CREATIVE ACTION:
AN INTEGRATED LEARNING PROGRAM

INTRODUCES STUDENTS TO COMPELLING
SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES
WITHIN THEIR COMMUNITY THROUGH A
SERIES OF CORE COURSES. STUDENTS
DIRECT THEIR CREATIVITY TO SOLVE
REAL-WORLD ISSUES IN A PROJECT-BASED,
TRANS-DISCIPLINARY ENVIRONMENT.
ALONG THE WAY, THEY LEARN VALUABLE
SKILLS SUCH AS RESEARCH, TEAMWORK,
COLLABORATION, AND LEADERSHIP.
STUDENT-LED GROUPS WORK IN TANDEM
WITH AN OUTSIDE PARTNER TO IMAGINE,
CREATE, AND CONNECT TOWARDS
THE BETTERMENT OF THEIR COMMUNITY.
OUR STUDENTS MAKE US UNIQUE

CREATIVE ACTION COURSES ARE COMPOSED OF STUDENTS FROM THE SEVEN DISCIPLINES AT THE COLLEGE AND ARE A CORE REQUIREMENT.

Olits students come from a variety of backgrounds, ethnicities, cultures, and geographic regions. As one of the most diverse art colleges in the United States, Olits prides itself on facilitating an environment of exchange.

Toy Designers work in tandem with Landscape Architects and Fashion Designers collaborate with Sculptors.

These nontraditional arrangements always provide unconventional solutions for Creative Action partners and offer new insights to our students.

"I am so happy I took this class. It opened my eyes in ways that will stick with me through life." — CA STUDENT
OUR FACULTY LEAD US TO SUCCESS

CREATIVE ACTION AFFORDS STUDENTS WITH A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY: TO WORK WITH INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED ARTISTS AND DESIGNERS ON A COLLABORATIVE PROJECT THAT CHALLENGES THE BORDERS OF A TRADITIONAL CLASSROOM.

Leading artists, designers, and social scientists come to Otis to teach Creative Action courses.

Faculty specializes in a variety of fields such as Anthropology, Fine Arts, Art History, Architecture, Product Design, Graphic Design, and Digital Media. They have started their own businesses, created their own non-profits, exhibited locally and internationally, and won numerous awards for their work.

"Our teacher ... has an amazing amount of knowledge: like an open library ... when he starts talking, you want to hear more."

—Student speaking about LA Past Lives

PAST AND PRESENT FACULTY INCLUDES:

RICHARD SHELTON  PATRICK KOVIC
KARL DU CHAMP  KEREMBEK KAYS
MAURER BEOSSY  JOEY LIGHTFOOT
ADAM DESG  CATHER LIGHTFOOT
KERRY CHADWICK  NAZIB HANDOUSHA
TODD ELAMSON  MICHAEL HICKS
YUANIS FLORES-PEHA  TULSA MORSKI
CLAUDIA HERNANDEZ  CHRISTINA MORKEN
LINDA HOUSZ  RON SCHRIDDLE
MICHELLE HUTCHINSON  MICHAEL OYSTER
HEATHER STADSBERT  JON TAKAMAM-SUGAWA
...this has really gotten me thinking about my part in the local community.

—CA STUDENT
“I am so happy I took this class. It really opened my eyes in many new ways that will stick with me through life.”

“... it is nice getting the ‘inside scoop’ on the public art world. We are blessed to have this first hand experience.”
COURSES: THEMES & FOCUS

SOPHOMORE STUDIOS

Comic Books and Social Issues
Students are introduced to the comic book plot structure and learn how comic book creators use the comic book story to focus on socially relevant issues. Using this knowledge, students develop their own comic book story and script.

Food Politics in LA
Students are exposed to social concerns regarding food security and the environment through the exploration of community gardens and socially responsible and sustainable solutions.

Life Stages: Creating Life Portraits with Words
Students learn interviewing techniques, improve writing and communication skills, and practice collaboration through a partnership with the Culver City Senior Center.

