

Instructionally Related Activities Report Form

SPONSOR: Matt Furmanski

PROGRAM/DEPARTMENT: Art

ACTIVITY TITLE: Marine Debris Sculpture, remote

DATE (S) OF ACTIVITY: Please enter date(s) September 30, October 1 and 2, 2016

(1) PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY

The activity involved traveling to Santa Rosa Island to create and document site specific and temporary works of art on remote beaches. Due to the availability of vehicle transport, the size of the group was limited to 5 people. We could only get access to the gator for transportation out to the area of interest, and we had to hike back. This provided some great opportunities, as well as a time element.

(2) HOW DID THE ACTIVITY RELATE TO A COURSE(S) AND/OR LEARNING OBJECTIVES?

The activity related to many of the objectives and learning outcomes from upper division sculpture, where we study and learn about artist form the Land Art, Environmental art, earthworks and temporary art genera.

The activity directly related to sculpture students in regards to their further understanding of art making as it relates to composition, form and content. The field trip also integrated aspects of social art making, that is art that carries a specific goal of communicating through visual means, issues that are of importance to us as a human community. The art work created will confront the viewer with questions about our environment, our place in that environment, and our responsibility as stewards of that environment, specific to the Nation Park and Santa Rosa Island, as well as our coastline.

(3) WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE STRENGTHS OF THE ACTIVITY?

Students were able to participate in many of the art/sculptural practices that we study, but do not have the opportunity to actually practice or experience in the classroom setting on campus.

The strengths of the activity were apparent in the focus, concentration and camaraderie that students displayed during the field trip. Their reaction to an unfamiliar and isolated environment was novel and thought provoking, which gave them a new and challenging subject to contemplate vis-à-vis their artwork. For many of the students, this was the first time out of the city, and for some, this was the first time they had ever been on a



boat, not to mention an island. This shift in perspective and primary experience is essential in an education.

(4) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ARE/WERE THE ACTIVITY'S WEAKNESSES?

It would be great to bring more students out to share in the experience. At this time the major limitations are access through vehicles on the island, and arranging transportation for students who might not be able to hike 8 to 14 miles in a day.

(5) HOW WOULD YOU IMPROVE THIS ACTIVITY FOR NEXT TIME?

Be able to bring more students!, this was great, and I would love to have the experience with more of our students.

(6) WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THE PROCESS?

To look fresh and see new many things that I sometimes take for granted. Every trip out to the Research station I learn some new thing, or experience some new challenge that inevitably makes it back to the classroom and effects the way I teach.

I learned that students without access to internet were much better able to interact with each other, help each other and create stronger bonds overall. We also learned the inclusion of out of classroom experiences are essential in the learning process, and that a properly guided intense and immersive project/experience like this can access learning at a level well beyond traditional classroom lecturing.

(7) WHAT ARE STUDENT RESPONSES TO THE ACTIVITY? ATTACH STUDENT EVALUATIONS OR ASSESSMENTS (IN ACCORDANCE WITH FERPA RESTRICTIONS YOU MUST REMOVE ALL PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE STUDENT INFORMATION)

For me Santa Rosa Island is a huge blessing. I am student but I also have a job. I am often too busy to go anywhere besides work and school during the semester. I am a nature inspired artist, and I find it sometimes difficult to grasp any inspiration on my day to day routines when I'm around so much city life and cement constantly. Experiencing isolation in nature And talking with my mentor Professor Furmanski about all the plants and animals and native Indian heritage that we find as we walk the trails on the island triggerd an abundant amount of inspiration for me as an art student. Also getting to know my peers outside of school was life changing. After we took our first trip we all got so much closer. Now at school we help each other out more and work together more. This school trip is so beneficial for myself and many of my classmates. The research center leaders also made a lasting impact on me. They spoke to us quite often about the environment we had found ourselves in. They ask us to not take anything



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home and to not move any bones that we find and to be careful where we step, they taught us how the island is in a recovering state, and that some native species population is returning, and they told us about their efforts which aided the process. And I honestly feel that my respect for the land has grown.. I now want to be apart of nature conservation efforts more than ever before
.-Jade Baer

I find that going to Santa Rosa Islands is beneficial to students like myself. My experience there was beyond any expectations I had. I found that the island was peaceful, adventurous, a great learning experience and rewarding. I was able to disconnect from the world and just be apart of nature with my fellow classmates and professors. Having the disconnection from technology was one one the most significant things for me. I was able to embrace the beauty around me, connect with myself and also connect with my peers without any distractions. Not only did I learn a lot about my peers, I also learned about nature and how humans impact the environment negatively. Having this experience opened my eyes to the world more and it helped me realize what little things I can do to be more environmental friendly. It also showed me that having a disconnection from technology from time to time is needed. I am grateful that I had the opportunity to explore Santa Rosa Island with my classmates and professors.

-Student

(8) GIVE A SUMMARY OF EXPENSES FOR THE ACTIVITY.

We used the allotted IRA budget for: A majority was used on transportation to and from the island and food for the duration of the trip. The balance was used fore the purchased some gear, mostly for the long hike back from East Point to ensure that we had proper hydration and protection for our activities.

**B. ON SEPARATE DOCUMENT, PLEASE ATTACH ATTENDEE LIST
(PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFO REMOVED)**

**C. PLEASE INCLUDE UP TO 6 IMAGES IN THIS DOCUMENT TO DEMONSTRATE
STUDENT PARTICIPATION**

Attendee List,
IRA 791
Furmanski, September 30, to October 2, 2016

Matt Furmanski
Kenji Webb
Jade Baer
Spencer Pomeroy
Page Ellison



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