Design & the Arts as Human Rights Advocacy

• Connects people to a common purpose and reinforces a shared humanity

• Connects people to issues where they otherwise might feel disconnected
Design & the Arts as Human Rights Advocacy

• Humanizes issues and provides an accessible platform for educating people about human rights and inspires them to action
• Gives voice to the most vulnerable populations and those who work to protect them
• Strengthens understanding of human rights as global issue
Transitions
Making of the Project: Video
Youth Engagement
Engaging the Next Generation of Advocates

• Youth can influence and make change

• Youth have access to more information than ever before – benefit from understanding how to verify it; how to use it

• Youth must have a voice in addressing human rights issues

• Youth best hope for long-term change
Engaging the Next Generation of Advocates

• Images and technology have the power to shape meaningful human rights dialogue

• Balancing perceived sense of entitlement to photograph ‘everything’ with ethical responsibility of sharing information

• Intersecting design and the arts with human rights advocacy engages youth as advocates in meaningful and concrete ways
Youth Living in an Image-Driven World

• Smartphones facilitate shifts in teens’ communication and information landscape

• 71% of teens use more than one social network site

• Middle and upper income teens lean toward Instagram and Snapchat

Source: Pew Research Center; Internet, Science & Tech: Teens, Social Media & Technology Overview 2015
Technology & Images in Advocacy

• Social media helps people get involved with issues they care about
• Social media helps bring new voices into the political conversation
  • 79% said social media either very well (22%) or somewhat well (57%) helped them get involved with issues that matter to them
  • 74% felt very well (21%) or somewhat well (53%) that social media brought new voices to political discussions

Youth Engagement

• Workshop to Change the World

• NextGen Committee

• Emerging Lens
Workshop to Change the World

- Chicago Public Schools
- More than 600 students in 6 years
- Third grade to 12 grade
NextGen Committee

- Individuals ages 23 to 35
- Bringing young adults into human rights advocacy through art in a meaningful way
- Contribute to events, project concepts
Emerging Lens

ART WORKS
Projects

A Decade of Human Rights
AWP 2016 Emerging Lens Photographer Emmanuel Guillén Lozano
Mexico
Emerging Lens: Annual Competition

• International juried photography competition to mentor the next generation of photographers
• Emerging photographers age 27 or younger
• Funding to complete a human rights project currently underway
• Mentorship includes strengthening story telling and technical ability to use photography as advocacy
• Culminates in exhibition at AWP Studio Gallery in Chicago
Other Community Engagement

• 625 at 6:25

• Chicago Public Libraries

• Community Events
"Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home – so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual person; the neighborhood he lives in; the school or college he attends; the factory, farm or office where he works."

- Eleanor Roosevelt
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