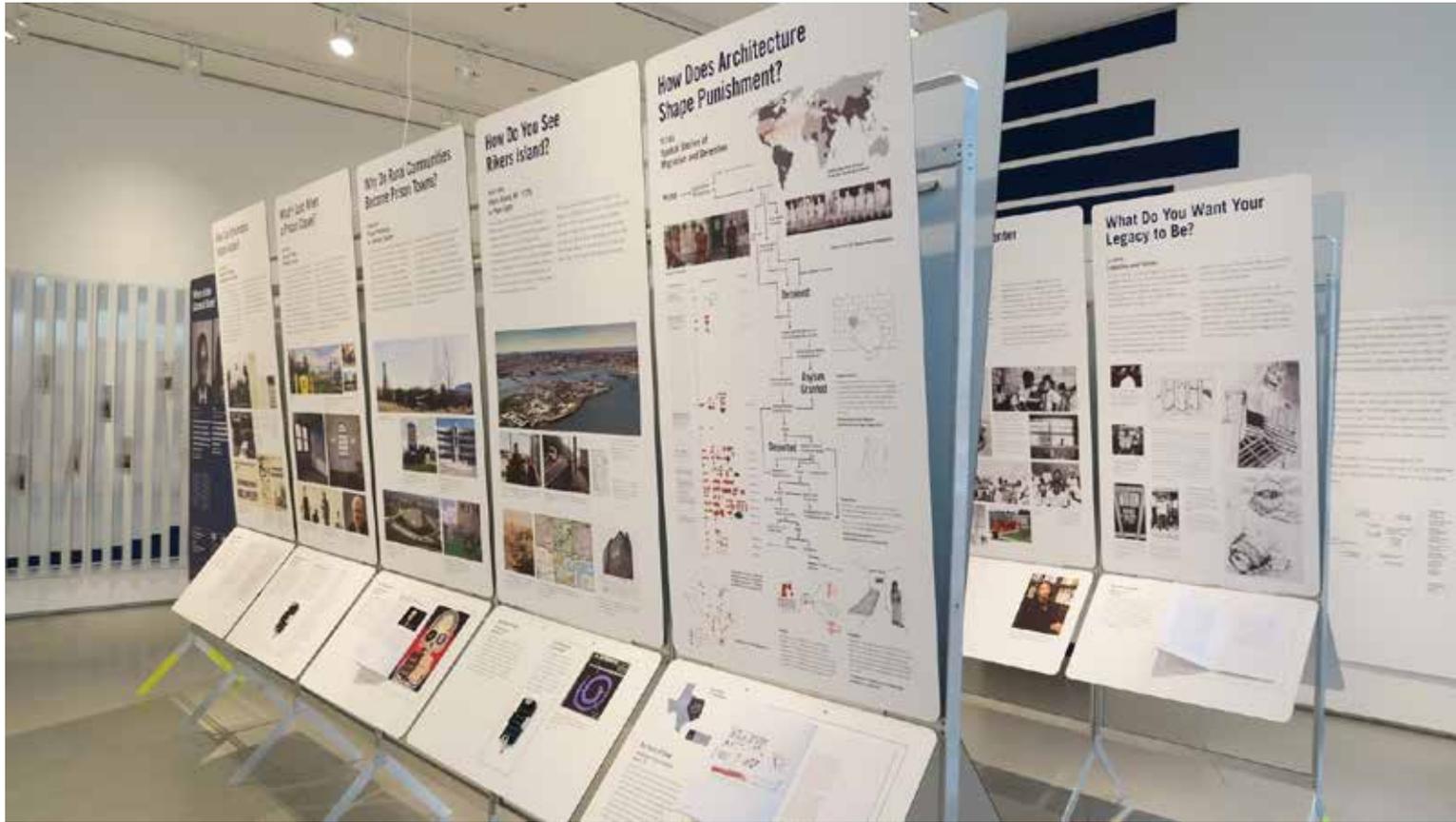


EXHIBIT COMPONENTS

The **States of Incarceration** exhibition consists of:

- **20 Local Stories** panels (with more being added each year), each exploring a local history and curated by that community;
- **4 thematic framing panels**, each containing a national thematic question around which the local stories are organized;
- **20 “outside face”** panels featuring quotes and large-scale images from that locality;
- a tactile interactive installation that invites visitors to place themselves and their stories on a scale titled: **How Close Are You to Incarceration?;**
- a **Timeline** comparing rates of incarceration over time and among communities today;
- a **Shape the Debate** mobile dialogue that allows visitors to contribute to the national dialogue and connects with the web platform.



LOCAL STORIES AND THEMATIC FRAMING PANELS



What is a Crime? Who is a Criminal?

How Do Prisons Reflect Societal Values?

Locked Up: Understanding Prison in Premodern Context

Prisoners were markedly different from the system of hyperincarceration in the United States today. The patterns of premodern captivity varied radically across eras and continents, but they consistently reflected the religious, economic, and political tenets of their respective societies. The manifestations of these cultural values within prisons had a profound effect on individuals, who

in turn shaped their societies' understandings of captivity. By analyzing the physical and social structures of premodern prisons and the experiences of those in custody, we gain enough historical context to realize that current system of mass incarceration in the United States is not an inevitable outcome.



Historical images and text snippets related to premodern prisons, including depictions of prisoners, prison architecture, and historical documents.

Are Prisons for Punishment or Rehabilitation?

MASSACHUSETTS The Norfolk Prison Colony Debating Society

Norfolk Prison Colony was founded as the nation's first "community prison" in 1929. It was built on the philosophy of keeping incarcerated people engaged with, rather than removed from, the world. It had dormitories, not cells, a school, a gym, an auditorium. According to the prison school's former principal Carlo Geromini, "Once you got inside the walls, you didn't even know you were in a prison." In 1931, a group of "lifers" formed the Norfolk Prison Debating Society.

The Norfolk debaters went up against—and regularly defeated—top college and university teams from their communities for treatment into often overcrowded hospital wards. Indiana's first mental hospital, Central State, opened in 1848. This facility's 1994 closure was part of a nationwide process called deinstitutionalization that began in the 1950s. Policy makers, politicians, and psychiatrists worked intensively to create community-based mental health care. However, in Indiana, like most of the country, these facilities were inadequate to the need.



Historical images and text snippets related to the Norfolk Prison Colony Debating Society, including photos of prisoners, prison buildings, and historical documents.

Why Are Prisons the Nation's Mental Hospitals?

