





Housekeeping

1. **Recording** – This event is being recorded.
2. **Audio** – Please leave microphone on mute. Individuals can enable closed captioning in the bottom toolbar.
3. **Q&A** – Please use the Q&A section for any questions. Chat will not be monitored for questions. We encourage participants to populate questions as the presentations advance, but all answers will be held until the Q&A. Any questions collected here but not answered during event will be reviewed and answered afterwards.
4. **Chat** – Chat will be used to share information with attendees and can be used for attendees to chat with each other. We encourage you to share comments and talk to each other in this area.



Opening

David T Cantaffa, Interim Senior Associate Provost
Academic Affairs, Office of the Provost
SUNY System Administration



Civic Education and Engagement and Civil Discourse Fellows



Angie Chung
University at Albany



Ashley M. Liegi
Stony Brook University



John Suarez
SUNY Cortland



Babette Faehmel
Schenectady County Community
College



Nirav Patel
University of Colorado Boulder
formerly Binghamton University



Amy Werbel
Fashion Institute of Technology



Angela Graves
Alfred State College



Joseph Scanlon
Monroe Community College



Jean Yang
SUNY College of Environmental
Science and Forestry



Civic Education and Engagement and Civil Discourse Fellows

- Gather and amplify civic engagement resources
- Provide learning opportunities for faculty and staff
- Participate in a General Education working group
- Coordinate with student government
- Develop a community of practice
- Contribute to a SUNY civic education convening
- Inform a civic engagement strategic plan



SUNY Civic Education and Engagement and Civil Discourse Fellows

**Towards a Civic Discourse: Insights and
Conversations Across Disciplines**

December 3, 2024



Introduction / Framing

Joseph Scanlon, Associate Professor of Political Science,
SUNY Monroe Community College



When the knowledge and understanding that flow into a political decision are closely controlled by a limited few, their control of knowledge resources pulls decision-making power to them as well. Broadening the engagement of the citizenry in the discovery, analysis, and deliberation process that feed into policy-making decentralizes power, supporting political equality

Danielle Allen, 2023



The Arts and STEM

Amy Werbel, Professor, History of Art Department,
Fashion Institute of Technology

Nirav S. Patel, Assistant Professor,
Department of Environmental Studies,
University of Colorado Boulder (formerly Binghamton University)



EXPERIENTIAL ENGAGEMENT WITH THE ARTS: COMMUNITY-BUILDING FOR TRANSFORMATIVE CIVIC DISCOURSE

AMY WERBEL
PROFESSOR OF THE HISTORY OF ART
FASHION INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY



WHAT MAKES YOU FEEL SAFE ENOUGH TO SPEAK?

WHAT CONVERSATIONS CAN YOU REMEMBER THAT HELPED YOU SEE THINGS IN NEW WAYS?

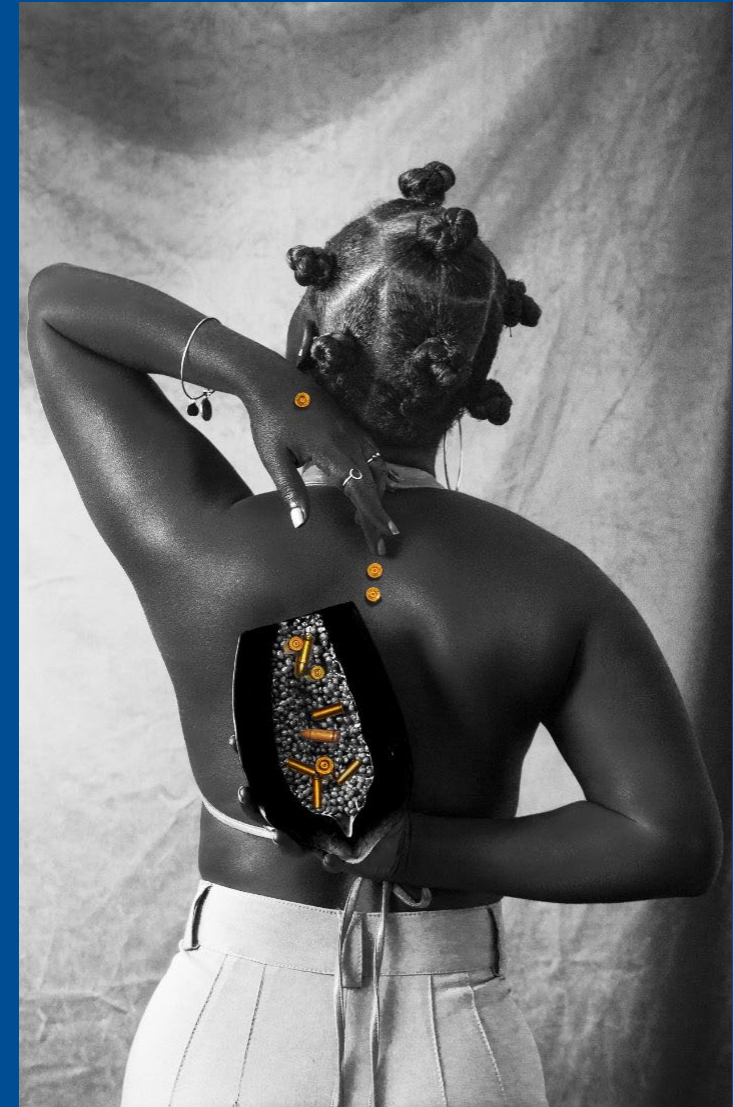
ARTISTS SPECIALIZE IN HELPING US SEE THINGS IN NEW WAYS

