

# THE CONFINED ARTS

## 2020 PROGRESS REPORT AND SCOPE OF WORK

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### SPRING 2020 EXPANSION TO COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL

Pastor Isaac Scott has become a fellow at the Center for Institutional and Social Change at Columbia Law School where The Confined Arts has expanded in order to build the capacity of directly impacted artists. Pastor Isaac continues to serve as a co-facilitator for the **Theaters of Change**, a joint effort with the **Center for Institutional and Social Change of Columbia Law School** (“CISC) and the **Broadway Advocacy Coalition** (BAC) to bring together individuals directly impacted by mass incarceration, high-level theater artists, and advocates and policymakers focused on humanizing and transforming the criminal legal system. Through an innovative workshop method pioneered by the joint partnership, participants use arts-based practices alongside institutional change theory to amplify the presence and experiences of directly impacted individuals within institutions that create and implement policy.

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### SPRING 2020 RESEARCH

#### **Social Dynamics of Prison (SDP) Study**

In this study led by Pastor Isaac and Lauren Hagani, we interviewed formerly incarcerated people at Exodus Transitional Facility to examine the impact of New York State prisons on pre-existing and new relationships. We had 24 interviews scheduled with 12 male and 12 female participants, but were only able to conduct 17 interviews (11 male participants and 6 female participants) before human subjects research was cut short by COVID-19 in early March.

For her senior thesis, Lauren examined how people in prison adapt to the prison environment and learn to navigate relationships with other incarcerated people. After the interviews were transcribed, Lauren analyzed the seventeen interviews using NVIVO to code for common themes. Thematic analyses of the interviews suggest that although the conditions of confinement produce constant social interaction, people in prison develop interactional strategies that help them establish boundaries and emotionally and physically distance themselves from others. In addition, both male and female participants described adopting similar interactional strategies in

order to adapt to and navigate prison life. This finding diverges from a preponderance of past research that regarded social organization in male and female facilities as vastly different. More so than sex, age and facility emerge as significant factors that influence people's patterns of interaction behind bars. This study adds to a sorely lacking body of research on the social dynamics of life behind bars.

### **Beyond the Bars Conference**

At the 2020 Beyond the Bars Conference, Lauren and Gabby presented on the SDP study, introducing the study's rationale and methods, sharing common themes and discussing the policy and advocacy implications of the work.

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Lauren was awarded departmental honors in Sociology and the Squires Prize in Sociology for her [senior thesis](#), titled "Autonomy, Intimacy and Safety Behind Bars: Interactional Strategies in New York State Prisons." For her senior thesis, Lauren examined how people in prison adapt to the prison environment and learn to navigate relationships with other incarcerated people. After the interviews were transcribed, Lauren analyzed the seventeen interviews using NVIVO to code for common themes. Thematic analyses of the interviews suggest that although the conditions of confinement produce constant social interaction, people in prison develop interactional strategies that help them establish boundaries and emotionally and physically distance themselves from others. In addition, both male and female participants described adopting similar interactional strategies in order to adapt to and navigate prison life. This finding diverges from a preponderance of past research that regarded social organization in male and female facilities as vastly different. More so than sex, age and facility emerge as significant factors that influence people's patterns of interaction behind bars. This study adds to a sorely lacking body of research on the social dynamics of life behind bars.

### **Research Presentation Beyond the Bars Conference**

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### **Summer 2020: Continuing SDP Study**

Moving forward, we intend to statistically analyze the Psychological Wellbeing Scale that participants filled out during the SDP study prior to being interviewed, to examine the relationship between levels of psychological well-being and other factors, including time since release, employment status, marriage status and time incarcerated. We also hope to conduct further qualitative analyses on how incarceration impacts familial relationships, and to explore how relationships with correctional officers impact relationships between incarcerated people. Lauren also plans to write up an article for publication on social interaction as a process for identity formation behind bars.

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## **SPRING 2020 PUBLIC PROGRAMMING**

### **VIGIL FOR LEONARD CARTER [THURSDAY, APRIL 23RD]**

At Age 61, Carter Tragically Passed Away From COVID-19 While Just Six Weeks From His Release Date From Queensboro Prison. Family members of those still incarcerated at Queensboro and advocates will mourn the tragic loss of Mr. Carter's life and call on Governor Cuomo to not let others die behind bars while the virus continues its spread. Pastor Isaac Scott and other faith leaders will lead a service to commemorate Mr. Carter's life. Flowers and candles will also be left outside the facility in his honor.

