**Project synopsis: Mapping space through literature, art, and geotechnology (GIS, GPS)**

The “Mapping space through literature, art, and geotechnology (GIS, GPS)” project is a collaborative effort between Mr. Grady Hillman (Director, Center for Community Arts, School of Art and Design) and Dr. Niem Huynh (Department of Geography). Mr. Hillman has 25 years of experience working with young offenders, helping them reflect and heal through the arts. Dr. Huynh researches geographic education with focus on technology as a tool to teach spatial thinking and exploration of one’s external space (e.g., mental maps).

This project is centered on the development of an interdisciplinary curriculum (arts, geography, geotechnology) to contextualize experiential learning for youth offenders in a San Marcos correctional facility, the Hays County Juvenile Center. Working relationships have been established with Mr. John Griffis, a supervisor of the correctional facility.

The proposed project aims to work with approximately twenty female youth offenders who range in age from 15-17 years old. Eight sessions, each two hours long, have been developed to introduce the females to the concept of personal space and to explore this through the arts and geotechnology. Below is a summary of the proposed sessions.

**Session 1: Tuesday, July 6**

***Topic:*  Introduction and reflection of space (physical and personal)**

This session will introduce students to think about their space in their home town/city. Through mapping, students will identify areas of social interest to them, areas of safety and danger.

Grady: Image Diagram/Free writing/cluster mapping

Niem: Mental map of lived space and color code physically/emotionally safe/unsafe areas

***Equipment required****:*

Writing utensil (pencil, pens, color pens/crayons)

Paper

Transparencies (copy the mental maps to color in safe/unsafe areas)

**Session 2: Thursday, July 8**

***Topic:* Social boundaries and emotions**

This session will introduce students to how geography frames how students see their own community compared to how data represents their lived space. Using data shown in a Geographic Information System (GIS), students will learn to read a map, identify spatial patterns, and dissect the social boundaries faced. These emotions will then be captured in poetry.

Niem: Patterns of demographics through GIS/student reaction and personal stories

Grady: Poetry

***Equipment required:***

Projector for computer

Paper

Writing and drawing utensil

**Session 3: Tuesday, July 13**

***Topic:* Real versus imagined space**

Students will be introduced to the different worlds that we live in, the cognitive or ‘imagined’ world where memory and dreams lie and the physical or ‘real’ world that we live in. The former will be explored through looking at memory and dreams where the latter will examine how the meanings of ‘place’ and ‘location’ and how to find them on different mapped sources.

Grady: Memory and Dreams

*Niem:* Map reading with paper maps and online maps (e.g., Google). This will be important for GPS use in the next week.

***Equipment required:***

Computers with internet access

Paper

Writing and drawing utensil

**Session 4: Thursday, July 15**

***Topic:*****GPS use and practice**

This session will introduce students to what GPS are and how to use it. Students will play a simply geocache game on Texas State University campus.

Niem: GPS theory and practice on school ground

***Equipment required:***

GPS (borrow from Texas State University, Department of Geography)

Map of campus

**Session 5: Tuesday, July 20**

***Topic:* Ghost stories told by students**

Students will pair up, retell, and write ghost stories heard about their home town/city. They will take notes and record the stories they hear from others as well. The location of ‘sighting’ should be known or approximated and detail recorded.

Grady: Student retelling of ghost stories

Niem: Map out locations on map of ‘ghost sightings’

***Equipment required:***

Paper

Writing and drawing utensil

Maps

**Session 6: Thursday, July 22**

***Topic:* Staff ghost stories**

Staff members will retell a ghost story within San Marcos/corrections facility. The location of ‘sighting’ should be known or approximated and detail recorded.

Grady: Student interview staff of ghost stories

Niem: Map out locations on map

***Equipment required:***

Paper

Writing and drawing utensil

Maps

**Session 7: Tuesday, July 27**

***Topic:* Community ghost stories**

Community members will retell a ghost story within San Marcos. The location of ‘sighting’ should be known or approximated and detail recorded.

Grady: Student interview staff of ghost stories

Niem: Map out locations on map

***Equipment required:***

Paper

Writing and drawing utensil

Maps

**Session 8: Thursday, July 29**

***Topic:* Ghost search**

Grady and Niem: Search of ghostly areas and GPS to record location points. Students will also take pictures/draw out area for online web mapping.

***Equipment required:***

Van for transportation

Camera

Map of area

GPS unit

At the end of the eight sessions, small group sessions will be held to better understand the effectiveness of the curriculum in the youths’ view. The identity of participants will be identified with their initials only and no personal data will be collected other than a recording of the discussion. The proposed questions will be part of the interview:

1. How would you describe the experience of the eight sessions?
2. What did you learn about yourself?
3. What did you learn about the different places in your life?
4. How does this change the way you see the world?
5. What other activities should be introduced in the future?

In addition to the participants, staff, and correctional supervisors will be interviewed to learn if any behavior changes have taken place. Some proposed questions for this discussion include:

1. Since the inception of this program, have you noticed any changes in the participant’s behavior?
2. In your opinion, what needs to be added or changed to the pilot curriculum to serve the needs of the students?

An aggregated record of participant offences before, during, and after the treatment will be requested from John Griffis.

**Consent form for Adolescent**

IRB approval number: TBD

Dear Participant,

You are invited to participate in a research project that is focused on a pilot curriculum development titled “**Mapping space through**

**literature, art, and geotechnology (GIS, GPS)**”to engage young people in a correctional facility. Two researchers, Grady Hillman (Director, Center for Community Arts, School of Art and Design) and Niem Huynh (Department of Geography), faculty members at Texas State University-San Marcos, will be leading the instruction and activities of the project. Hillman may be reached at 512-467-8382 (gh24@txstate.edu) and Dr. Huynh may be reached at 512-245-1327 ([nh19@txstate.edu](mailto:nh19@txstate.edu)).