Sams And Spirits
Students examine the history of Sams, spirits, and informality by engaging in a Dia de los Muertos art at the Getty Museum, Partner: The Getty.

Museum Of Social Justice
Students explore the potential of museums as platforms of archival research, ideation, and creative engagement with communities. Societalism, cultural memory, diversity, and identity are considered as factors in creating engaging creative possibilities. Partner: Museum of Social Justice.

Movies That Matter
Students explore the power of movies to inspire and educate, as well as entertain, and gain a historical perspective in understanding the past and present in order to visualize the future. Partner: Museum International.

LA in LA
Through field trips and studio visits, students are exposed to LA's history in the context of what was occurring in painting, sculpture, metal, wood, weaving, and public art during the 1950s and 1960s.

Junior Studios

Ban The Bottle, Abolish the Bag: Ways to Reduce Plastic Pollution in Our Oceans
Students research the impact plastic trash has on our local oceans, wildlife, and communities and develop proposals to educate and encourage the reduction, reuse, and refusal of plastic bags, bottles, and containers.

Radios
Students learn about independent FM, AM, and internet radio history and production, gain hands-on experience in audio production, while producing music, novel, and international radio shows broadcast by KMLU. Partner: KMLU.

Otto Goes Green - Global Green USA
Students acquire knowledge and tools needed to make a design decision an integral part of the design process. Partner: Global Green International, Partner: Otis College of Art and Design.

Comic Heroes From 2D to 3D

Branding With A Cause
Can branding and design be catalysts for social change and innovation? Students and BREATHE LA, California's original healthcare climate, and make a difference in the lives of others through art and design interventions. Partner: BREATHE LA.

Junior Studios

Designers and artists are invited to investigate, engage, and create with re-use materials, a global community-building initiative aimed at linking creative communities and cultures and fostering reconciliation with the goal of increasing worldwide happiness. Students propose "buildings" that extend far beyond their neighborhood connecting a broad array of people, nations and cultures. Partner: Community Village Elementary School, The Westchester Senior Center, The City of Los Angeles.

Mobile Locals: LA's Food Truck Revolution
Mobile Locals focuses on issues of social sustainability and cultural influence through systemic understanding of Los Angeles and its unique pedestrian culture. Partner: City of LA.

Rodeo Kids: Childhood Learning and Development Studies
Students develop toys, tools, clothing and learning spaces for the students and faculty of LA Plaza School in Inglewood. Partner: Rodeo Leadership Magnet.

Design Challenges: Venice, China
An international experience where students learn about bamboo in an integrated context and design a toy in compliance with regulatory safety laws.

Palau Freedom: An International Experience
An international experience where students travel to Palau to work with Palauan artists and design a Freedom Memorial public art project for the Palauan people.

Junior Studio

Students interact with visually impaired students and artists and design and develop art and design projects to enable and enhance the creativity and imagination of students at Junior Blind. Partner: Junior Studio.

Collaborating With Catastrophe Disaster Design
How can artists and designers help mitigate crisis? Students explore the possibility of the unexpected through projects involving social/cultural change, social design, and design for a post-catastrophe future. Partner: City of El Segundo.
PAST & PRESENT PARTNERS

ACCELERATED CHARTER EDUCATIONS SCHOOL (ACES)
AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM
AGAPE
AMNET
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY
BOEING FOUNDATION
BREATHE LA
CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF POLITICAL GRAPHICS (CSPG)
CHINESE AMERICAN MUSEUM
CITY OF EL SEGUNDO
CORNERSTONE
CREATIVE SOLUTIONS TO LIVING WITH AUTISM (CARD)
CUSTOM HOTEL
DA VINCI DESIGN SCHOOL
DESIGN IGNITES CHANGE
ELLA FITZGERALD FOUNDATION
FILMAID INTERNATIONAL

