

CARE PROJECT FINAL REPORT

Community Artists Research Engagement

July 2025

A project of the City of Davis Arts & Cultural Affairs Program, in partnership with Hate-Free Together, funded by the California Arts Council Creative Corps Program



Report prepared by

International

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Overview

Through the summer and fall of 2024, Davis, California became a hub of community activities fostering belonging, connection, and inclusion. CARE - Community Artists **Research Engagement -** included over 20 creative activities led by three local theatre companies and the City of Davis Arts and Cultural Affairs Program designed to establish connections between diverse community members and assess a sense of belonging and inclusion in the community. Participants included over 100 K-12 students, a dozen educators, a neighborhood association, five nonprofit organizations, two government entities, a major university, five consultants and over 60 theatre artists and musicians.

Over 2,000 community members in the cities of Davis and Woodland attended events or programs.

This report will summarize the activities, analyze the survey and participant data collected, and provide some key takeaways and recommendations for fostering belonging and inclusion in Yolo County. The work documented in this report will inform the continued development of the multiagency Hate-Free Together initiative, including laying the groundwork for a strategic planning process in 2025.



Project Origins, Concepts & Development

Several factors converged to make this large-scale initiative possible. CARE is one of the first outreach programs produced by artists for the newly formed Hate-Free Together initiative. Hate-Free Together is a joint effort that was started by the City of Davis, UC Davis and Yolo County to provide support, resources and opportunities for actions to condemn hate and create safety. Launched in 2022, the Hate-Free Together leadership team now consists of staff from UC Davis, the City of Davis, Yolo County, Yolo County Office of Education and the Davis Joint Unified School District.

The initiative was planning to launch a website and beginning to formulate a strategy for programmatic activity in 2023 when the California Arts Council, the statewide arts agency, launched a pilot grant program, the California Creative Corps grant, intended to support local artists to create community engagement campaigns focused on social justice, environmental issues and/or emergency preparedness. Leveraging the launch of Hate-Free Together in the Spring of 2023, the City of Davis Arts and Cultural Affairs Program staff applied for the one-time competitive grant opportunity to support Hate-Free Together activities implemented by local artists. While Hate-Free Together was in its nascent phase, the leadership structure and the prioritization of social justice activities from local government and UC Davis contributed to the receipt of the \$300,000 one-year Creative Corps grant, which launched CARE in early 2024.

After months of preparation and planning, CARE community engagement kick-started the public activities of Hate-Free Together in the Spring of 2024, using arts-based programming to gather data, build community connections and identify barriers and/or opportunities to advance belonging and inclusion in the community.

Collaborating with local leadership to leverage the Creative Corps grant opportunity focusing on a key priority, the City of Davis Arts and Cultural Affairs staff developed a theatre-based community engagement project rooted in Civic Practice methodology to tackle social justice issues.

The Civic Practice approach centers artists - typically theatre-makers and performing artists, but not exclusively - as the primary designers, planners, and strategists to collect data, identify problems, raise awareness and pose solutions to issues facing communities. Civic practice recognizes artists and their practices as essential to addressing complex societal issues. Projects are co-designed by artists, constituencies, agencies and organizations to address community issues.

Three local theatre companies piloted civic practice activities in the community as "Artists in Residence" at the City's Veterans Memorial Theatre, leveraging existing relationships and community assets. The artistic team named the project CARE -Community Artists Research Engagement.

They intentionally framed their collective work to focus on community building, recognizing that positive concepts such as "Belonging", "Inclusion" and "Care" may lead to more engagement from the public than "Anti-discrimination" or "Hate-free."



CARE PROJECT FUNDING AND RESOURCE STRUCTURE

Statewide Initiative CA Creative Corps

CREATIVE

CORPS



Regional Administrator of Creative Corps



Project Management

Project Implementation





CARE

California Arts Council

Spring 2022: The California Arts Council launches the statewide **California Creative** Corps Pilot, selecting regional "Administering Organizations" to regrant \$50 million in one-time funds to create media, outreach and engagement campaigns to increase public awareness on issues of importance.

City of Sacramento Arts + Culture

Summer 2022: The City of Sacramento selected as a regional "Administering Organization" for the Capitol Region Creative Corps, distributing close to \$4 million in grants ranging from \$117,000-\$300,000 to address climate, public health, civic engagement and social justice issues.