EXPERIENCING AND DISCUSSING ART TOGETHER IS A 'LOW STAKES' EXERCISE THAN CAN BUILD A SENSE OF SHARED COMMUNITY



HA 246. ART AND SOCIAL JUSTICE IN NEW YORK
VISIT TO THE HAITI CULTURAL EXCHANGE,
BROOKLYN, OCTOBER 2024.

What is the message in this art? How do the gallery
and artist convey this message?



Zarita Zevallos, *#Kisanapfeakmatisan*



POSTCARD PROJECTS



*Fashion Institute
of Technology
Constitution Day
Postcard Competition*

The bullet holes in the American flag replace the stars to represent gun control and the right to bear arms.

The Second Amendment of the United States Constitution reads: "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

Designer: Sonjee Ho, AD 496-601, I. Paris Instructor

sponsored by:



HYPERALLERGIC

Performance

Artist Invites the Public to Write Letters to the Next US President

Sheryl Oring has typed and sent thousands of messages to the White House every election since 2004 as part of her performance series *I Wish to Say*.

 Isa Farfan November 5, 2024



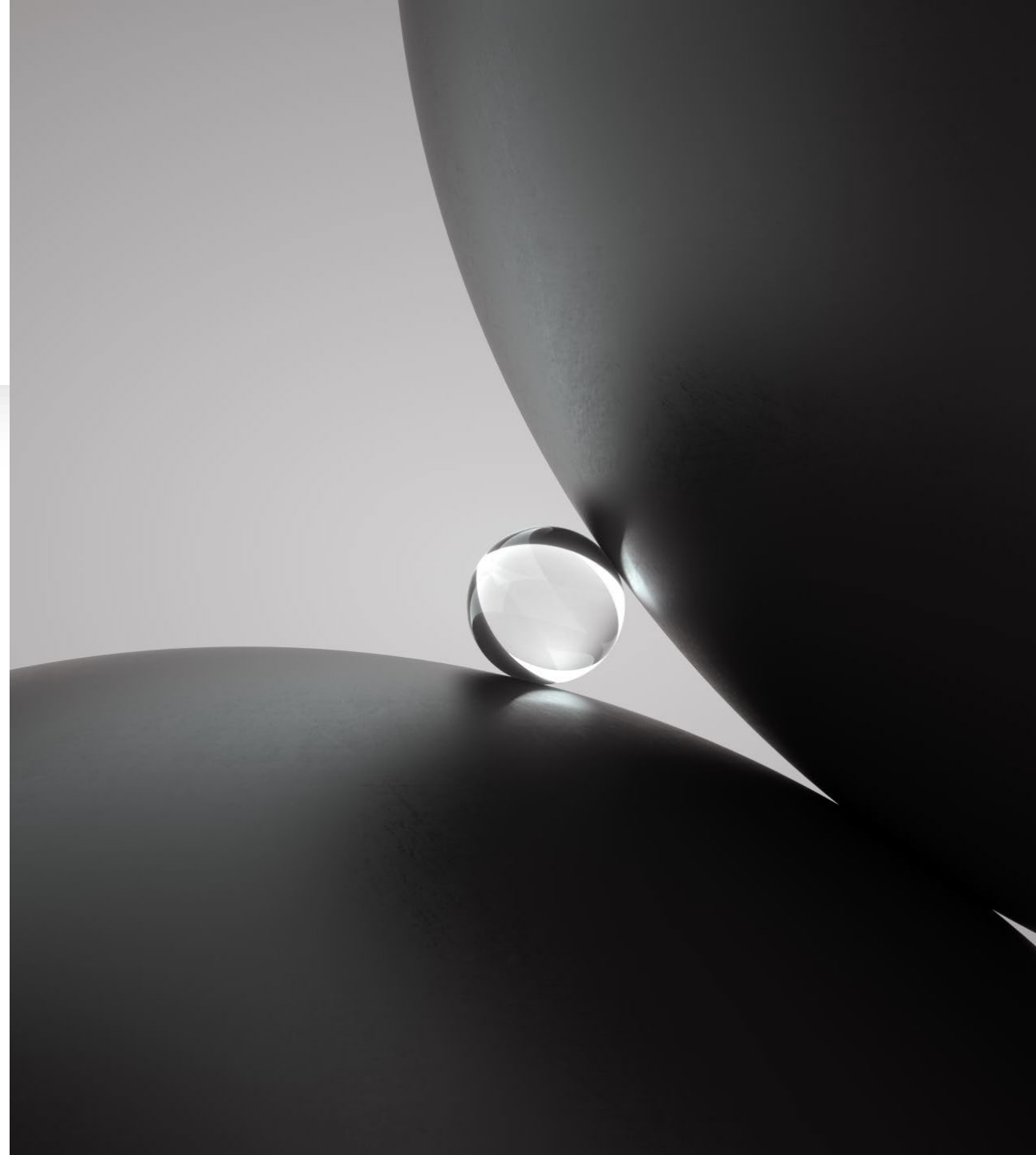
Sheryl Oring at her Philadelphia pop-up on election day (all photos Isabella Segalovich/Hyperallergic)

SUNY THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Aligning ARTS and STEM through People, Photographs, and Poetry

- Memory
- Connection
- Story

These words reflect how poetry, photography, and people can intertwine to express emotions, stories, and connections across time and space.