#### **Partners**

- Family members of people incarcerated at Queensboro Correctional Facility, faith leaders from Central Synagogue, Congregation Beth Elohim and Park Avenue Church, and community-based, service, and advocacy organizations including: Center for Community Alternatives, Parole Preparation Project, Release Aging People in Prison, and JustLeadershipUSA.

#### **Press**

- **FOX News:** <https://www.fox5ny.com/video/677632>
- **New York Daily News:** <https://www.nydailynews.com/coronavirus/ny-coronavirus-leonard-carter-death-20200423-72eh3zhc5jfehoidp6m3dp5d7i-story.html>
- **Queens Daily Eagle:** <https://queenseagle.com/all/vigil-queensboro-prison-leonard-carter-died>
- **ABC 7 (TV coverage - this link disappears in 30 days):** <http://my.tvey.es/y5BRe>



- The 24 Hour Plays to Collaborate With The Broadway Advocacy Coalition & More for Special Edition of VIRAL MONOLOGUES  
<https://www.broadwayworld.com/article/The-24-Hour-Plays-to-Collaborate-With-The-Broadway-Advocacy-Coalition-More-for-Special-Edition-of-VIRAL-MONOLOGUES-20200506>
- New 24 Hour Plays: Viral Monologues to Tell Stories From People Affected by COVID-19 and Incarceration BY DAN MEYER MAY 06, 2020  
<https://www.playbill.com/article/new-24-hour-plays-viral-monologues-to-tell-stories-from-people-affected-by-covid-19-and-incarceration>
- Broadway.com - André De Shields, Lynn Nottage & More Join The 24 Hour Plays' COVID & Incarceration Edition  
<https://www.broadway.com/buzz/199283/andre-de-shields-lynn-nottage-more-join-the-24-hour-plays-covid-incarceration-edition/>
- BroadwayWorld.com - Andre De Shields, Lynn Nottage & More to Take Part in THE 24 HOUR PLAYS: VIRAL MONOLOGUES
- <https://www.broadwayworld.com/article/Andre-De-Shields-Lynn-Nottage-More-to-Take-Part-in-THE-24-HOUR-PLAYS-VIRAL-MONOLOGUES-20200512>
- Playbill.com - André De Shields, Lynn Nottage, Rebecca Naomi Jones, More Join Special Edition of 24 Hour Plays: Viral Monologues  
<https://www.playbill.com/article/andre-de-shields-lynn-nottage-rebecca-naomi-jones-more-join-special-edition-of-24-hour-plays-viral-monologues>
- PCAP associate helps to create monologues on incarceration and coronavirus <https://lsa.umich.edu/pcap/news-events/all-news/search-news/pcap-associate-helps-to-create-monologues-on-incarceration-and-c.html>

## **OPEN CALL FOR CLEMENCY**

The Confined Arts accepted new or previously made artwork by artists who are currently incarcerated to be included in an upcoming online-exhibition titled, Open Call for Clemency. The goal of this exhibition is to emphasize the humanity of those who are incarcerated, share the works as widely as possible, and ultimately reach the Governor's offices, to advocate for clemency and protect the health and lives of people who are incarcerated and exceptionally vulnerable to the pandemic. Artist submissions reflected on personal responses to the current COVID-19 pandemic and the urgency and importance of clemency. **VIEW LIVE EXHIBITION AT [www.theconfinedarts.org/open-call-for-clemency.html](http://www.theconfinedarts.org/open-call-for-clemency.html)**