City of Davis Arts & Cultural Affairs **Program**

Fall 2023: The City of Davis Arts and Cultural Affairs program receives a **\$300,000** grant from the City of Sacramento Capitol Region Creative Corps to project manage CARE, activating three local theatre companies to assess local social justice issues under the auspices of the Hate-Free Together Initiative.

CARE: Community Artists Research Engagement

Spring/Summer 2024: CARE, a project of Hate-Free Together, launches public programs. Bike City Theatre Company, Davis Shakespeare Festival, **Davis Repertory Theatre** and the City of Davis create community activations to assess and document social justice issues.



Creative Corps Activities Gateway to Civic Practice

CARE activities included youth development workshops, community listening sessions, multiple concerts, readings of two original plays, a documentary film production and screening, professional development workshops, a podcast series and a neighborhood retreat. All activities took place in 2024.

This impressive range of activities underscores the need for time, shared experiences and sustained resources to build authentic relationships, shared language and trust among artists, organizations and community members.

As an entry point into this work, each theatre company partnered with local organizations to embed performing-arts-based practices within existing social justice initiatives. These "gateway" activities were designed to foster relationships, support community strengths, and explore how the arts can contribute meaningfully to social justice efforts.

For example, Bike City Theatre Company collaborated with the local school district to teach language skills through theatre in the Power Up! Summer School program, while Davis Repertory Theatre partnered with the Ethnic Studies Yolo Academy to incorporate arts practices into the existing curriculum.

These initiatives paved the way for deeper engagement with concepts of civic practice. In particular, the Building Belonging Workshops employed civic practice techniques to invite neighborhood residents into an arts-based dialogue about belonging and how they might collectively strengthen it. Using a different approach, Davis Repertory Theatre facilitated a community-engaged playwriting project that documented a powerful story of local democratic action, culminating in a theatrical reading that inspired ongoing civic participation. These pilot activities demonstrated the potential for civic practice to catalyze community cohesion and meaningful civic engagement.



Activity List

1) Succulent Play Reading

June 2, 2024 <u>Davis Repertory Theatre</u>

As part of Yolo County's Juneteenth celebration, Davis Repertory Theatre organized a free reading of an excerpt from local playwright <u>Jasmine Washington</u>'s play *Succulent*.

Succulent investigates the intersection of fatness, Blackness and womanhood. The play aims to address the jarring juxtapositions fat Black women often face while embracing radical joy, multigenerational love and the tumultuous journey of growth and healing.

2) Davis Joint Unified School District PowerUp! Summer School

June - July, 2024 <u>Bike City Theatre Company</u>

Bike City Theatre Company taught four weeks of "Introduction to Theatre," integrating theatre learning with reading acquisition into the existing Power Up Summer School for rising 4th, 5th and 6th graders in the Davis Joint Unified School District.

Power Up! is an invitation-only program that supports specific student groups, including migrants, Special Education students and students requiring targeted reading intervention. Approximately 100 students participated in building vocabulary and English language skills through inclusive and participatory theatre games, uplifting students who are often socially and academically marginalized.



3) CARE at the Market (and Beyond!)

June - September, 2024

Bike City Theatre Company (BCTC)

Leveraging the concepts behind CARE, Bike City Theatre Company staffed a booth at various community events including the weekly Farmers Market, talking with over 550 people about their experiences of "care." BCTC asked people what they cared about and how they experienced "care" within the community. They documented who, when, where and how community members experienced care. A city map was used to identify specific locations where people felt cared for by the community.

4) Artist Share + Community Conversation

June 9 & September 15, 2024

Davis Shakespeare Festival

Davis Shakespeare Festival produced two Artist Share + Community Conversation events at the Veterans Memorial Theatre. 13 participating artist groups including 40 performing and visual artists shared creative work around the theme of belonging, expressing their identities in relationship to the community. The programming included live music, spoken word, movement, and visual art. Following the showcase, attendees were invited to participate in a community conversation based on the works shared, discussing themes of belonging in Davis and the role of artistic expression in social justice.