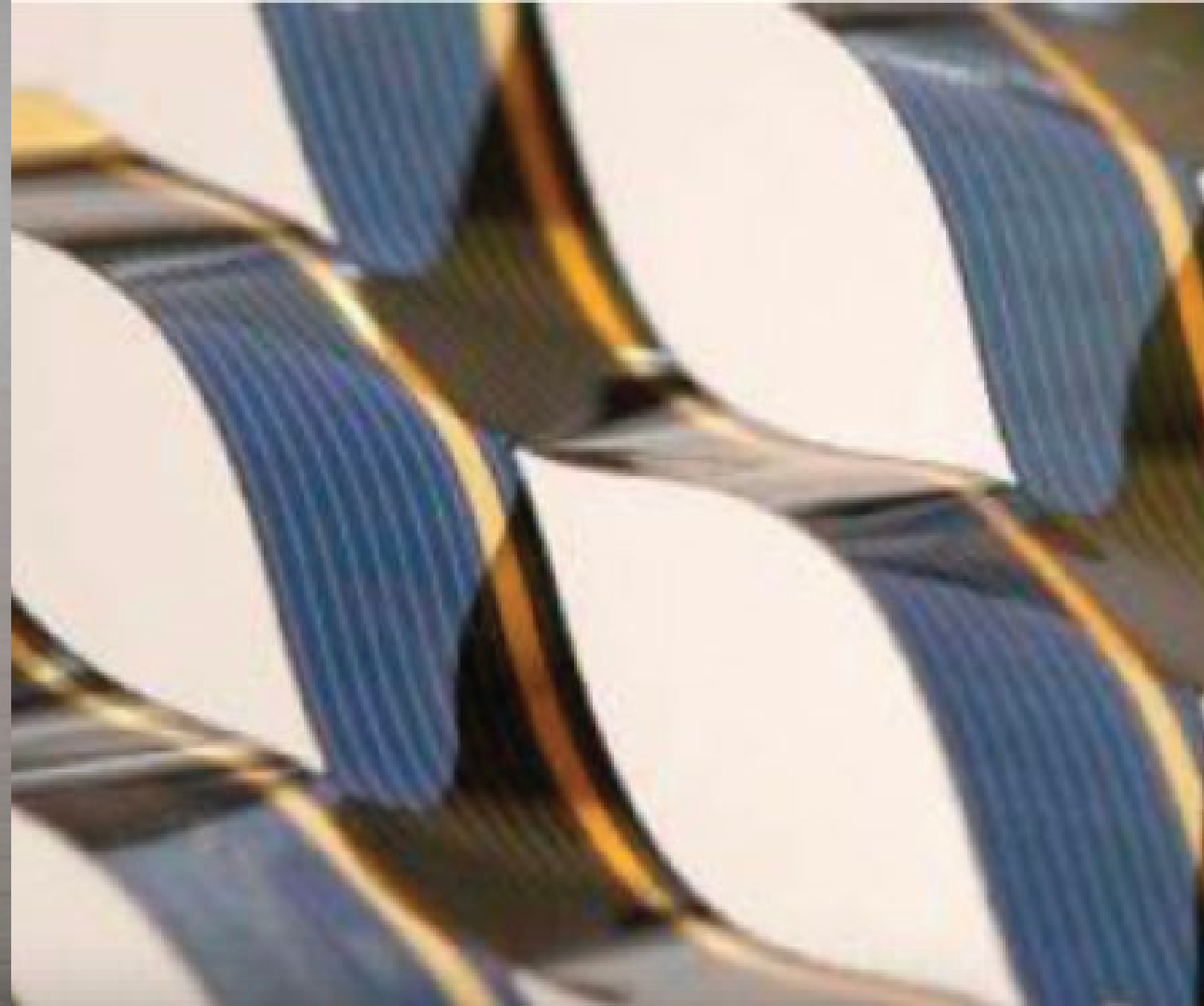


**Elmore
Bolling**

Lowndesboro, AL
December 4, 1947

Equal Justice Initiative, Montgomery, Alabama

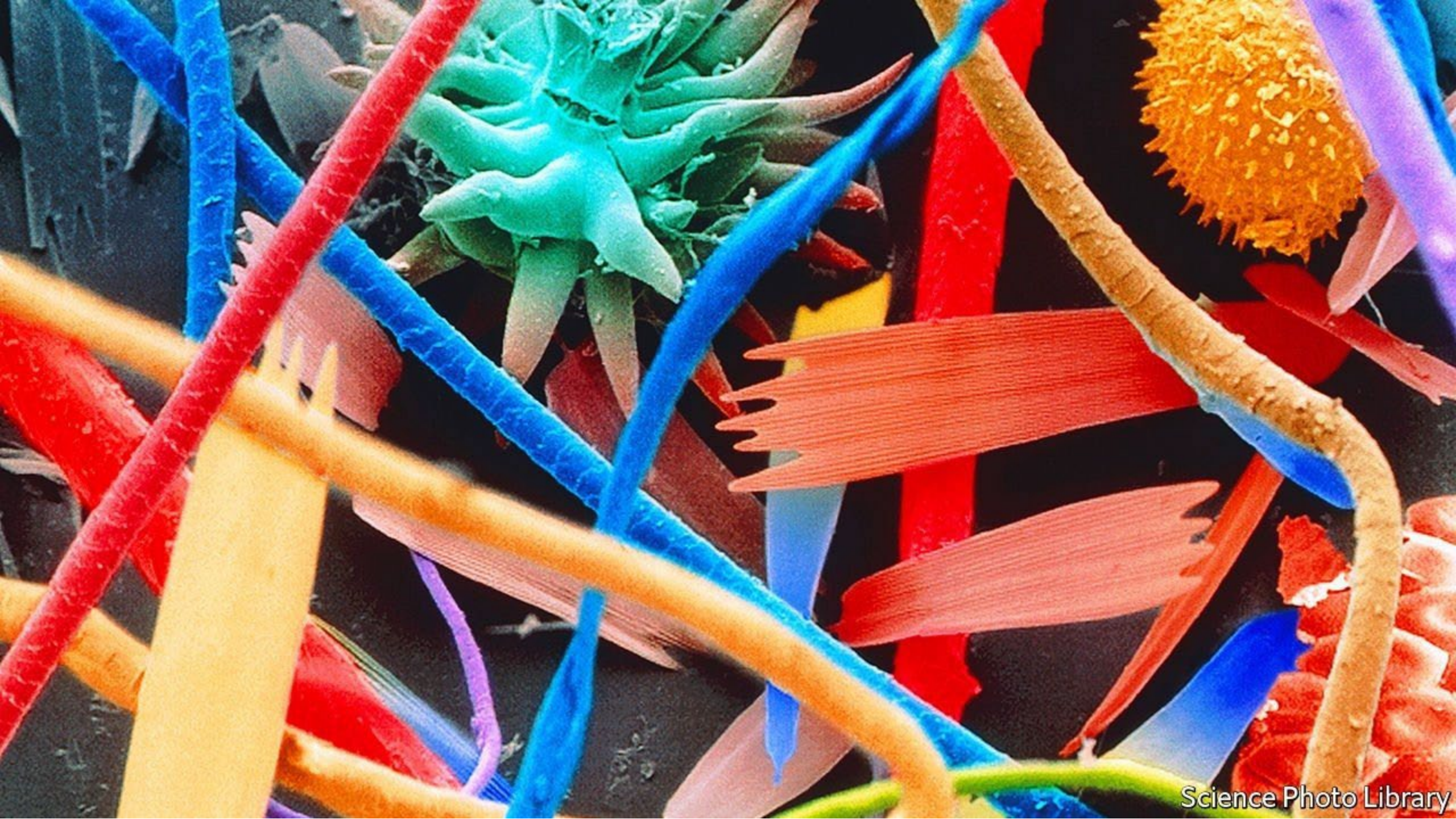




Kirigami Inspired Elastic Solar Cells Model

Source: Work credit: Aaron Lamoureux, Kyusang Lee, Matthew Shlian, Stephen Forrest, Max Shtein—University of Michigan. Image credit: Aaron Lamoureux—University of Michigan

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2018. The Integration of the Humanities and Arts with Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine in Higher Education: Branches from the Same Tree. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/24988>.







Poetry and Science

The plants are a sign
They move in, slowly creeping onto shore
Or between tracks and cracks
Carefully transplanted with fanfare
Or with little regard- perhaps noted by a passing person as
deterioration
Exotic
Or homely

Or maybe the people were first
They followed what was presented as green, sustainable,
or innovative
And built
And built more
To ensure the presence of Giorgio would not be missed
And made new ways to harvest other greens
Yes, students and tourists learn there
But only under the window of luxe living

The others had to leave
Left when there was no money to harvest, or costs grew
too high
And gathered instead around empty town squares
Meant for children and walks
But used now to reach for employment, and when there is
none, a seat
Eventually, if the jobs really do leave
They'll let the grasses swallow their houses

The children who may sit at the square one day
Who need it the most
Will never stand under an Armani sign
And learn too