INDIANA Intersections of Incarceration and Mental Illness

In the early 1800s, Americans opened hospitals to care for people with mental illness, removing patients from their communities for treatment into often overcrowded hospital wards. Indiana's first mental hospital, Central State, opened in 1848. This facility's 1994 closure was part of a nationwide process called deinstitutionalization that began in the 1950s. Policy makers, politicians, and psychiatrists worked intensively to create community-based mental health care. However, in Indiana, like most of the country, these facilities were inadequate to the need.

Today, encounters between people with mental illness and law enforcement result in more people with mental illness receiving care in correctional facilities than in state hospitals. The stress and isolation of incarceration often causes people's mental health to deteriorate. Policies including mental health courts, which Indianapolis advocates pioneered, divert people with mental illness from correctional facilities, improving conditions in prisons and jails and providing treatment upon release could break the cycle.



Historical images and text snippets related to the intersections of incarceration and mental illness in Indiana, including photos of hospital buildings, patients, and historical documents.

How Have Youth Been Criminalized?

CALIFORNIA In Detention: The War on Youth

Since the opening of state institutions for "juvenile delinquents" and "uncivilized" Native American children in the 1890s, young people of color and those with disabilities have been disproportionately subjected to technologies and cultures of control. Wheeler State School for juvenile offenders and Sherman Institute both used disciplinary regimens and scientific research to link race to criminality. The purpose, at best, was to assimilate and train youth for mental labor and, at worst, to segregate, incarcerate, and sterilize them. Like the mid-20th

century fears of "juvenile delinquents," gang injunctions since the 1980s and racial profiling today continue the policing of youth culture. Schools, too, with police, surveillance, cell-like buildings, and punitive testing, bear hallmarks of a penal system. Though highly bound to reside within these technologies of control, youth find ways to resist criminal labeling, and they fight for change.



Historical images and text snippets related to youth criminalization in California, including photos of youth in detention, police, and historical documents.

What Are Women's Prisons For?

MASSACHUSETTS Reforming Gender and the Carceral State

The Framingham Reformatory Prison for Women, founded in 1877, catalyzed women's carceral reform. Nineteenth-century reformers advocated for separate prisons to address women's needs, but by criminalizing certain behaviors and promoting others through domestic skills-based programming and a strong culture of surveillance, women's prisons became powerful enforcers of white, middle-class norms of gender and sexuality.

Similarly justified as necessary for meeting women's "distinct needs," white officials stamped the jail as "gender responsive," activities reject this notion. Women have been shackled during childbirth, denied proper prenatal nutrition, victimized during strip searches, and many lose custody of their children. As a result of the War on Drugs, mandatory minimum sentences, and the decimation of the social safety net—and compounded by racism, sexism, and economic injustice—women are the fastest-growing incarcerated population in the United States.



Historical images and text snippets related to women's prisons in Massachusetts, including photos of prison buildings, women, and historical documents.

RHODE ISLAND

Locked Up—Understanding Prison in Pre-Modern Context: How do prisons reflect societal values? Pre-modern prisons were markedly different from the system of hyper-incarceration in the United States today. (Brown University)

MASSACHUSETTS

The Norfolk Prison Colony Debating Society: Are prisons for punishment or rehabilitation? Norfolk Prison Colony was founded as the nation's first "community prison" in 1929. It was built on the philosophy of keeping incarcerated people engaged with, rather than removed from, the world. (Northeastern University)

INDIANA

Intersections of Mass Incarceration and Mental Illness: Why are prisons the nation's mental hospitals? In the early 1800's, Americans opened hospitals to care for people with mental illness, removing patients from their communities for treatment into often-overcrowded hospital wards. (Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis)

CALIFORNIA

In Detention: How have youth been criminalized? Since the opening of state institutions for "juvenile delinquents" and "uncivilized" Native American children in the 1890s, young people of color and those with disabilities have been disproportionately subjected to technologies and cultures of control. (University of California, Riverside)

MASSACHUSETTS

Reforming Gender and the Carceral State: What are women's prisons for? The Framingham Reformatory Prison for Women, founded in 1877, catalyzed women's carceral reform. (University of Massachusetts Amherst)

Are Criminals Citizens? Are Non-Citizens Criminals?

How Has Settler Colonialism Shaped the Carceral State?

MINNESOTA Carceral Colonialism: Imprisonment in Indian Country

Settler colonialism has involved denying Native people sovereignty and dispossessing them of their land and resources. It has also produced high rates of incarceration of American Indians in Minnesota and throughout the country. How? Far over two centuries, American Indians have been forcibly removed from their lands and homes. This history of removal has been achieved through unfair treaties that created the reservation system; systematic violence and warfare, including confining Dakota people to a concentration camp at the U.S. military outpost Fort Snelling and the execution of 40

Dakota men during the U.S. Dakota War of 1862-3; encasement on tribal jurisdiction; and taking children from their families and placing them in boarding schools. Mass incarceration continues these patterns of removal by displacing Native people from communities and through prison-based gerrymandering.

Today, as always, Native Minnesotans resist carceral colonialism through acts of cultural preservation and political activism.



Children were dying day and night... Amid all the sickness and these great tribulations, it seemed doubtful at night whether a person would be alive in the morning.
David Hewitt, *Incarcerated at Fort Snelling*, 1862-3



MINNESOTA

Carceral Colonialism: Imprisonment in Indian Country: How has settler colonialism shaped the carceral state? Settler colonialism has involved denying Native people sovereignty and access to land and resources. It has also produced high rates of incarceration of American Indians in Minnesota and the country. (University of Minnesota)

How Can Detained Immigrants and Asylees Fight Back?

NEW JERSEY Seeking Asylum, Resisting Detention

In the mid-1980s, as concerns about terrorism and the growing numbers of asylum seekers rose, the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) contracted Esmor Correctional Services to open a detention facility in Elizabeth, NJ. After detainees' complaints about inhumane conditions and a hunger strike were ignored, nearly 300 detainees, mostly men from Africa, "rioted" in June 1995, breaking furniture and windows. An assessment by INS discovered that "detainees were subjected to harassment, verbal abuse, and other degrading

actions perpetrated by Esmor guards" who had been poorly trained and supervised. Soon after, Somalian asylum seeker Hava Jama and 19 other detainees became plaintiffs in *Jama v. Esmor Correctional Services*, the first time detainees were given the right to sue a private corporation. The 2007 settlement awarded damages to the plaintiffs. The hunger strike, uprising, and lawsuit illustrate ways that detainees have protested the conditions of their detention.