5) Ethnic Studies Yolo Academy

June 26 - June 28, 2024 *Davis Repertory Theatre*

Davis Repertory Theatre supported the Ethnic Studies Yolo Academy, a free three-day program for junior high, high school and college students and teachers, introducing participants to the principles of Ethnic Studies: Self Identity, Systems of Power, Solidarity, Stories of Heritage and Social Movements. With discussion and group activities, approximately 60 students and six educators engaged with the subject matter through artistic practice (poetry, dance, theatre and visual art) centering Indigenous, African American, Asian American and Latinx peoples.





6) Ethnic Studies Yolo Academy Film Screening

September 19, 2024 *Davis Repertory Theatre*

Davis Repertory Theatre also supported the production of a short documentary by filmmaker Sly Films about the 2024 Ethnic Studies Yolo Academy. The film screening on September 19 was followed by a panel discussion with Academy staff and alumni on the impact of the Ethnic Studies Yolo Academy program.

7) Building Belonging

August 15 & 17, 2024

Davis Shakespeare Festival & jesikah maria ross

Local media artist jesikah maria ross was contracted to design and facilitate two listening sessions held in the Davis Manor Neighborhood N Street Housing Commons. Sessions brought residents together to share experiences and ideas to inform future

initiatives centered around inclusion and belonging.

Approximately 60 neighbors participated, documented how they can contribute to belonging in their neighborhood, and shared ideas for support and intervention. Specific prompts asked participants: What can you do? What can your neighborhood do? What can the City do? Targeted feedback was shared directly with relevant City staff.

8) Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) Training

August - September, 2024 City of Davis and Bahia Yackzan

The City of Davis contracted with local consultant Bahia Yackzan to teach four Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) workshops to CARE leadership. The training built skills to increase demographic awareness, accountability, JEDI competencies and a constructive communication method to counter biases, interrupt micro-aggressions, build relationships and dissolve barriers.

9) It's Your Voice Podcast

July - September, 2024 Bahia Yackzan

Bahia Yackzan also produced ten podcast interviews with grant participants and a multitude of Davis community leaders from varying cultural and religious backgrounds to discuss social justice issues, hoping to strengthen belonging and inclusion in our community. The podcasts documented and amplified local arts-based activities, including but not limited to CARE, that address social justice concerns and recorded stories from local artists and organizers in their efforts.

10) Interrupting Microaggressions

September 8, 2024

Davis Shakespeare Festival & Bahia Yackzan

Using actors to dramatize real-life discriminatory encounters, this workshop engaged the audience in navigating challenging conversations, helping them to be better advocates and listeners and create more inclusive and just communities.

11) As We Recall

August 25 and September 11 - 14, 2024 *Davis Repertory Theatre*

Over the summer, Davis Repertory Theatre conducted over 20 interviews with community members involved in a successful recall of a local school board member.

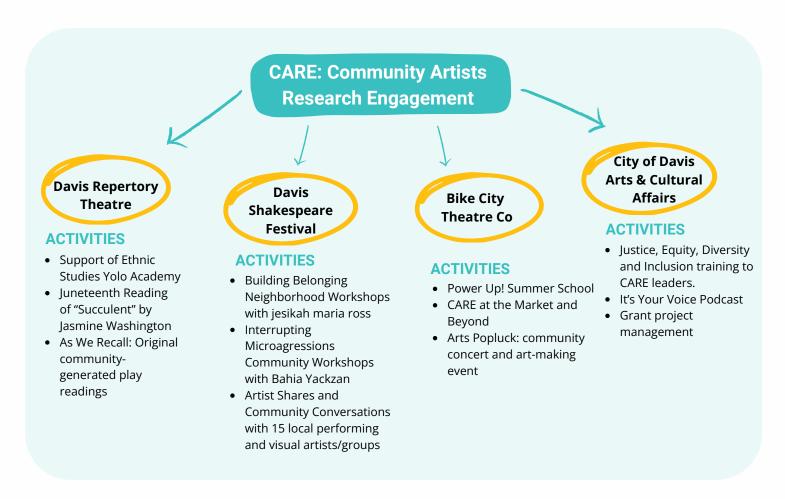
They created an original play about this community effort to ensure the safety of LGBTQIA students. Four, free community readings and conversations celebrated the true story of how a group of parents, teachers, college students, activists and families was able to protect trans students in Woodland, CA.

