SAMPLE: Editing work for Amdur Spitz & Associates

Before:

"Community partnership is absolutely central to the way we make and teach art. We created the Institute of Visual and Public Art (VPA) as a counterpoint to traditional art departments," says Amalia Mesa-Bains, VPA director at California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB). "Our founding faculty are all working artists experienced in public and community-based art. Our students work with our community partners as an essential part of their curriculum."

Richard Bains, director of CSUMB's Institute for Music and Performing Arts (MPA), says, "Music and the performing arts are unique symbolic languages for communicating ideas, feelings, and different ways of knowing about oneself and the world. Music is an extension of the spoken word and an expression of popular culture. The learning philosophy of MPA promotes pluralism, collaboration, flexibility, and respect for others' ideas and personal expressions. RUAP is an excellent fit for us."

The Reciprocal University for the Arts Project (or RUAP) is the community arts partnership based at CSUMB. It comes under the auspices of VPA and MPA and is co-directed by Mesa-Bains and Bains.

CSUMB is a newer school. It was founded in 1994 with an innovative, multicultural, and interdisciplinary mission. Service learning, or learning from performing service work that meets community needs and reflecting on that work, is not only allowed — it's required. Students need to complete two service learning courses to graduate, the second one in their major. CSUMB's vision statement includes serving the diverse people of California, especially the working class and historically underserved and low-income populations.

"RUAP enables our students, faculty, and guest artists to produce performances, projects, and classes in the community, and it brings community artists, youth supporters, and youth onto campus to teach our students about their experiences," explains Joan Weiner, RUAP coordinator.

RUAP supports the development of relationships between the university and four local communities — Monterey, Salinas, Seaside, and Watsonville — and their integration with its service-based arts curriculum. RUAP began in 1999 with eight community partners, one arts organization and one service organization in each of the four cities. Most relationships have continued for the past four years.

After:

"Community partnership is absolutely central to the way we make and teach art," says Amalia Mesa-Bains, director of the Institute for Visual and Public Art (VPA) at California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB). "Our students work with our community partners as an essential part of their curriculum."

Richard Bains, director of CSUMB's Institute for Music and Performing Arts (MPA), espouses a similar approach: "The learning philosophy of MPA promotes pluralism, collaboration, flexibility, and respect for others' ideas and personal expressions."

For both, the Reciprocal University for the Arts Project (or RUAP) provides a means to fulfill these pedagogical goals. Based at CSUMB, RUAP is a community arts partnership that comes under the auspices of VPA and MPA. Mesa-Bains and Bains are co-directors.

With its emphasis on community, RUAP is a perfect fit for CSUMB. The university, founded in 1994, pursues an innovative, multicultural, and interdisciplinary mission and seeks to attract and educate the diverse people of California, especially working-class, historically underserved, and low-income populations. Service learning, or learning from performing service work that meets community needs and reflecting on that work, is not only allowed — it's required. Students must complete two service learning courses to graduate, and for many CSUMB students, RUAP is the conduit for performing that service learning.

"RUAP enables our students, faculty, and guest artists to produce performances, projects, and classes in the community, and it brings community artists, youth supporters, and youth onto campus to teach our students about their experiences," explains Joan Weiner, RUAP coordinator.

RUAP works with four local communities — Monterey, Salinas, Seaside, and Watsonville. In 1999, the project started with eight community partners, one arts organization and one service organization in these four cities. Most relationships have continued for the past four years.