NEW JERSEY

Seeking Asylum, Resisting Detention: How can detained immigrants and asylees fight back? In the mid-1990s, as concerns about terrorism and growing numbers of asylum seekers rose, the US Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) contracted Esmor Correctional Services to open a detention facility in Elizabeth, NJ. (Rutgers University-Newark)

Who Is the Death Penalty For?

NORTH CAROLINA Death and Life at Central Prison

This project explores the past and present of the death penalty in North Carolina through changing technologies, constitutional controversies, philosophies of punishment, and social inequities. Our focus is Central Prison, the state's first prison and the home of its death row. Between 1984 and 2015, the state of North Carolina executed 43 people, but has not executed anyone since 2006. And in 2015, no one was sentenced to death. Our project seeks to place the death penalty in North Carolina in an international, intellectual, and historical context. It explains recent moratoria

connected with racial inequality and constitutional questions of cruelty, reflects on the role of changing technologies in the death penalty process, and compares and contrasts imprisonment and punishment in North Carolina with punishment in Norway. Along the way, it explores these basic questions: why and how and for whom do we administer lethal punishment?



NORTH CAROLINA

Death and Life at Central Prison: Who is the death penalty for? This project explores the past and present of the death penalty in North Carolina through changing technologies, constitutional controversies, philosophies of punishment, and social inequities. (Duke University)

Processing Center or Prison?

FLORIDA Crimmigration at Krome

In 1980, Fidel Castro opened the Mariel port, and approximately 125,000 Cubans left en masse. At the same time, more than 10,000 Haitians fled the Duvalier regime and landed in the United States. The U.S. government established a makeshift immigration processing center at a former missile site, Krome North and South, in Miami, to house and manage the unprecedented number of Caribbean migrants.

While the Refugee Act of 1980 opened more opportunities for asylum seekers, all too often Haitians arriving in the U.S. faced discrimination and deportation, and after 1980, detention at centers like Krome. After 1996 legislation merged immigration law violators and criminal charges, overcrowding became a significant concern.

Since 9/11, Krome's population has diversified; today its 600 male detainees include foreign nationals from Central and South America, Africa, and Asia, as well as the Caribbean.



FLORIDA

Crimmigration at Krome: Processing center or prison? In 1980, Fidel Castro opened the Mariel Port, and approximately 125,000 Cubans left en masse. At the same time, more than 10,000 Haitians fled the Duvalier regime and landed in the United States. (University of Miami)

What Do You Want Your Legacy to Be?

ILLINOIS Legacies and Voices

In 2012 DePaul University began its Inside-Out program, wherein incarcerated people and college students meet and learn as equals. During a prison-exchange program, DePaul students and incarcerated men asked each other: What do you want your personal legacy to be?

What do we, the people of Illinois, want our collective legacy to be? Our state's criminal justice history includes torture, racism, wrongful convictions, the first supreme prison. This is our legacy now, but it doesn't have to stay that way. For generations, activists, reformers, legal advocates, and prisoners themselves have struggled to rewrite Illinois's incarceration story.

Some wanted to become grassroots organizers or teachers, making a difference in their world. Others simply wanted to be remembered as a good person. Some incarcerated students hoped to show what prisons do to people, families, and communities. Others recalled dreams: incarceration took them from—becoming a baseball player, a rock star,

a doctor, a freeman. Some said they never had the chance to think about legacy. Read more in the accompanying exhibit book.



ILLINOIS

Legacies and Voices: What do you want your legacy to be? During a prison-exchange program, DePaul students and incarcerated men asked each other: What do you want your personal legacy to be? (DePaul University)

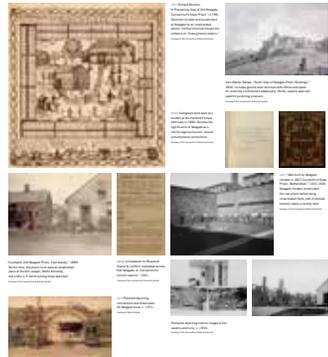
Who Works For Prisons? Who Do Prisons Work For?

What Should Tourists Learn at a Historic Prison?

CONNECTICUT Digging Deep into the Carceral Past

Located in East Granby, the "Old New-Gate Prison & Copper Mine" was incorporated as a mine in 1705. After being abandoned for two decades, the old shafts were designated the colony's first prison in 1775. Those incarcerated at Newgate were required to work the mine and were confined underground. New forms of labor were introduced over time—all on the surface—while prisoners remained confined below at night. During the Revolution, logjacks were incarcerated there. In 1790, Newgate became the nation's first state prison.

Following its closure in 1827 and several failed attempts at restarting the mine through the 1840s, Newgate became a tourist destination run by private owners until it was purchased by the state and designated a historic site in 1968. Why was a mine presumed a good place for incarceration, prison labor, and tourism?



Sentenced to Slavery, Stuck in Jim Crow?

LOUISIANA Windows on Angola Prison

Louisiana has the highest rate of incarceration in the world, with 1 in 86 adult residents behind bars in 2012. The state also has one of the worst rates of racial disparity in sentencing and incarceration. A 2014 study by the American Civil Liberties Union found that black Louisianians are 23 times more likely than whites to be sentenced to life without the possibility of parole for non-violent crimes, and currently make up 91.4% of those prisoners. The Louisiana State Penitentiary, known as Angola, 147 miles northwest of New Orleans, is the largest maximum security prison in the United States.

Located on an 18,000-acre former slave plantation, prisoners are still forced to labor in cotton and sugar cane fields. These video essays use historic images and documents to examine a range of issues related to work: from forced labor, surveillance, and punishment to strategies prisoners have used to transgress restraints through writing, music, and working for reform.



How Is the Racialized Prisoner the Ideal Worker?

NEW JERSEY Seabrook Farms and "Free" Labor

Our exploration of Seabrook Farms and its layered histories examines the wartime relationship between captive labor and capitalism, and how social control extended beyond the immediate confines of internment camps.

While federal officials defended internment as a matter of national security, no evidence backed this claim and no formal charges were ever made. Internment did reflect white Americans' longstanding belief that Japanese immigrants and their children were racially unassimilable.

Renowned for its flash-frozen vegetables, Seabrook Farms was by 1950 the largest agribusiness in the United States, employing more than 6,000 laborers. World War II created new opportunities for Seabrook to procure laborers with limited options. This included approximately 2,500 American citizens and immigrants of Japanese descent incarcerated in

At Seabrook, paroled internees worked alongside displaced persons, POWs, and contracted migrant laborers, groups whose freedom of mobility and choice were similarly constrained. A company town, Seabrook's power over its workforce blurred the line between captivity and freedom.



