Summary of the project

Project details and focus: The goal in this project is to work with the City of Ypsilanti to develop an interactive community art project aimed at getting EMU students and Ypsilanti residents to provide feedback about several spaces in Ypsilanti.

Project activities: Students will develop photographs of specific Ypsilanti locations (e.g., certain City Blocks, or certain city lots like the Water Street area). These photographs will be enlarged and mounted on locations on EMU’s campus and in Ypsilanti (rented gallery or other space). Students and Ypsilanti residents will be asked to interact with the mounted art to “envision” creative uses for these existing spaces – i.e., a dare to dream and visualize type project. Students and Ypsilanti residents will also be able to leave written ideas either directly on the mounted art or on boards mounted next to the photographic installation. Written ideas will be prompted using several strategic questions (e.g., the images of city blocks and buildings might include the question, “I could be anything else I would be…..” or “I wish I was….”; Fillable statements might also prompt discussion - “Ypsi has really nice________, but not enough________.”)

This project will elicit information on how students and other Ypsilanti residents view the spaces around them, and whether and how they would like to modify these spaces. In addition to these indoor gallery style installations, students will also create interactive sidewalk art on EMU’s campus and Ypsilanti. This sidewalk art will prompt responses from passersby through thought provoking questions (e.g., a sidewalk chalk art question on a sidewalk in Depot town might read “I am in Depot town today because…..” Or “I am NOT in downtown Ypsilanti today because…..”). Students will constantly monitor visitor’s responses to both the indoor art installations and the sidewalk chalk art project.

· How the funds were used

  - Funds were primarily used for materials e.g., wooden boards, paint, mounting brackets
  - Printing flyers and photographs

· Outcomes / results

Please see coverage of our project on the Lucy Ann Lance radio show

http://lucyannlance.com/?p=21709

Please see the website that was created for this project – this is updated with images and latest information

http://askingypsi.weebly.com/

Please see coverage of our project in the Echo

· Any photos, promotional materials, etc.

See the links above