

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SHOWCASE

ART, RENEWABLE ENERGY & PLAY

Rey Jeong, Assistant Professor in Art
with Sacramento Adventure Playground

Sacramento
Adventure Playground



Program or Project Description

Sacramento Adventure Playground

Serves as a hub for underrepresented communities, offering homeschool programs, summer camps, and free-admission playground sessions for a diverse community.

Objectives

1. Expose **students to potential internships and volunteer opportunities.**
2. Engage with children **in a radical playground.**
3. Observe how children **take risks and ownership over their play** without adult supervision. Spaces like this, which challenge conventional structures of play, are rare and broaden students' perspectives as artists and thinkers.

Project Highlights

Prof. Sarvenaz Sobhan and Prof. Rey Jeong
2 engineering students and 3 art students
3 staff members from Adventure Playground and 25 kids

The session centered around art, play, and renewable energy. Kids were drawings and paintings based on their understanding of renewable energy. Engineering students and Prof. Sarvenaz demonstrated how solar energy can be affordably converted into electricity.

Key Accomplishments

1. **Interdisciplinary Exchange:** The project facilitated an exchange of ideas across energy, art, and play.
2. **Creative Engagement:** Children created artwork through ink press printing and drawing, while college students explored the radical play model.

Promoting Student Success in College and Career

- **Application of Course Material:** Students applied their artistic and technical knowledge to a community setting, bridging academia with real-world social issues.
- **Career Readiness:** Exposure to socially engaged art in action helped students envision future roles in public art, education, and interdisciplinary collaboration.
- **Asset-Based Approach:** Rather than viewing the playground or students as lacking resources, this project highlighted the strengths of both the community partner and students, fostering mutual growth.
- **Equity and Access:** By introducing an underrepresented community space as a potential partner, this initiative expanded access to experiential learning opportunities for students.



Community Impact

The Adventure Playground team expressed enthusiasm about collaborating with Sacramento State students, recognizing them as **role models for children** and **valuable contributors** to the playground community. The partnership fosters deeper community engagement, benefiting both students and children.



Campus Community Impact

Despite its strong reputation and valuable resources, the Adventure Playground is underrepresented as a community partner. Establishing a partnership with Sac State provides students with a resource for service learning while strengthening community ties.

Comments from students: *"It's fascinating seeing how children experiment with tools and structures. I didn't learn how to use power tools until I was twelve."*
"This trip shifted my understanding of socially engaged art. Initially, I thought it meant making interactive art, but now I see it as using art to create spaces for others to engage in creation. I loved discussing ideas with the kids—it was rewarding to see them explore new materials and express themselves artistically."

Collaborative Project: Building on this experience, a **Play/Site-Specific Theater project** exploring counter-narratives in children's books has been awarded funding from the College of A&L.