How Do Profits Shape Punishment?

ARIZONA The Cost of Immigration Detention

Arizona's Eloy Detention Center is the third largest immigrant detention facility in the nation. It is also one of the most notorious. Among the 32 deaths of detainees in the United States from 2003-2015, 14 perished while incarcerated at Eloy—with five of these deaths attributed to suicide or asphyxiation. The facility offers a prime example for understanding the human costs of the for-profit contractors industry to immigrants, their families, and those who work within detention facility walls. Operated by the private company Corrections

Corporation of America, Eloy received \$64.47 per day from the federal government for each person detained in 2015. Because CCA strives to provide "quality corrections services, offer a compelling value, and increase occupancy and revenue," incentives to extend sentences while reducing spending on food, staffing, and medical care contribute to the realities that detainees face each day.



What Can We Learn from Listening?

NORTH CAROLINA Voices from the Chain Gang

In the early 1900s, courts sentenced prisoners to pound rocks and shovel dirt. Convicted of minor crimes, these men built North Carolina's highways. The Good Roads Movement in the 1910s promoted the construction of modern highways to facilitate commerce and tourism. Progressive reformers argued the state to use prisoners to build roads. North Carolina's state government refused to oversee highway construction and left the administration of chain gangs to county governments. County employees, unaccounted with prisoners' welfare, kept them in filthy camps and rags, refused them medical care, and beat them without mercy.

Prisoner appeals did not produce immediate results, but they influenced the state's decision to assume control of highway construction during the Great Depression. Dozens of county prisons were constructed in the 1930s to house convicts, removing them from the unsupervised county labor camps. As a result, sanitary conditions improved slightly and physical abuse slowly declined.

In the 1920s, social workers in the North Carolina State Board of Charities, headed by Kate Johnson, initiated

investigations of the brutal treatment of chain gang prisoners. Prisoners and their families, aware of Johnson's interest, wrote scores of letters to her and Governor Thomas B. Howard to document their experiences and advocate for change.



CONNECTICUT
Digging Deep into the Carceral Past: What should tourists learn at a historic prison? Those incarcerated at Newgate were required to work the mine and confined underground the rest of the time. Why was a mine presumed a good place for incarceration, prison labor, and tourism? (University of Connecticut)

LOUISIANA
Windows on Angola Prison: Sentenced to slavery, stuck in Jim Crow? Louisiana has the highest rate of incarceration in the world, with one in every 86 residents behind bars in 2012. The state also has one of the worst rates of racial disparity in sentencing and incarceration. (University of New Orleans)

NEW JERSEY
Seabrook Farms and "Free" Labor: How is the racialized prisoner the ideal worker? Our exploration of Seabrook Farms and its layered histories examines the wartime relationship between captive labor and capitalism, and how social control extended beyond the immediate confines of internment camps. (Rutgers University-New Brunswick)

ARIZONA
The Cost of Immigrant Detention: How do profits shape punishment? Arizona's Eloy Detention Center is the third largest immigrant detention facility in the nation. It is also one of the most notorious. (Arizona State University)

NORTH CAROLINA
North Carolina: Voices from the Chain Gang: What Can We Learn From Listening? In the early 1900s, courts sentenced prisoners to pound rocks and shovel dirt. Convicted of minor crimes, these men built North Carolina's highways. (University of North Carolina at Greensboro)

Where Is the Carceral State?

How Can Information Inspire Action?

PARIS, FRANCE Foucault and the Groupe D'Information sur les Prisons

Michel Foucault (1926–1984) is well known for his 1975 historical and theoretical inquiry into the birth of the prison at the end of the 18th century. *Discipline and Punish*. By looking at different approaches to discipline over time, he counters the apparent “naturalness” of prison as the unique and most humane mode of punishment. His theory provides a framework for examining how power pervades the entirety of social life. For them a state of exception, imprisonment, Foucault shows, is in fact the model of our social order: we are all in a permanent state of incarceration.

Foucault's academic practice was noted in activism, specifically in the experience of the Groupe d'Information sur les Prisons (GIP: 1971–1972). This medium-security correctional facility had a long history of creative rehabilitation. In the 1910s, it was a sanitarium for tubercular patients. Between 1914 and 1945, the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company opened a sanitarium on the site to care for employees with tuberculosis. After WWII, it welcomed convalescing veterans, saving them until 1960. In 1982, now a prison, it developed the state's first alcohol and substance abuse treatment program. As the War on Drugs increased prison



PARIS, FRANCE

Michel Foucault and the Groupe d'Information sur les Prisons: How can information inspire action? By looking at different approaches to discipline over time, Michel Foucault counters the apparent “naturalness” of prison as the unique and most humane mode of punishment. (Parsons Paris)

What's Lost When a Prison Closes?

NEW YORK Closing a Prison, Deferring a Dream

In 2014, as New York State's prison population declined, state officials shuttered Mount McGregor. This medium-security correctional facility had a long history of creative rehabilitation. In the 1910s, it was a sanitarium for tubercular patients. Between 1914 and 1945, the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company opened a sanitarium on the site to care for employees with tuberculosis. After WWII, it welcomed convalescing veterans, saving them until 1960. In 1982, now a prison, it developed the state's first alcohol and substance abuse treatment program. As the War on Drugs increased prison

populations in the 1980s, and state politicians cut funding for general programs in the 1990s, teachers, counselors, and prisoners themselves empowered incarcerated men to change their lives. Programs provided incarcerated men with support to survive and thrive; ironically, many lost access to such support upon release. Mount McGregor's closing raises questions about what prisons are for, how to treat people who remain locked up in an age of incarceration, and how to address economic inequality, racism, and other factors that condition prisoners and their communities.

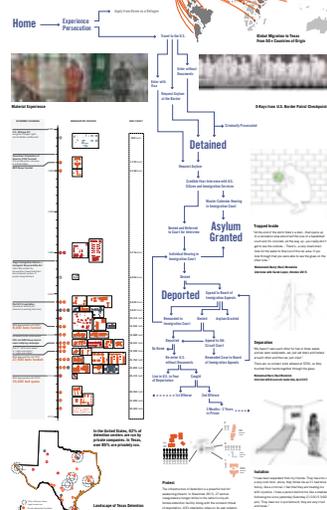


NEW YORK

Closing a Prison, Deferring a Dream: What's lost when a prison closes? In 2014, as New York State's prison population declined, state officials shuttered Mount McGregor. This medium-security correctional facility had a long history of creative rehabilitation. (Skidmore College)

How Does Architecture Shape Punishment?