12) Arts PopLuck in Central Park

September 20, 2024

Bike City Theatre Company

BCTC produced a pop-up concert and picnic. This free, family-friendly, picnic-style evening featured live music by Bomba Fried Rice and art-making activities.



Data Analysis

As a requirement of the Creative Corps grant, 215 surveys from community members were collected at nine of the CARE events. The survey questions were designed to assess awareness about social justice issues in the community, the potential for behavioral change related to social justice issues and connectedness and belonging in the community. The data indicates a deep interest in and awareness of social justice issues in the community and general support for initiatives like Hate-Free Together.

Quantitative Findings

- Awareness: 90% of survey respondents described themselves as aware or very aware of social justice topics going into these events, and 70% indicated that they were likely or very likely to take action or adjust behavior regarding social justice issues before the experience. The audiences for these events were already inclined and interested in social justice issues.
- Behavior Change: Overall, 29% of respondents indicated that their awareness increased after the event they attended, and 32% indicated that after this experience, they are more likely to take action or change their behavior.
- Interactivity: Highly participatory activities like the Interrupting Microaggressions workshop and Ethnic Studies Yolo Academy were the most effective in increasing awareness and behavior change. They had the highest percentage of respondents indicating an increase in awareness (54%) and the

- highest increase in the likelihood of changing behavior or taking action. Both were educational programs that directly taught strategies to change behavior.
- Geographic Diversity: 65% of respondents from Davis, 12% from Woodland, 10% from Sacramento, 4% from elsewhere in Yolo County, 6% from Solano County and 3% outside the region. Ethnic Studies Yolo Academy and As We Recall Readings had the most geographic diversity of respondents.



Qualitative Findings

Survey respondents recognized performing artists as community ambassadors, conversation starters and agents of belonging. They specifically recognized theatre and performance as a powerful way to share information and start difficult conversations.

Artist Share + Community Conversation

The Artist Share events, presented by the Davis Shakespeare Festival, were variety showstyle gatherings that featured short performances followed by facilitated discussions, creating space for both artistic expression and meaningful dialogue. Each event fostered connection—among artists, between artists and audiences, and across the broader community. The experiences were widely seen as powerful and affirming, sparking conversations about identity, cultural heritage and the role of art in building inclusive community. The events led to further collaborations among the participating artists.

Artist Reflections

- "Most (if not all) music in the past was passed on to the next generation. The music that is played now is the evolution of what has been taught and successfully passed on from our ancestors, and is a beautiful way to converse between diverse cultures."
- "It was interesting to hear how different groups got started and how their art holds them in community with each other. The impact of art on identity was an interesting topic."

Audience Reflections

- "I appreciate the discussion on the meaning of identity and belonging, especially in these polarized times. I also found our conversation about art as a reflection of worldview and culture to be very relevant."
- "I was really moved by Jasmine Washington's readings about how the medical system inequitably impacts black families, and the issues this presents. Her monologues shared personal insight that I would not have known or understood as a white person, and I am really grateful for this perspective."



As We Recall

The theatre project devised by Davis
Repertory Theatre generated some of the
most powerful testimonials from the
community. As We Recall is an original play
written by Oona and Lucas Hatton of Davis
Repertory Theatre that utilizes interviews
with community members involved in the
recall of a Woodland school board member
to tell the story of collective political action to
protect LGBTQIA youth. The play
documented, in the community members'
own words, the successful ballot initiative
process to recall a school board member in
Spring of 2024, a process that typically only
has a 13.4% success rate.

By documenting and sharing a story of a successful citizen initiative that led to tangible results, the play activated community members to recognize the power of civic engagement.



Participant Reflections

"I was worried when I was an old woman I would tell people we did this [recall] and they wouldn't believe me. Now this story exists. It's organized in a narrative when my brain wasn't capable of forming while I was doing the work."

"Gave a great, deep view into local politics and canvassing capabilities. It wasn't just people coming together to recall, but to talk about the topic and inform others was very inspiring. It opened my eyes to a part of Woodland I never knew."

"Make(s) me feel safer knowing there are people in the community that will stand up for those oppressed."

"[The work relates] across racial, cultural, language and ideological differences. [I'm] more fully aware of the impact of thoughtful discourse, political action & canvassing."