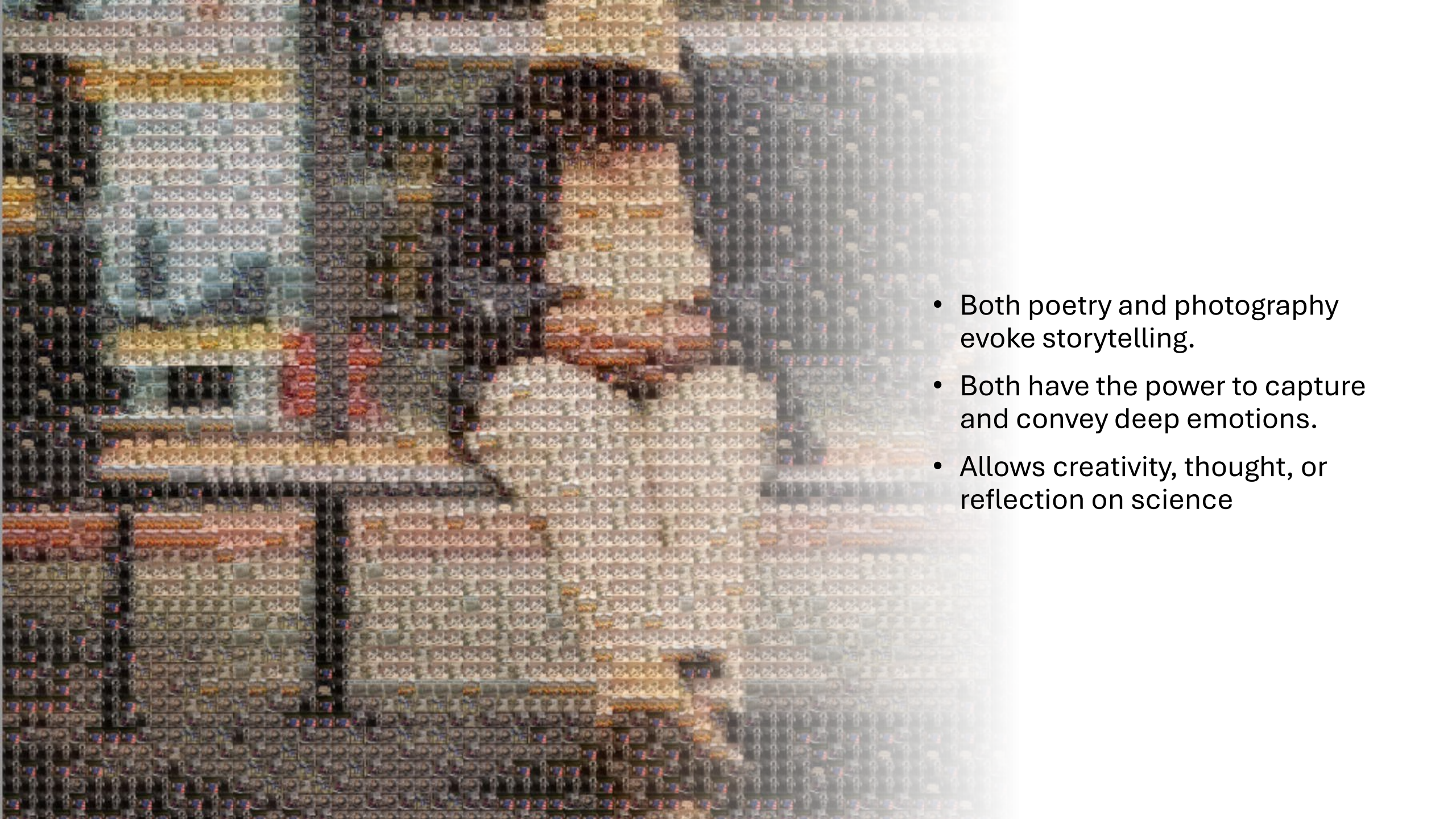
Some may decide to change that
“We need to invest in our communities” they say
To bring in business, to bring in tourists
Through environmental projects
Create something laudable, celebrated

It might happen, it might not.
But if so, the cycle starts again
Those with the ability, move in
And those who need the change the most, move out

Which is truly better
Maybe that square is feeding more hungry households
Than a New York City destination
And the reeds overtaking houses
Are saving the shore from damage, saving an industry

Maybe the assumption, however obvious
Is not the outcome





- Both poetry and photography evoke storytelling.
- Both have the power to capture and convey deep emotions.
- Allows creativity, thought, or reflection on science





NOT IN MY BACKYARD

*I said, "Not in My Backyard" you won't,
install solar panels or those turbines off the coast.
Why those animals need a home,
just a little ways off from my beautiful throne.
So what if I don't need this space now,
you'll know I'll have guests here that I'll allow.
I'm a job creator you see,
a man will water my lawn daily.
My gardens will look fresh,
and my neighbors will be filled with zest.
I can feel it now,
all the fruits and vegetables I'll grow;
oh wait, I forgot, maybe a couple decades from now.*

*"Not in My Backyard" you won't,
do all these things.
It's perfect the way it is,
I paid for it and thus I am king.
And so it goes on, the years pass by,
each time I proclaim, "Not in My Backyard" till the day I die.
As I grow older, I see the problems in my ways,
each of my cries – has turned the world bare.
Each of my cries – has turned the world bare.*



Power, Process, and Institutions: Civic Discourse in Sociology and History

Angie Y. Chung, Professor, Sociology and U.S. Fulbright Scholar,
University at Albany

Babette Faehmel, Professor, History, Division of Liberal Arts,
Schenectady County Community College



Civic Discourse and the Challenges of Democracy

Classic Theories on Deliberative Democracy

- ***Alexis de Tocqueville*** and ***Émile Durkheim*** emphasized democracy's potential to foster equality through institutions and shared norms.
- They viewed free expression and participation as essential to a functioning democratic society.