TEXAS Spatial Stories of Migration and Detention



TEXAS

Spatial Stories of Migration and Detention: How does architecture shape punishment? Texas has 26 detention centers, 5 prisons, and 2 county jails used to detain migrants in connection with immigration proceedings or immigration related crimes. (University of Texas at Austin)

Why Do Rural Communities Become Prison Towns?

TENNESSEE Prison Profiteering in a Nuclear Shadow

The Trousdale Turner Correctional Center is a private prison built in 2015 at the foot of a mothballed nuclear reactor in rural Tennessee. It is owned and operated by Corrections Corporation of America, whose headquarters are in a wealthy Nashville suburb. When the Tennessee Valley Authority canceled plans for the Hartsville Nuclear Complex due to public protest and economic miscalculation, the Four Lake Regional Industrial Development Authority created

an industrial park called PowerCom on the former nuclear site, but many warehouses sat empty until 2008, when CCA bought part of PowerCom for a 2,500-bed prison. The recession delayed construction for six years, leaving Trousdale County's economic future hanging in the balance. As the site now shifts from warehousing things to warehousing people, the question remains: What impact will the prison have on the people incarcerated there and on the local community?



TENNESSEE

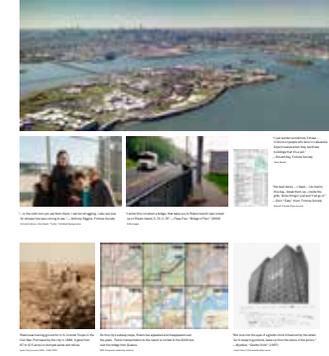
Prison Profiteering in a Nuclear Shadow: Why do rural communities become prison towns? The Trousdale Turner Correctional Center is a private prison built in 2015 at the foot of a mothballed nuclear reactor in rural Tennessee. It is owned and operated by Corrections Corporation of America, headquartered in a wealthy Nashville suburb. (Vanderbilt University)

How Do You See Rikers Island?

NEW YORK Rikers Island, NY 11370: In Plain Sight

Among the islands that make up New York City is Rikers Island, the city's jail complex. Situated between boroughs in the East River, off a runway of LaGuardia Airport, on the Q100 bus route, connected by a sole bridge, Rikers demonstrates the contradictions of visibility and invisibility that define mass incarceration. For many New Yorkers, Rikers is routine: it's where they await sentencing, often for months; it's where they visit people; it's where they feel they may one day find themselves.

For others, the island exists out of sight, even though it influences the culture, infrastructure, and daily life of the city. On and off maps, Rikers appears as urban oral histories, notably hip-hop and rap, as well as dress and slang. But how New Yorkers see Rikers is colored by where they live, their race, their health, their wealth or poverty.



NEW YORK

Rikers Island, NY 11370: In Plain Sight: How do you see Rikers Island? Between boroughs in the East River, off a runway of LaGuardia Airport, on the Q100 bus route, connected by a sole bridge, Rikers demonstrates the contradictions of visibility and invisibility that define mass incarceration. (The New School)

What Is a Crime? Who Is a Criminal?



Mark Latham
Assistant Professor, The New School, and former Missouri state
senator (2008-10)

Matt Rosenberg
Faculty in criminal justice for social justice movements, 2013
International Criminal Justice

"Some people's crimes are omitted on full display and are much more likely to become entangled with the criminal justice system than the crimes others commit, perhaps, in a corporate boardroom, or a political back room."

Take our poll [here](#) to hear more about this issue and explore.

Research from the 2010s indicates that people who are convicted of a crime are 50% more likely to be arrested again. This is true for both men and women. The reason for this is not clear, but it could be related to the "collateral consequences" of a conviction, such as loss of employment, housing, and voting rights. These consequences can be particularly challenging for people who are already struggling with economic hardship.

62% Do prisons make you feel safer?

62% of respondents answered "Yes" to the question "Do prisons make you feel safer?"

Vote Now: statesofconscience.org/boicott

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1/8 What citizenship rights should people convicted of felonies have?

1/8 of respondents answered "None" to the question "What citizenship rights should people convicted of felonies have?"

Vote Now: statesofconscience.org/boicott

Are Criminals Citizens? Are Non-citizens Criminals?



Steve S. Marks
Professor and President of Saint Joseph's University, Philadelphia, PA

Heather Ann Thelen
Professor of Public Health, University of Michigan

"When you're sentenced, you're put through a ceremony where part of your citizenship is stripped away. When you exit prison, there is no ceremony to say, 'You're one of us again.'"

Take our poll [here](#) to hear more about this issue and explore.

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376% Should companies have the right to ask about someone's prior convictions in a job application?

376% of respondents answered "Yes" to the question "Should companies have the right to ask about someone's prior convictions in a job application?"

Vote Now: statesofconscience.org/boicott

Who Works for Prisons? Who Do Prisons Work For?



Wanda Swales
Deputy Commissioner of Criminal Justice and Acting Head, Programming, New York City Department of Correction

Kelliah Clark
Executive Director, Correctional Association of New York

"If utilized appropriately, prisons can work for all. For people in their custody, and for victims/survivors in the larger community. There's an opportunity to provide safety and rehabilitation for both parties. But reform is needed on a large scale."

Take our poll [here](#) to hear more about this issue and explore.

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3:1 Should companies have the right to ask about someone's prior convictions in a job application?

3:1 ratio of "Yes" to "No" responses for the question "Should companies have the right to ask about someone's prior convictions in a job application?"

Vote Now: statesofconscience.org/boicott

100% Where do you see the impact of mass incarceration?

100% of respondents answered "In the United States" to the question "Where do you see the impact of mass incarceration?"

Vote Now: statesofconscience.org/boicott

Where Is the Carceral State?



Matt Olson
Professor of History, State and Public History, Howard University

Rose Nelson
Faculty in criminal justice for social justice movements, 2013 International Criminal Justice

"The scale of mass incarceration means that the likelihood of any particular American being 1 or 2 degrees away from someone who is part of the system is much more likely today than at any point in U.S. history."

Take our poll [here](#) to hear more about this issue and explore.

Research from the 2010s indicates that people who are convicted of a crime are 50% more likely to be arrested again. This is true for both men and women. The reason for this is not clear, but it could be related to the "collateral consequences" of a conviction, such as loss of employment, housing, and voting rights. These consequences can be particularly challenging for people who are already struggling with economic hardship.

43% Where do you see the impact of mass incarceration?