"This play opens the way for people to discuss a difficult topic. Do this play at schools or community events!"

"The script weaves people's voices and shows the impact a community of social justice minded people can come together and change the local politics and make us feel like we belong."

¹https://ballotpedia.org/Emily_MacDonald_recall,_Woodland_Joint_Unified_School_District,_California_(2023-2024)#MacDonald's statement

Community Insights

CARE at the Market (and beyond)

Over the summer months, Bike City Theatre Company asked people about their experiences of care in their lives at various community events. Care was aligned with a sense of belonging and defined as being nurtured, feeling comforted and safe. When people feel that they belong, they often feel cared for, and vice versa. 147 responses were recorded. The prompt asking how people experienced care generated both the highest number and the widest variety of responses. Responses can be categorized as follows:

Where

- Home (most cited)
- Local parks
- Schools
- Places of worship
- Outdoors/In nature

Places with significant clusters of care included Central Park, the UC Davis Arboretum, Chestnut Park and the Davis Library. Many of those spaces, like the library and Central Park, are already activated by the community in ways that contribute to the sense of belonging. There is also an opportunity to continue to activate schools, parks and green spaces with activities to promote inclusion and belonging in the community.

How

Categorized with examples of direct responses

- Recreational Activities:
 - Creative activites: crafting, knitting and crocheting, art, playing and listening to music, gardening, cooking
 - Wellness activities: yoga, running
- Communication & Social Connection:
 Being heard or listened to, being with friends and family, kind words, smiles, hugs, feeling validated
- Reflection & Downtime:
 Peace and quiet, sleep, alone time
- Service:
 Volunteering, teaching, helping others
- Spirituality: Through God, faith, church

Who

- Family and friends (most cited)
- Pets
- God/Jesus
- General community
- *There were also shoutouts to librarians and service members.

When

Most of the answers about "when" related to the who or the how – "When I'm with family" or "when I'm listening to music".

Building Belonging

In August, 2024, about 60 Davis Manor neighborhood residents came together during two neighborhood gatherings to explore building a greater sense of belonging in their neighborhood. The gatherings were designed and facilitated by Davis Manor resident and community-based media artist jesikah maria ross and included a shared meal, interactive activities and laughter! After sharing a meal, ross led groups through a series of questions about belonging in the neighborhood. One participant claimed,

"Thank you for doing this! It was wonderful to come together and connect with folks I didn't know well and find common points of interest and concern."



The following summarizes responses by category, with representative examples of direct responses provided.

What Does Belonging Look Like?

- Recognition & Appreciation of Differences:
 - Respect, appreciation and celebration for difference, acceptance
- Representation & Visibility:
 People who look like us, affinity groups, signs and symbols of people who are like us
- Shared Purpose & Connection:
 Shared goals, purpose, making space, inviting others
- Community & Social Engagement:
 Volunteering/helping others, quality time together, interaction, conversation
- Third Spaces & Places for Connection:
 Facilitated safe interactions, safe
 spaces/venues, spaces for interaction
- Warmth & Welcoming Atmosphere:
 Sharing names, smiles, openness, being present

The neighbors identified places where they feel comfortable and uncomfortable.

Comfort included the local park, the community garden and the high school. Discomfort included places perceived as dangerous: certain intersections and the Respite Center for people experiencing homelessness.

What Does Belonging Feel Like?

Different emotional and experiential aspects of belonging:

- Positive Emotions & Well-Being:
 Good vibes, happiness, joy, contentment,
 calm, relief from anxiety, lightening of
 burden, comfortable, safe
- Feeling Valued & Understood:
 Caring, respect, being heard and understood, forgiveness, tolerance, inclusion
- Personal & Collective Fulfillment:
 Pride, inspired, useful, common purpose, enrichment
- Connection & Shared Experience:
 Laughter, quality time, shared goals

Belonging is Possible When:

Key factors that enable belonging:

- Accessibility & Inclusion:
 Low barriers to entry, multiple points of entry, invitational language, hospitality,
 It's peaceful and nobody's rushing you
- Invitations & Welcoming Atmosphere:
 Personal invitations, people are
 welcoming, you feel accepted, trust
- Shared Identity & Social Connection:
 Similar clothing and customs, fun,
 meeting regularly
- Engagement & Reciprocity:
 Asking to learn, asking who needs help, caring for others, asks and offers
- Mindset & Effort:
 Open-minded, willing to let others enter,
 put in the time and effort





What Can I Do to Build Belonging in My Neighborhood?

