

# ART & HEALING IN HOPE SF

An assessment of how art and creative expression can be used as a vehicle for healing and community building in the HOPE SF communities.



## WHAT WE WANTED TO FIND OUT

- ◆ How art has been used for healing and community building in public housing communities nationwide.
- ◆ What current art activities are available for HOPE SF residents, how they are leveraged, and where investment is needed
- ◆ How to incorporate community artists and resident creativity in HOPE SF rebuilding efforts.
- ◆ Opportunities for HOPE SF communities to incorporate art programs and activities that promote individual and community healing.

## WHAT WE DID



Community Workshops  
January-July 2015



Literature review  
February-April 2015



Data Collection  
April-June 2015



Data analysis  
July 2015



Presentation of Findings & Recommendations  
July 29, 2015



## WE HEARD FROM

17 Resident Artists

21 Program Staff

27 Key Stakeholders



## COMMUNITY ART PROCESS



Resident Artists



Peer Health Leaders



SFSU MPH Students



Site Leaders



HOPE SF Youth Leaders



HOPE SF Initiative Leaders



## WHAT WE FOUND OUT



Residents want their community's history acknowledged; public art is a way to document and validate community identity.



Participation in community art processes nurtures personal and community pride.



Collaborative art activities foster social cohesion, strengthen cultural identity and create bridges across community.



Art programs help residents heal from stress and trauma by providing outlets and safe spaces for expression of feelings.



There is a nascent arts community within HOPE SF sites that is challenged by a lack of supportive infrastructure.



Residents want opportunities to engage in programs with artist role models and build towards jobs that engage art skills.



There is insufficient, dedicated space in HOPE SF sites to engage in arts activities.



Accessibility of opportunities to engage in art outside of the HOPE SF sites is challenging.



There has not been a coordinated effort to leverage financial resources for the arts in HOPE SF communities.

*Art has been a whole, like, a transformation to help me be able to live in this community, survive in this community and continue to work hard in this community.*

*I've seen some art and thought, wow. I have clients who don't say anything and their art says everything...it's a very good way to get those suppressed feelings out in the open.*



## WHAT WE RECOMMEND

- ◆ Establish a HOPE SF Community Arts Council to guide the HOPE SF arts community, foster a network of artists and programs.
- ◆ Dedicate space for creation, display and performance of resident art and programs.
- ◆ Create a HOPE SF Artist-in-Residence program.
- ◆ Implement collective art processes leading to development of public art pieces that reflect community history and identities.
- ◆ Nurture resident-led arts programs and prioritize the employment of resident and local artists.
- ◆ Integrate art practices into mental health services for HOPE SF residents.
- ◆ Improve access to the wide range of art opportunities outside HOPE SF communities.
- ◆ Leverage funding to support and sustain the arts in HOPE SF; ensure meaningful evaluation of its impact.

For more information:  
[healthequityinstitute.org](http://healthequityinstitute.org)