43% of respondents answered "In the United States" to the question "Where do you see the impact of mass incarceration?"

Vote Now: statesofconscience.org/boicott

1/36 What citizenship rights should people convicted of felonies have?

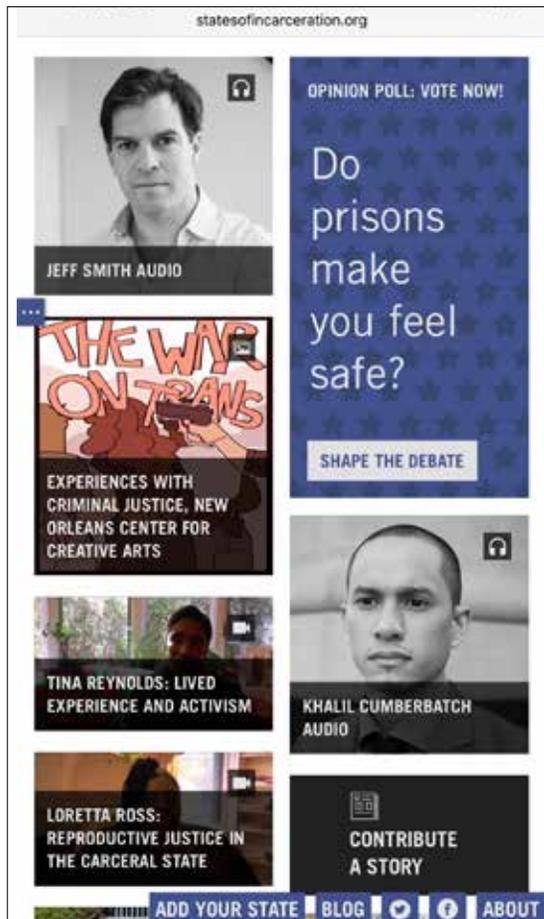
1/36 of respondents answered "None" to the question "What citizenship rights should people convicted of felonies have?"

Vote Now: statesofconscience.org/boicott

SHAPE THE DEBATE, DIGITAL PLATFORM & MOBILE DIALOGUE

Thematic framing panels contain **Shape the Debate** prompts through which visitors can vote on important questions around incarceration. Responses are aggregated on www.statesofincarceration.org, where visitors of the digital exhibit can also share their take by voting on the questions.

As the project travels, responses will be shown to exhibit visitors, and will be used as starting points for public dialogues in each host city.



INTERACTIVE DIGITAL CONTENT



Our Point of View
University of New Orleans
New Orleans, LA

Created by a class of undergraduate and graduate students at the University of New Orleans, these video essays explore different forms of prison labor through historic images and primary visual documents. As a project, we examined the question of how the prison has evolved in order to grapple with the current mass incarceration crisis and the future of criminal justice reform.



The above image depicts the "bunker" cell, Angela's cell. This image shows an exhibit in "Bunker," a cell in the prison.



Video Essays Explore Angola Prison's Past
Select one of the short video below to look into aspects of the penitentiary's past. From top left through bottom-right, the video corresponding to the image above examines the history of convict leasing, punishment, surveillance, death and dying, gender and sexuality, music, organizing, writing, and protest.

Diana Ramos, who was detained at Eloy for over four years, discusses conditions within the facility (Spanish).

Diana Ramos, who was detained at Eloy for over four years, discusses conditions within the facility (English voice-over).

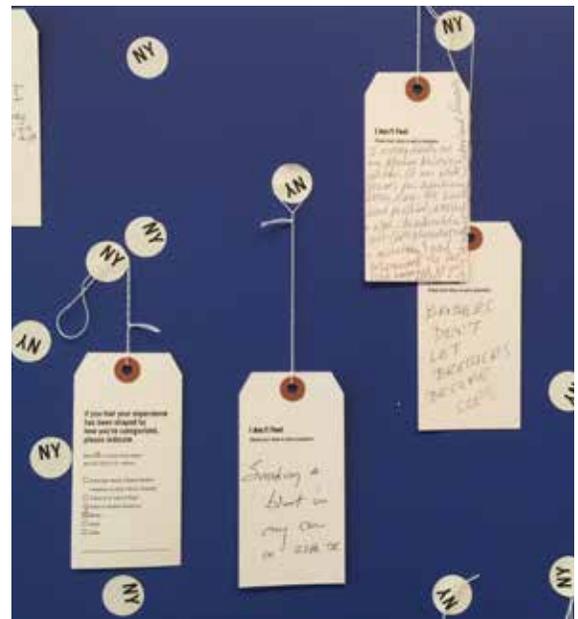
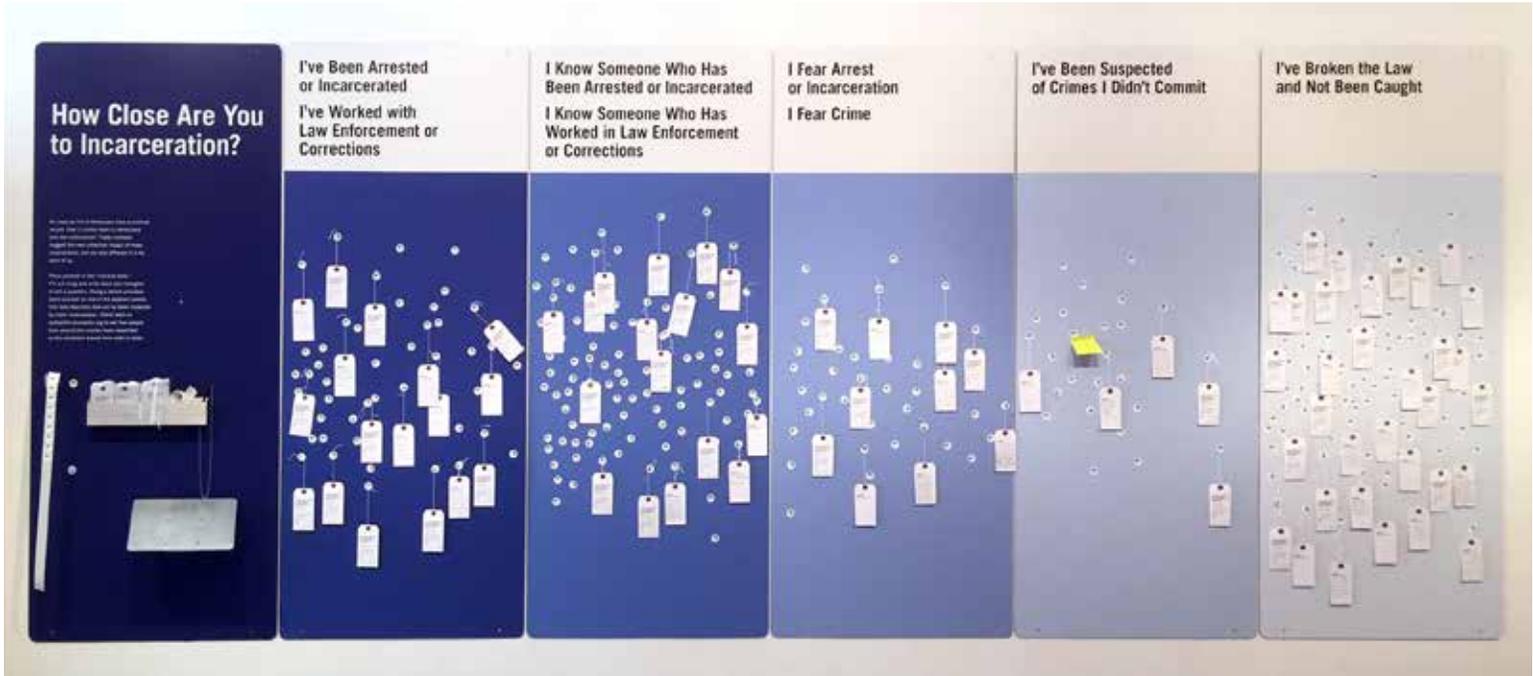