Inequality and the Limits of Civic Participation

- Scholars like ***Michel Foucault*** and ***Pierre Bourdieu*** explored how power shapes discourse, with Foucault focusing on social hierarchies and Bourdieu on cultural capital and privilege in accessing civic spaces.
- ***Patricia Hill Collins*** and ***Evelyn Nakano Glenn*** expanded this analysis by showing how race, gender, and class intersect to marginalize minority voices in public dialogue.



David Butow/Corbis via Getty Images

Civic Expression and Collective Action

Informal Civic Expression:

- Protests and social movements as tools for disempowered groups
- Barriers to participation: Gerrymandering, media bias, voter suppression, and daily survival challenges
- Risks of disorganized resistance: Counterproductive impacts on marginalized communities
- **Case Study of a Coalition:** Korean, Black, and White leaders collaborated post-riots to fund and build a public safety substation, overcoming disputes through shared resources and negotiation.

Today's Challenges:

- Social media as amplifying marginalized voices vs. spreading misinformation and deepening polarization.



Questions for Reflection

1. How can institutions and technology foster more equitable and inclusive civic discourse?
2. What lessons can be applied to create a fair “marketplaces of ideas” on college campuses and beyond?
3. How can marginalized communities use civic discourse to reform institutionalized power and privilege?
4. How can social media platforms be harnessed as tools for civic engagement and the amplification of marginalized voices, while addressing issues of misinformation and polarization?
5. In what ways can organized, peaceful resistance, as seen in the civil rights movement, serve as a model for current social movements aiming to reform institutional structures?
6. Can the "marketplace of ideas" model truly function in a democracy that is characterized by significant power imbalances, and if so, how?



A 2018 study from Project Information Literacy of almost 6,000 students at 11 U.S. colleges found that a majority of those surveyed felt “cynical almost to the point of believing their concerns and actions had little meaning, and that it was not possible to change a thing”.

Head, Alison J. et al. “Information Literacy in the Age of Algorithms.” Project Information Literacy, 15 Jan. 2020.

The history of the **Black Civil Rights Movement** can serve as a powerful illustration of the power of ordinary people to “bend the arc of history towards justice”!

But **how** we tell this story matters!

“The Myth of Southern Exceptionalism”
and the fallacy of linear progress

There is a value in making the history of this movement a lot more uncomfortable, a lot more complicated, and a lot longer: “Harder to cast as a satisfying morality tale. Most of all, harder to simplify, appropriate, and contain.”

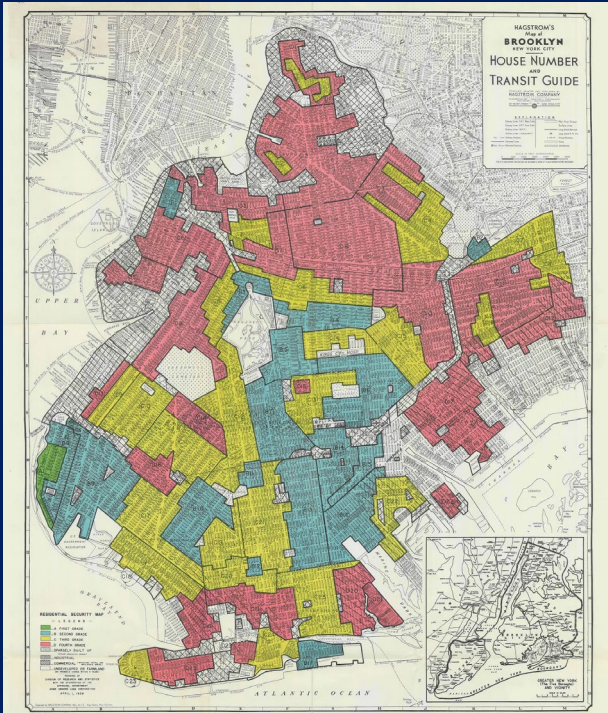
Jacquelyn Dowd Hall. “The Long Civil Rights Movement and the Political Uses of the Past.” (2005)



Martin Luther King, "The Other America". Speech at Grosse Pointe High School, 03/14/1968

"There are two Americas... In [one] America children grow up in the sunlight of opportunity. But there is another America [in which] thousands of people ... are deprived of an opportunity to get an adequate education. [Where] thousands finish high school reading at a 7th, 8th [or] 9th grade level. Not because they're dumb, ... but because the schools are so inadequate... ..