FILM INDEPENDENT
FRIENDS OF BALLONA WETLANDS
FRIENDS OF THE LOS ANGELES RIVER
GLOBAL GREEN INTERNATIONAL
GOOD WORKS FOUNDATION
HAPE TOY
HOLLYWOOD FOREVER CEMETERY
HOMEBOY INDUSTRIES
HYPERION WATER TREATMENT PLANT
INTELLIGENTSIA
JUNIOR BLIND OF AMERICA
KXLU
LA CULTURAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT
LA TIJERA ELEMENTARY
(INSTALLING OUTCOMES)
LAX AIRPORT
LONG BEACH AQUARIUM
LOS ANGELES POVERTY DEPARTMENT
LOS ANGELES URBAN RANGERS
LOYOLA BRANCH LIBRARY
LOYOLA/LA PLANNING GROUP AND BILL ROSENDAHL’S OFFICE
LOYOLA VILLAGE ELEMENTARY
METROPOLITAN
MUSEUM OF TOLERANCE
NRDC
OTIS ALUMNI RELATION OFFICE
PLATINUM STUDIOS
PROJECTO JARDIN COMMUNITY GARDEN
REDISCOVER CENTER
RICHARD RiORDAN CENTER LIBRARY
SANTA MONICA AQUARIUM
SKIRBALL
SOLANO COMMUNITY GARDEN
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MOBILE FOOD ASSOCIATION
SURFRIDER FOUNDATION: RISE ABOVE PLASTICS
THE GETTY
THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU
TOMS SHOES
URBAN COMPASS
WATTS LABOR ACTION COMMITTEE (WLAC)
WESTCHESTER CENTER CENTER
WESTSIDE LEADERSHIP MAGNET SCHOOL
3RD RAIL
COMMUNITY
POSSIBILITY
ENGAGEMENT
& COLLABORATION

WE BRIDGE COMMUNITIES
Creative Action brings co-curricular events to the community. The largest event is the annual Oli's Kids Festival at the Santa Monica Pier. Creative Action also sponsors public film screenings, break clean-up, public art installations, and local festivals.

WE OFFER INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
Creative Action has also grown past the borders of Los Angeles into the global community. In the past three years, the program has included two international experiences that students may take. The first class designed and refined a Freedom memorial park for the Republic of Palau to commemorate Palauans that have served in the United States Military. The class participated in a hands-on trip to Palau where students presented to both the traditional --- the Council of Chiefs and Marshalls --- and democratic --- the President, Senators, and Delegates --- systems of government.

The second class offered trip students to Ningbo, China to work with Hope International on the development of sustainable housing made from bamboo. Students spent one month in an intensive workshop collaborating with master craftsmen. The design was assessed by the senior Hope leadership and considered for mass production.

These international experiences are just the start of offering international classes planned in the next few years.

WE SPONSOR LECTURES
Throughout the academic year, Creative Action sponsors fascinating lectures from a variety of experts. Whether bringing an Entomologist that works in Madagascar or an expert on the folk artist icon Martin Ramirez, Creative Action strives to bridge a wide range of issues to stimulate and inspire students.

Along with the Creative Action sponsored lectures, each Creative Action class brings outside lecturers and mentors to discuss their experiences, work, and impact on the community in the classroom. The mentor for each class acts as a resident expert that reinforces each class with their own unique skill sets.

WE SPONSOR SYMPOSIA
Creative Action does not only work outside the community. They also invite the community into Oli's through symposia.

From LA to the Bay was one such symposium that focused on bringing together gang intervention specialists from both Los Angeles and San Francisco Bay to participate in panel discussions.

The public was invited to this event, which featured Fabricio "Spade" Orozco of Homabay Industries and Dr. Yasmin Flores-Pena from Oli's College.
I know not how I may seem to others, but to myself I am but a small child wandering upon the vast shores of knowledge, every now and then finding a small bright pebble to content myself with." —Plato