Key actions for building belonging:

- Everyday Friendly Gestures:
 Greet people, say hi, wave, be friendly, hug
- Creating Opportunities for Connection:
 Walk the neighborhood to meet
 neighbors informally, hang out in the
 front yard, gather, invite more neighbors
 to events, organize common meals, get
 more involved in the neighborhood
- Showing Interest & Engagement:
 Ask about people's hobbies, remember names, active listening, reach out (to others)
- Helping & Supporting Others:
 Offer to run errands for neighbors, help others, accept differences
- Personal Growth & Mindset Shifts:
 Be open-minded, be less shy, be less judgmental, work on fear of engaging

Belonging Is Hindered By:

- Judgment, Exclusion & Social Barriers:
 Closed-mindedness, sweeping judgments, ignoring or judging people, stereotyping, feeling like an outsider, excluded from invitations, expectations of others, disabilities
- Miscommunication, Conflict & Criticism:
 Being misunderstood, lack of shared
 language, facial expressions, criticism,
 interpersonal drama
- Lack of Participation & Responsibility:
 Lack of responsibility, shirking "collective business"

What Can We Do As Neighbors?

How neighbors can enhance connection, provide mutual support, and create shared experiences in their community:

- Cultural and Community Events:
 Craft sharing, community arts projects,
 music events, host programs at new
 stage, neighborhood pride events
- Collective Community Service & Support:
 Tree trimming and weed removal parties, community help days, provide mutual support
- Communication, Resource & Knowledge Sharing:
 Create an online neighborhood business directory, create active listsery,

teach/share skills

What Can the City Do to Help Build Belonging

Key areas where the City can take action to build belonging:

Communication & Community Engagement:

Communicate with the neighborhood, facilitate working on shared goals, provide funding for a Davis Manor "entertainment committee" for monthly events, language inclusivity

Public Safety & Crisis Response:
Provide extra police patrols and security in the neighborhood, provide an alternative to police for crisis response, support mental health resources for the unhoused

Support for Unhoused Residents &

Respite Center, host cleanup days at the Respite Center and N St. Park

Respite Center Improvements:
Respite Center relationship
improvement – perhaps a tour of
the space, create a welcoming
environment for unhoused people
at the Respite Center, create
garden/landscaping at the Respite
Center, waste management at the

Infrastructure & Public Space Enhancements:

Finish performance area at N St. Park and add monkey bars, keep cars slow on L St and Pole Line (speed bumps), trim vegetation at intersections (especially Lehigh and Pole Line), create crosswalk at L and Pole Line, widen sidewalks for more accessibility (pedestrians, strollers, wheelchairs), install benches for more interaction, reduce parking lot area at shopping center, create solar parking, support shared solar panels, provide resources for climate resilience (e.g., affordable generators)

Neighborhood Beautification & Art Initiatives:

Support community art, create artistic "welcome" signs at the six entrances to our neighborhood, re-use, repurpose student cast-offs (when they move out).

Building Belonging was one of the most successful civic-practice activities, leading to sustained engagement by the community and the most significant data set. ross, a neighbor and trained civic practice facilitator, was a trusted ambassador for the gathering. Since the gathering, neighbors have continued to connect, starting a crafting circle and a neighborhood events squad.

Members of the N Street Housing, who had previously felt excluded from Davis Manor activities, are now activating continued engagement. However, new resources need to be dedicated to maintaining the relationships and momentum building around the community activities taking place.

Recommendations

The **CARE Project** demonstrated the power of arts-based engagement in fostering belonging, inclusion, and social justice awareness. Community participation was strong, with over 2,000 attendees engaging in theatre, music, and storytelling initiatives. Survey data revealed a high level of preexisting social justice awareness, yet interactive activities—such as hands-on workshops—proved most effective in deepening understanding and encouraging action. The project highlighted the importance of safe, inclusive spaces and identified both opportunities and barriers to belonging. Key recommendations include:

- Sustaining arts-based social justice programs
- Enhancing accessibility in public spaces
- Supporting community-led initiatives
- Improving crisis response strategies
- Leveraging data for future efforts

By continuing these efforts and leveraging the civic support and resources of the Hate-Free Together Initiative, Davis and Yolo County can strengthen social cohesion and create a more inclusive community for all.