OUTSIDE FACE PANELS



Partners create **Outside Face Panels** to complement or highlight one element of their local panels. Outside Face panels contain one large format, striking image of a person or a site, accompanied by a quotation that helps contextualize the image and relate it back to the larger exhibit themes.

INTERACTIVE INSTALLATION: HOW CLOSE ARE YOU TO INCARCERATION?



TIMELINE INSTALLATION



WWW.STATESOFINCARCERATION.ORG



CREATING LOCAL COMPANION EXHIBIT CONTENT

Partners have the option of creating up to four modules of additional local content that can be installed when the exhibit travels to your community. The timeframe for submission of content is the same as during the course, and partners may want to use the course as an opportunity to produce both the traveling module and the additional local content.

ADDITIONAL LOCAL
CONTENT ON
DISPLAY, NEW
YORK CITY (APRIL
2016)

PHOTOGRAPHS BY NEW
SCHOOL STUDENTS
& GRAHAM MCINDOE



Photo credit: [unreadable]

Photo credit: [unreadable]

Photo credit: [unreadable]

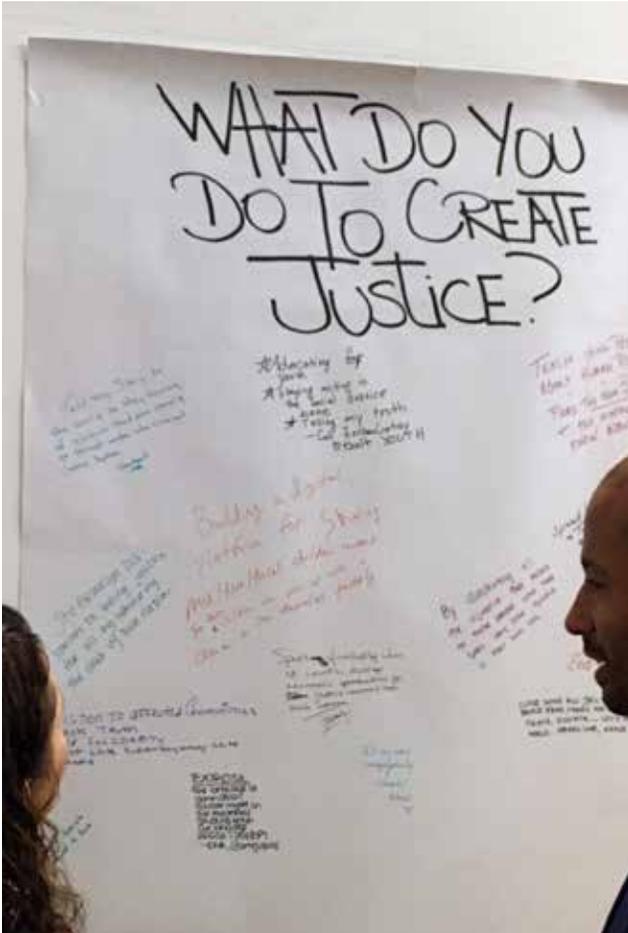


PUBLIC PROGRAMS

States Of Incarceration provides program designs, facilitation resources, and a speakers' bureau to support local public dialogues. Or, local partners can develop their own.