*Arts Programs for Juvenile Offenders in Detention and Corrections: A Guide to Promising Practices* published by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the National Endowment for the Arts documents the positive effects that arts programs can have on incarcerated youth including reduced incidents rates of misbehavior within the correctional setting and reduced rates of recidivism after release. Thus, the project is to explore ways to support student learning in a non-traditional way.

You have been selected because staff has determined that your behavior on the facility has been good, thus making you eligible to participate in extracurricular learning activities. There is a paucity of research on how adolescents in alternative learning facilities respond to interdisciplinary curricula. Thus, you have been selected to participate in this curriculum development because we would like your input in a curriculum that is practical. You will learn a portion of a school related subject (geography, social studies) as well as provide you with ways to express emotions (poetry, fiction, drama). We are asking for permission to include you in this pilot curriculum. There is no physical or emotional harm by participating in this study. Since staff is considered to be your guardian during your time at the facility, the staff supervisor will be asked to consent on your behalf.

If you participate, you will be involved in an eight week sessions where Hillman and Huynh will lead the instructional activities at the correctional facility. Most of the sessions will take place at the correctional facility with exception of one. The final session will include a field trip into San Marcos town, guided by correctional supervisors and transported by facility van.

If you choose to participate, you will be asked to participate in a group interview regarding your assessment of the pilot curriculum. The interview will take place in the final session and should take approximately 30 minutes. The group size will be 4 participants for each interview group and the discussion will be recorded with a mp3 player. Data collected in this research study will be archived indefinitely in cabinets in the investigator’s (Dr. Huynh) office.

Any data and information collected will be confidential. Analyses of the interview may be published in journal articles or presented at national/international conferences but there will be no identifiable information (e.g., names) attached. If a quote is selected to be included in any material that will be made public, you will be asked for permission and a generic name “Participant 1” will be included.

Your participation will help researchers understand the educational needs of youth in the correctional facilities so they can better prepare and support future generation through interdisciplinary and practical education programs.

Your participation is voluntary and you may choose to not answer any question(s) for any reason. You may withdraw from the study at any time without prejudice or jeopardy to your standing with the University and the correctional facility/staff. If you have any questions or concerns about your participation in this study, please contact Mr. Hillman or Dr. Huynh.

If you have pertinent questions about the research, research participants' rights, and/or research-related injuries to participants should be directed to the IRB chair, Dr. Jon Lasser (512-245-3413 begin\_of\_the\_skype\_highlighting, end\_of\_the\_skype\_highlighting[lasser@txstate.edu](mailto:lasser@txstate.edu)), or to Ms. Becky Northcut, Compliance Specialist (512-245-2102 begin\_of\_the\_skype\_highlightingend\_of\_the\_skype\_highlighting).  A final report will be provided to Griffis should you be interested to read the results.

Participant Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of participant \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of researcher(s) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Consent form for Guardian**

IRB approval number: TBD

Dear Staff of Hays County Juvenile Center,

Adolescents at the facility are invited to participate in a research project that is focused on a pilot curriculum development titled “**Mapping space through**

**literature, art, and geotechnology (GIS, GPS)**”. The goal of this project is to engage young people in a correctional facility with the arts and geography, two subjects with real life applications. Two researchers, Grady Hillman (Director, Center for Community Arts, School of Art and Design) and Niem Huynh (Department of Geography), faculty members at Texas State University-San Marcos, will be leading the instruction and activities of the project. Hillman may be reached at 512-467-8382 (gh24@txstate.edu) and Dr. Huynh may be reached at 512-245-1327 ([nh19@txstate.edu](mailto:nh19@txstate.edu)).

Since youth are considered wards of the state, as a staff supervisor, you serve as a guardian. Thus, you have the authority to grant adolescents permission to be part of this project. Youth who have maintained a good record at the facility are invited to participate.

*Arts Programs for Juvenile Offenders in Detention and Corrections: A Guide to Promising Practices* published by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the National Endowment for the Arts documents the positive effects that arts programs can have on incarcerated youth including reduced incidents rates of misbehavior within the correctional setting and reduced rates of recidivism after release. Thus, the project is to explore ways to support student learning in a non-traditional way.

Any data and information collected will be confidential. Analyses of the interview may be published in journal articles or presented at national/international conferences but there will be no identifiable information (e.g., names) attached. If a quote is selected to be included in any material that will be made public, you will be asked for permission and a generic name “Participant 1” will be included. Participation is strictly voluntary and youth may choose to not answer any question(s) for any reason. They may withdraw from the study at any time without prejudice or jeopardy to his/her standing with the University and the correctional facility/staff.

If you have pertinent questions about the research, research participants' rights, and/or research-related injuries to participants should be directed to the IRB chair, Dr. Jon Lasser (512-245-3413 begin\_of\_the\_skype\_highlighting, end\_of\_the\_skype\_highlighting[lasser@txstate.edu](mailto:lasser@txstate.edu)), or to Ms. Becky Northcut, Compliance Specialist (512-245-2102 begin\_of\_the\_skype\_highlightingend\_of\_the\_skype\_highlighting).  A final report will be provided to Griffis should you be interested to read the results.

Name of Supervising Staff Person

Signature of Supervising Staff Person \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of researcher(s) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_