1938 Home Owners' Loan Corporation map of Brooklyn. National Archives and Records Administration, Mapping Inequality



The past left us with legacies we are still trying to address

As the work of J. Dowd Hall, P. Joseph, R. Rothstein, J. Theoharis, and many other historians demonstrates:

- The struggle for racial justice was never just a Southern phenomenon, and is in fact ongoing
- Racial inequalities were embedded in the U.S. social welfare state from the start
 - Most Black workers were initially excluded from the benefits of the Social Security Act, and ineligible for New Deal unemployment insurance.
 - The 1940s GI Bill bypassed most Black Americans due to discriminatory implementation.
 - Zoning laws, redlining, discriminatory loan policies, etc. excluded African Americans from key opportunities to build intergenerational wealth; contributing to today's racial wealth-gap.
- Activists have challenged - and are still challenging - underfunded schools, biased curricula, over-policing of Black communities, discriminatory housing practices, and unfair loan industries.

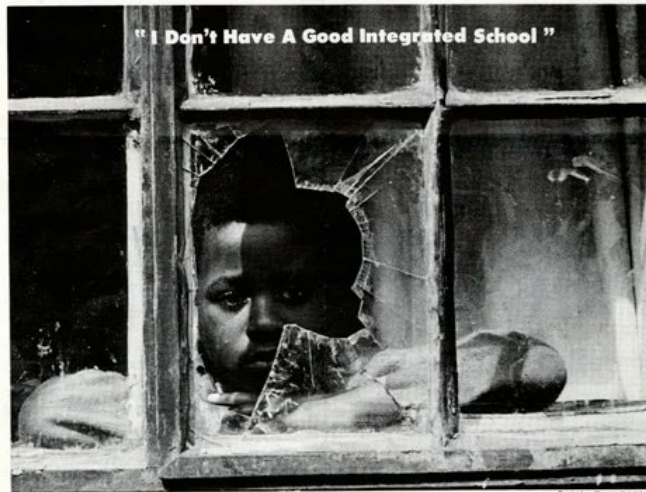
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School Boycott! Flyer, 1964,
Courtesy Elliott Linzer
Collection, Queens College
Civil Rights Archives, City
University of New

SCHOOL BOYCOTT!

FREEDOM DAY FEBRUARY 3, 1964



JOIN THE ONE DAY BOYCOTT!

FOR INFORMATION CALL:

BRONX
LU 9-8409
JE 7-6270

BROOKLYN
UL 7-9200
ST 9-7050

QUEENS
JA 6-9070
RA 1-6855

MANHATTAN
AU 1-6333
Uptown MO 6-0400
Lower East Side SP 7-9090

City Wide Committee for Integrated Schools

"American history is longer, larger, more various,
more beautiful, and more terrible than anything
anyone has ever said about it."

James Baldwin , "A Talk to Teachers" (1963)

Question for Reflection

How can we teach US history's uglier truths to
convey key lessons about power, privilege,
and oppression, without further feeding
cynicism and the impulse to reject key
institutions and democratic principles?



Interdisciplinary Application and Student Activities

Angela Graves, Associate Professor of Global & Diversity Studies,
SUNY Alfred State College of Technology

Ashley M. Liegi, Assistant Director, Center for Civic Justice,
Stony Brook University



Goals for an Interdisciplinary Civic Discourse Framework

- **Explore** how the principles of civic discourse apply across different student populations, disciplines, and career goals.
- **Identify** the value of collective problem-solving and navigating disagreement as key workforce skills, particularly in tech and trades programs.
- **Reflect** on the role that civic discourse plays in good citizenship and community service to highlight its broader value as a tool for personal growth.



A Sample Framework for the Trades

1. Representation and Equity

- *Are diverse team members included in decision-making processes, such as safety meetings, labor discussions, or project planning, ensuring that everyone has a say?*

2. Process

- *Are there clear processes in place for workplace discussions, such as regular safety briefings or job site problem-solving meetings, where respect for diverse views is maintained?*

3. Effectiveness

- *Do conversations result in actionable solutions, such as revised safety protocols, efficient job coordination, or improved working conditions?*

4. Sustainability

- *Are there regular opportunities for feedback and reflection in place, such as post-project reviews or ongoing worker-manager dialogues to address long-term concerns?*



Civic Discourse & Intentional Student Engagement

1

Collaborating with Student Organizations to Foster Civic Discourse

- Community Dialogue Series
- Collaborative Programming

2

Connecting Civic Engagement to Field of Study and Interests

- Stony Brook Medicine x Democracy 101
- *"Your Major on the Ballot"* Tool (SLSV)



Collaborating with Student Organizations to Foster Civic Discourse

Community Dialogue Series



Hosted by Center for Civic Justice

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

THE POLITICAL PULSE:

CHECKING AMERICA'S HEARTBEAT ON
THE BRINK OF THE 2024 ELECTION

10/01 | **7-8:30 PM**
TUESDAY | UNION BALLROOM

Who are we?
The Center for Civic Justice provides services for programs that cultivate civic engagement on campus through efforts such as voter registration, celebration of civic holidays, and other civic programming efforts.

What are we doing tonight?
Tonight's Community Dialogue focuses on the upcoming Elections, their importance, and candidates on the ballot. We will discuss the intersection of the national debt in our choices!