1) Expand & Sustain Arts-Based Community Programs as a Mechanism for Social Change

- Continue leveraging theatre and other art forms to address social issues and foster dialogue
- Utilize As We Recall and the expertise of Davis Repertory Theatre, and jesikah maria ross as models for community engagement
- Support Ethnic Studies YOLO Academy as a leadership pipeline for junior high students, with sustainable public-sector funding
- Increase public and private investment in arts-based programs and initiatives that promote cultural awareness and social justice.
- Research successful arts-based civic engagement initiatives from other cities and communities as part of Hate-Free Together's strategic planning



1) Expand & Sustain Arts-Based Community Programs as a Mechanism for Social Change *(cont.)*

- Engage artists as community ambassadors for social justice generally and for the Hate-Free Together initiative specifically
- Compensate trained local practitioners to lead community engagement and input processes
- Require or recommend local artists and organizations in RFPs for government-led projects involving outreach and input
- Supply lists of local subcontractors for community engagement in RFPs
- Expand the Building Belonging Workshop model across neighborhoods, train facilitators, and allocate resources for follow-up. This could connect with existing initiatives such as the annual Neighbors Night Out

2) Support Community-Led Initiatives

- Fund neighborhood events, affinity groups, and cultural programs through direct financial support, fee waivers and parking exemptions
- Increase Arts & Cultural Affairs Fund grants for larger-scale projects
- Encourage shared community spaces, arts programming, and skill-sharing initiatives

3) Increase Accessibility & Inclusivity in Events and Spaces

- Ensure events are welcoming with multilingual programs, inclusive invitational language, and intentional outreach
- Activate public spaces (parks, libraries, community centers) as inclusion hubs with artist residencies, multilingual informational campaigns, and financiallysupported community partnerships
- Lower costs and streamline event permitting for organizers, specifically the Yolo County Community Event Permitting and Temporary Food Facility Permits and the City of Davis Park Use permit
- Create affinity groups and safe spaces, including a potential LGBTQIA center, perhaps in collaboration with Davis Phoenix Coalition and Davis Community Church



4) Identify and Support Existing Community Partners, Programs and Resources

- Conduct or update cultural asset inventory to strengthen connections among existing community resources
- Channel investment to established organizations and existing community leaders like Davis Phoenix Coalition, Culture Co-Op, and Ethnic Studies YOLO Academy to advance Hate-Free Together's goals



5) Use Data to Inform Future Belonging & Inclusion Efforts:

- Leverage surveys and engagement events to refine programs and measure Hate-Free Together's impact
- Track long-term community sentiment and engagement in social justice efforts
- Invest in data collection (e.g., <u>Arts &</u> <u>Economic Prosperity Report</u>) to guide funding decisions

6) Commit to Long-Term Investment in Creative Community Engagement

- Provide civic engagement training for Hate-Free Together leaders and local government communications staff
- Secure sustained funding for ongoing community engagement—recognizing that belonging and social cohesion require long-term commitment to build trust, shared language and relationships

By implementing these strategies, Davis can strengthen its social fabric and create a more inclusive, engaged community for all.

Embedded Links

The following websites are referenced in this report.

City of Sacramento Arts + Culture Creative Corps: https://www.capitolcreatives.org/city-of-davis-project-1

Davis Repertory Theatre: https://www.davisrep.org/

Jasmine Washington: https://jasminetwashington.wixsite.com/theatre

Bike City Theatre Company: https://bikecitytheatre.org/

Davis Shakespeare Festival: https://www.shakespearedavis.org/

Ethnic Studies Yolo Academy: https://www.esyoloacademy.org/

jesikah maria ross: https://www.jesikahmariaross.com/

It's Your Voice Podcast: https://w4cy.com/shows/its-your-voice/

Americans for the Arts' Arts & Economic Prosperity Report Website:

https://aep6.americansforthearts.org/

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