

Embargo until Friday, January 18, 2019

NEW EXHIBITION UNVEILS SPECULATIVE ARTWORK CREATED BY CHICAGO YOUTH HOPING FOR HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

Chicago - Beginning Friday, January 18, *South Side Speculations*, a new exhibition showcasing historically-grounded art and speculative media, will open as part of the University of Chicago's Arts + Public Life exhibition program at the Arts Incubator in Washington Park. *South Side Speculations* features objects created by local young people, exhibiting what is possible when young people investigate their neighborhoods' histories and imagine how to build healthier and freer futures.

Led by the University of Chicago's [Center for Interdisciplinary Inquiry and Innovation in Sexual and Reproductive Health](#) (Ci3) Transmedia Story Lab and University of Illinois at Chicago's [History Moves](#), *South Side Speculations* grew out of Transmedia Collage, a two-year intergenerational program made up of Chicago-based high school students, arts and humanities scholars, and practicing artists and storytellers. Funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation's Humanities Without Wall Consortium based at the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and led by professors Jennifer Brier and Patrick Jagoda, [Transmedia Collage](#) collaborated with 23 young people during the 2017 and 2018 summers to explore the impact of structural violence on health and wellness across the South Side. This program was designed with a particular focus on the historic Englewood, Greater Grand Crossing, North Lawndale, Washington Park, and Woodlawn communities and many of the participants either currently live or were born and raised in these communities.

The program included a series of summer workshops hosted on the University of Chicago's campus. In the first year, youth participants were introduced to historical research and oral history interviewing skills and interviewed community elders who grew up in their communities. These students created a variety of collages that reimaged the past of their neighborhoods and incorporated the historical research they completed over the summer. In the second year, youth were asked to imagine the futures in which they wish to live. The objects from year two were designed to be speculative in nature and were influenced by science fiction and Afrofuturism that the group studied together; capturing the dreams, beliefs, and imagination that the residents from their communities might hold.

By detailing how a climate of structural violence has impacted the health and wellbeing of young people of color on Chicago's South Side, as well as the adults who grew up in these communities, the exhibition features objects that examine the past, present, and future of South Side neighborhoods. It also details the complex social determinants of health in an ever-state of policing.

"It was an honor to work alongside a group of talented, intelligent, and imaginative young people from Chicago's South Side," said Dr. Patrick Jagoda, Co-Founder of Transmedia Story Lab and Associate Professor of Cinema & Media Studies and English at UChicago. "Over the last two years, they have expressed deep excitement to study the histories of their communities, and real vision in imagining more just futures and creating models of healthier neighborhoods."

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Hosted by University of Chicago's Arts + Public Life, the exhibition's opening reception will be held on Friday, January 18, 2019 from 6 - 8 p.m. at the University of Chicago's Arts Incubator, 301 E Garfield Blvd, Chicago, IL 60637. It is free and open to the public.

The showcase will continue to run at the Arts Incubator from January 19 – March 1, 2019.

South Side Speculations is curated by a large multidisciplinary and inter-university team: Jennifer Ash, Jacqueline Buckley, Chelsea Ridley, Astha Thakkar, Nina Versenyi, and Ali Yusuff from UIC; Matt Wizinsky from University of Cincinnati; Gary Kafer from the University of Chicago; Marquez Rhyne from the Narrative Initiative; and co-led by Jennifer Brier, Lead Investigator of History Moves and Professor of History and Gender and Women's Studies at UIC, Ireashia Bennett, A/V Production Manager at the Ci3 Transmedia Story Lab, and Patrick Jagoda, Co-Founder of Transmedia Story Lab and Associate Professor of Cinema & Media Studies and English at the University of Chicago.

For more information, please visit the event's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/217632492491713/>

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About Ci3 at the University of Chicago

Established in 2012, [Ci3](#) is a research center the University of Chicago addressing the social and structural determinants of adolescent sexual and reproductive health. At Ci3, we envision a world in which all youth emerge into adulthood with agency over their bodies and futures. Ci3 houses three labs: [The Game Changer Chicago Design Lab](#); [The Transmedia Story Lab](#); and [The Design Thinking Lab](#). Within these labs, we create games and digital narratives, and design interventions with and for youth. Ci3 is committed to empowering young people, conducting innovative research, and uncovering opportunities for policy and systemic change.

About the Transmedia Story Lab

Ci3's Transmedia Story Lab designs, produces, and studies the use of multimedia narrative and stories to advance research, health, and policy for youth. TSL uses multimedia platforms to lift the voices of young people by collecting, analyzing, and critically listening to stories from youth in urban communities around the world. This lab actively engages youth, as well as researchers and scholars from a variety of disciplines – humanities, adolescent reproductive health, social services administration, economics, policy – to explore and identify the systems that impact the overall well-being of youth.

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