For questions and accessibility needs, please contact civicjustice@stonybrook.edu

Collaborative Programming with Student Organizations



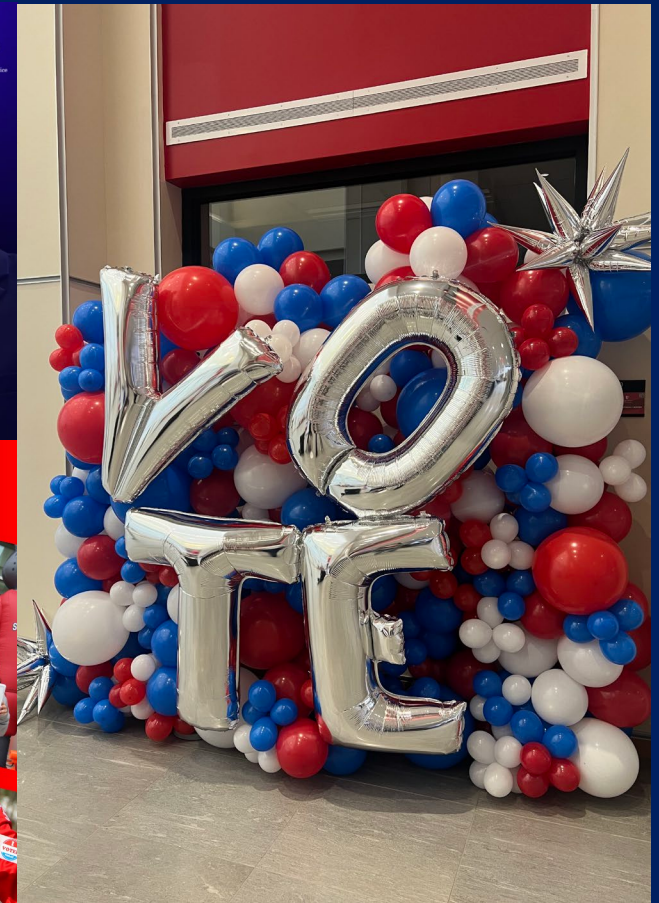
Hosted by Center for Civic Justice

**NATIONAL VOTER
REGISTRATION DAY.**

SAC PLAZA
WEDNESDAY | 9/18 | 11AM-3PM

- ☒ CHECK YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION STATUS
- ☒ LEARN MORE ABOUT IMPORTANT DEADLINES
- ☒ MAKE SURE YOU'RE READY TO VOTE THIS NOVEMBER

Stony Brook
University
Center for Civic Justice



SUNY THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



Connecting Civic Engagement to Field of Study and Interests

Key Legislation in Healthcare

As a physician, a large role you will have is advocating for your patients. Use this guide to be “in the know” about Legislation that can impact the state of health care and your patients.

One of the most comprehensive pieces of legislation that was passed within the past two decades was the Affordable Care Act, aka Obamacare in 2010. The goal was to provide more affordable health care to low income families.

Scan this QR code to see current bills pending from the New York Senate Health Committee:



One current pending bill is the New York Health Act (2023). It would cover all types of health care for all New Yorkers. This is regardless of immigration status. The goal would be for it to be paid through income-based taxes.

Your Major on the Ballot Tool (SLSV)

Business	+
Chemistry	+
Communications and Journalism	+
Computer Science	+
Data and Information Science	+
Economics	+
Education	-
Educated citizens become active citizens. Our teachers play a huge role in keeping our democracy alive, not to mention an education opens the door to valuable opportunities later in life. Millions of children attend public schools, so it's necessary to ensure a quality education, from daycare to doctorate. With issues like the school-to-prison pipeline, firearms on campus, rising tuition, teacher pay, and standardized testing, our schools are on the ballot!	
5 key issues:	
• Funding for public education • Student debt management and relief • Private and charter school vouchers • Price of higher education tuition • K-12 curriculum	
Learn more:	
• 560,000 Borrowers Will Get Automatic Student Loan Forgiveness, but Others Can Still Apply for Relief • STEM Education Budget: FY22 Outcomes and FY23 Request • NYC Budget Deal Cuts School Funding amid Declining Enrollment	



Discussant

John Suarez, Director
Galpin Institute for Civic Engagement
SUNY Cortland



Observations

WHY

Pursuit of knowledge
Career readiness
Civic readiness

WHAT

Discipline-based knowledge
Educator's priorities/values.
Students' thinking skills

A TENSE BALANCE

WHEN

Between elections
K-12
K-16

HOW

Traditional lecture/reading
Applied learning



Q&A and Reflections

Jean Yang, Assistant Professor
Department of Landscape Architecture
SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry



Reflections

The panelists have shared starting points for a larger discussion on how civic discourse can be viewed through different disciplinary lenses.

How have other disciplines represented in the audience approached and practiced civic discourse in their classrooms, clubs, and campuses?



Q&A and Reflections



**SUNY Civic Learning and Civic Engagement
Resources**



SUNY Civic Fellows Community of Practice (CoP)





For more information visit www.suny.edu/CivicFellows
or contact us at CivicFellows@suny.edu