

H & A in Action Report for the College of Humanities and the Arts, Report for 2022-2023

In our second year of the College's initiative "H & A in Action," we have continued to grow out our Artistic Excellence Programming Grants after something of a contraction of interest due to COVID, while our future Digital Humanities Center site will undergo remodeling this fall, and our newly re-named Advanced Institute for Ethical Technology should soon be approved as a Research Institute, are all organized under H & A in Action. The main goals of H & A in Action include: integrating programming and our College's classroom curriculum; establishing curricular communities organized around themes the College has been exploring; expanding our public programming into the City of San Jose and the larger South Bay region; allowing our students and our larger community to be joint producers of knowledge; and promoting the humanities and the arts more generally.

The second year of highlighting these goals resulted in additional funding from the City of San Jose's Abierto program to support the [Public Art as Resistance in San Jose Walking Tour](#) and [Downtown Soundscapes](#). Other initiatives lead by Professor Katherine D. Harris, Director of Public Programming in the College, included two Quick Bites, one on "Twitter: Democracy or Poison Pill" with Professors Etienne Brown and Matt Cabot (see [video](#)) and one on "ChatGPT: Help or Hype?" with Professors Roxana Marachi and Sara West (see [video](#)). We then expanded the Quick Bites into a Town Hall on ChatGPT where faculty worked together to discuss challenges, innovative assignments, and integration of ChatGPT into curriculum. We serve both the College community, as with the ChatGPT Town Hall event, but also our larger community through these events. The Quick Bites on Twitter had an international and national audience in the 100s. These events have become our most public-facing example of our engagement with the larger San Jose and South Bay community, and we hope to continue to expand this work. We continue to collaborate with the Hammer Theatre as our main venue for AEPG events, as well as collaborating with their programming, as with the concert "Treelogy," which we introduced with "California's Majestic Trees," a separate event that combined faculty from the Colleges of Science, Social Science, and Humanities and the Arts to explore issues of fire, science, and art in our region (see [video](#)). Our co-sponsors for this event included Sports Basement, Our City Forest, Guadalupe Conservancy, and the SJSU Office of Sustainability.

Our team in the College, again headed by Professor Harris, was central in organizing the City of San Jose's [VivaCalleSJ](#) which came through SJSU's campus. While a city initiative, our participation in VivaCalleSJ fits underneath our H & A in Action umbrella, promoting the work of our humanities and arts faculty with upwards of 30,000 community members riding bikes through SJSU's campus. At the Spring 2023 event, our Linguistics Department had the most popular activity with a language passport booth that taught people how to say hello (among other words) in a range of languages. Other H & A booths offered opportunities for visitors to print art, watch a live painting, dance to the SJSU Marching Band, learn about technical professional writing, participate in jam poetry, and learn H & A and Hammer programming and events.

Our largest and most successful program has been our Artistic Excellence Programming Grants, where we have been highlighting interdisciplinarity and community engagement (see [Stories of Engagement](#)). This year we awarded the faculty organizers of the event that best integrated other disciplines and the event that best engaged the community each a \$1000 professional development grant. Our College themes continued to focus on issues of climate change and racial justice with the themes of “Sustainable Futures” and “The Inclusion Initiative.” This year we introduced a survey instrument that allows us to see the range of people interested in our programming, as well as to highlight their interests and the intellectual benefits they see from the events; we look to expand the response rate this year, but already we can see non-SJSU individuals joining these events, indicating that they were impressed with the high quality of the events, and planning to attend in the future. With 7,368 students, faculty, staff and San Jose residents attending 19 AEPG-sponsored events in 2022-2023, the reach of the program is extensive. When we add the tabling and other events we have participated in, H & A in Action reached 42,000 participants in 2022-2023. Our support of activities through the AEPG funding continues to allow extraordinary student work to be featured at SJSU and beyond. Most recently, the AEPG-supported student-produced short film, “Nisei,” received the Grand Jury Award at Cinequest, which qualifies it for consideration at the Academy Awards (see [article](#)).

We continue to work to integrate programming into specific classes and have established a library of assignments for faculty to use in their courses. This is an area where we continue to look for foundational support to build out our vision of programming and curricular innovation, and we are planning to apply for a Mellon Foundation grant this year.

Another component of our H & A in Action activities is our “Curricular Communities.” This year, our theme “Ready for Re-entry,” was broad and allowed instructors and students to re-imagine aspects of their community after the COVID-19 Pandemic, and how to improve it. This follows two successful years of, first, Pandemic Pandemonium, and 2021-2022’s Inclusion Initiative theme. The College is offering \$5000 to the multiple student winners for the best work produced in this competition.

Our second year of H & A in Action, in large because of the hard work and innovation of our new Director of Public Programming, has been a great success. The College looks forward to extending these initiatives through philanthropy and grants to continue to extend our vision of Community Connections and integrated curriculum and programming. We look forward to another extraordinary year of H & A in Action.