### **Partners**

- Releasing Aging People in Prison (RAPP)
- Claire Kim, Curator

- Taznima Tanzem, Graphic Designer

### **Panelists**

- **Pastor Isaac Scott**, Moderator
- **Dr. Nicole Fleetwood**, Professor of American Studies and Art History at Rutgers University and Author of *Marking Time: Art in the Age of Mass Incarceration*
- **Kenneth Reams**, Founder of Who Decides Inc. He is currently incarcerated and has launched the #FREEKENNYREAMSCAMPAIGN (www.freekennethreams.org), Artist featured in Open Call for Clemency
- **Mary Heinen McPherson**, Coordinator and Co-founder of the Prison Creative Arts Project
- **Jose Hamza Saldana** - Director of RAPP
- **Roslyn Smith** - Activist, Author, Organizer with RAPP, Beyond Incarceration Program Manger of Vday
- **Obiofuma, Chijindu** - Legal Fellow at Criminal Justice Policy Program (Harvard Law School)
- **Elder G.Yusef Qualls** - Re-entry specialist
- **Alejo Rodriguez** - Arts and Civic Engagement coordinator at Exodus Transitional Community; Board Member of BAC
- **Jason Wu** - Community Board 11 Member; Trustee for The Association of Legal Aid Attorneys-UAW 2325
- **David Harris** - Managing Director of the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race & Justice at Harvard Law School

### **HUMAN RESILIENCE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM (IIP)**

*A Remote Arts Series on Human Resilience and Criminal Justice Reform* is a three-part participatory public event to explore the potential for art to build bridges and create positive social change. **This series will be recorded to be later featured on a podcast dedicated to the theme.**

<https://www.prosecution.org/human-resilience-and-cj-reform-art-series>

### **Partners**

- Institute for Innovation in Prosecution
- Art 4 Society
- Transdisciplinary Aesthetics Foundation
- Pen America
- The Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine

### **POST TRAUMATIC PRISON DISORDER TOWN HALL MEETINGS**

The Issue: Research shows evidence that incarceration has negative psychological effects on people in prison. These include: A dependence on institutional structure and contingencies. Hypervigilance, interpersonal distrust, and suspicion. Emotional over-control, alienation, and psychological distancing. Social withdrawal and isolation. Incorporation of exploitative norms of prison culture. Diminished sense of self-worth and personal value. And post-traumatic stress reactions to the pains of imprisonment (Haney, 2001). The deprived social environment of prison can potentially impede one's social capacity to navigate various social obligations post-incarceration. **The virtual town hall meetings were organized by Silent Cry and The Confined Arts and brings together Health Experts, Policy Strategist, Lawmakers, Faith Leaders, National Organizers, Entrepreneurs, Artists, and Advocates to share direct knowledge and expertise in support of the Post Traumatic Prison Disorder Shawanna W76337 bill.**

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### **EPISODE 1: What is Trauma**

- Anatazia Schmid, PhD. Candidate, UC Riverside
- Jewel Jones, Assembly Member
- Richard Griffin, 327 Consulting Group
- Stephanie Carnegie, Totality Of A Woman (TOAW)
- Arthur Rambert, Community Stakeholder/Activist
- Glenn Martin, GEMTrainers, LLC, GEMrealestate, LLC
- Phil Giltner, Office of Brian Benjamin
- Dr. Coralanne Griffith-Hunte, Created for Greatness Leadership Group, Inc.

**EPISODE 2 Part I: What does it mean to experience trauma and why is it important that educators, doctors, correctional workers, families and all people consider trauma in their lives, relationships and work? Part II: How do we take advantage of the moment that we are in? What does trauma-informed policy, programs and law making look like?**

- Tonyita Hopkins, Community Engagement Manager, The Securus Foundation
- Dr. Robert Fullilove, Professor of Sociomedical Sciences at the Columbia University Medical Center; Associate Dean, Community and Minority Affairs
- Ayoola Mitchell, Healer, Facilitator, Life Coach
- Sharon White-Harrigan, Women's Community Justice Association (WCJA) Executive Director, Co-convener of the Justice for Women Task Force
- Cory Greene, Co-Founder of H.O.L.L.A.
- Coley Harris, Out of the Ashes
- Khalil A. Cumberbatch, Chief Strategist, [New Yorkers United for Justice](#)
- Kimberly Westcott, Community Service Society & School of Social Work
- Lauren Washington, Co-Founded the Anti-Bully Crusaders Organization
- Britton Smith, Senior Organizing Strategist, Reform Alliance

- Cheryl Wilkins, Women's Transcending, Center for Justice at Columbia University
- Stephanie King, Director of Student Wellness at Columbia University

**Watch now at:** <https://www.theconfinedarts.org/post-traumatic-prison-disorder-town-hall.html>