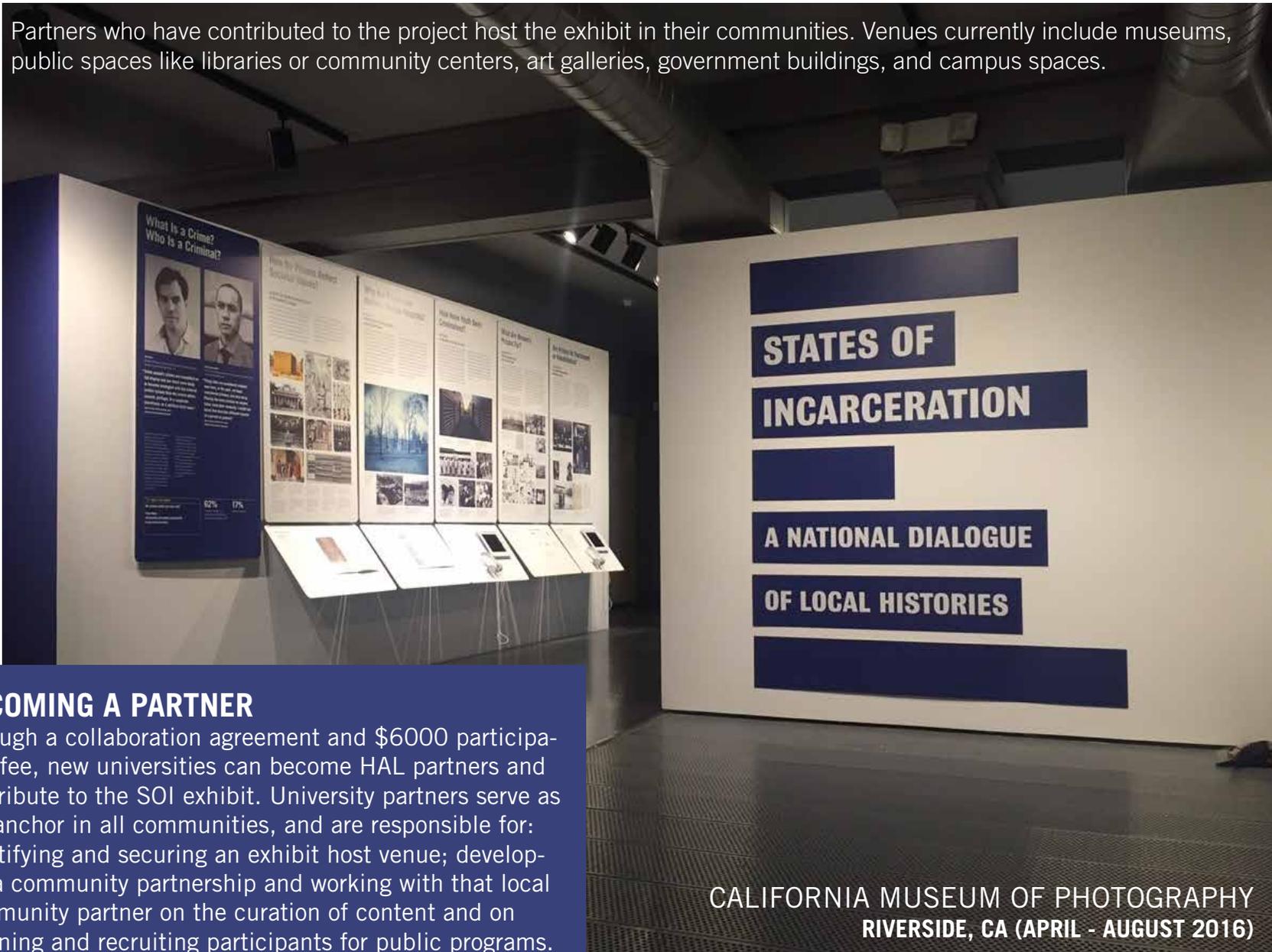
MASS STORY LAB
STORYSHARING
CIRCLE & PUBLIC
DIALOGUE (JUNE
29, 2016)

ORGANIZED BY THE
HUMANITIES ACTION
LAB, CREATE FORWARD
AND JUSTLEADERSHIP
USA



HOSTING THE EXHIBITION

Partners who have contributed to the project host the exhibit in their communities. Venues currently include museums, public spaces like libraries or community centers, art galleries, government buildings, and campus spaces.



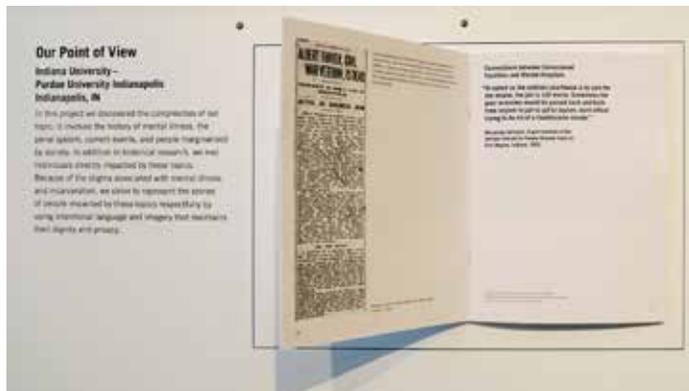
BECOMING A PARTNER

Through a collaboration agreement and \$6000 participation fee, new universities can become HAL partners and contribute to the SOI exhibit. University partners serve as the anchor in all communities, and are responsible for: identifying and securing an exhibit host venue; developing a community partnership and working with that local community partner on the curation of content and on planning and recruiting participants for public programs.

CALIFORNIA MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY
RIVERSIDE, CA (APRIL - AUGUST 2016)

ADDING YOUR STATE TO THE EXHIBITION

HAL provides curricular resources, design guidelines and support, and historical advisors to help new partners engage students and communities in dialogue around their local histories of incarceration, and add these histories to the exhibit and web platform. Through a semester-long course, faculty lead students, in collaboration with constituents of a community partner organization, to explore a local history of incarceration and curate local exhibits. Teams don't have to worry about design or layout for the physical exhibit or digital platform. Using SOI guidelines for text and media formats, teams submit their content to SOI exhibit and web designers to provide the final physical and digital exhibit material. Local teams may create one additional panel and up to 20 pieces of video, audio, or other media to be included in the nationally traveling exhibit and web platform, and up to four additional exhibit panels to be displayed locally. New partners can expect to have their work incorporated into the exhibit after production is complete, which takes up to four months.



EXHIBITION SCHEDULE

April 3 – April 24, 2016

New York, NY | Aronson Gallery, Sheila Johnson Design Center

May 7 – August 6, 2016

Riverside, CA | California Museum of Photography

August 29 – September 23, 2016

**Providence, RI | University of Rhode Island Gallery,
Providence Campus**

October 5 – October 26, 2016

Austin, TX | Mebane Gallery, UT Austin School of Architecture

November 8 – December 15, 2016

Greensboro, NC | International Civil Rights Museum

January 23 – February 17, 2017

Coral Gables, FL | CAS Gallery

March 1 – March 12, 2017

**Holyoke, MA | The Wauregan Building presented by
Wistariahurst Museum**

March 13 – March 30, 2017

Northampton, MA | Forbes Library and Historic Northampton

April 6 – May 1, 2017

New Orleans, LA | Ogden Museum of Southern Art

April 13 – May 14, 2017

**Indianapolis, IN | Central Branch of the Indianapolis Public
Library**

May 16 – August 11, 2017

Chicago, IL | Jane Addams Hull-House Museum

September 2 – October 11, 2017

Saratoga Springs, NY | Tang Teaching Museum

October 18 – December 15, 2017

Newark, NJ | Gateway Project Spaces

January 22 – March 9, 2018

New Brunswick, NJ | Douglass Library

March 19 – May 15, 2018

Boston, MA | International Village, Northeastern University

March 29 – June 2, 2018

Yellow Springs, OH | Herndon Gallery, Antioch College

September 5 – October 27, 2018

Phoenix, AZ | Phoenix Public Library (Burton Barr)

September 2018 – May 2019

Lansing, MI | Michigan History Center

March 11 – April 18, 2019

**Hartford Public/Storrs, CT | Hartford Public Library and
Thomas J. Dodd Research Center**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:

statesofincarceration.org

or CONTACT US AT:

humanitiesactionlab@gmail.com

