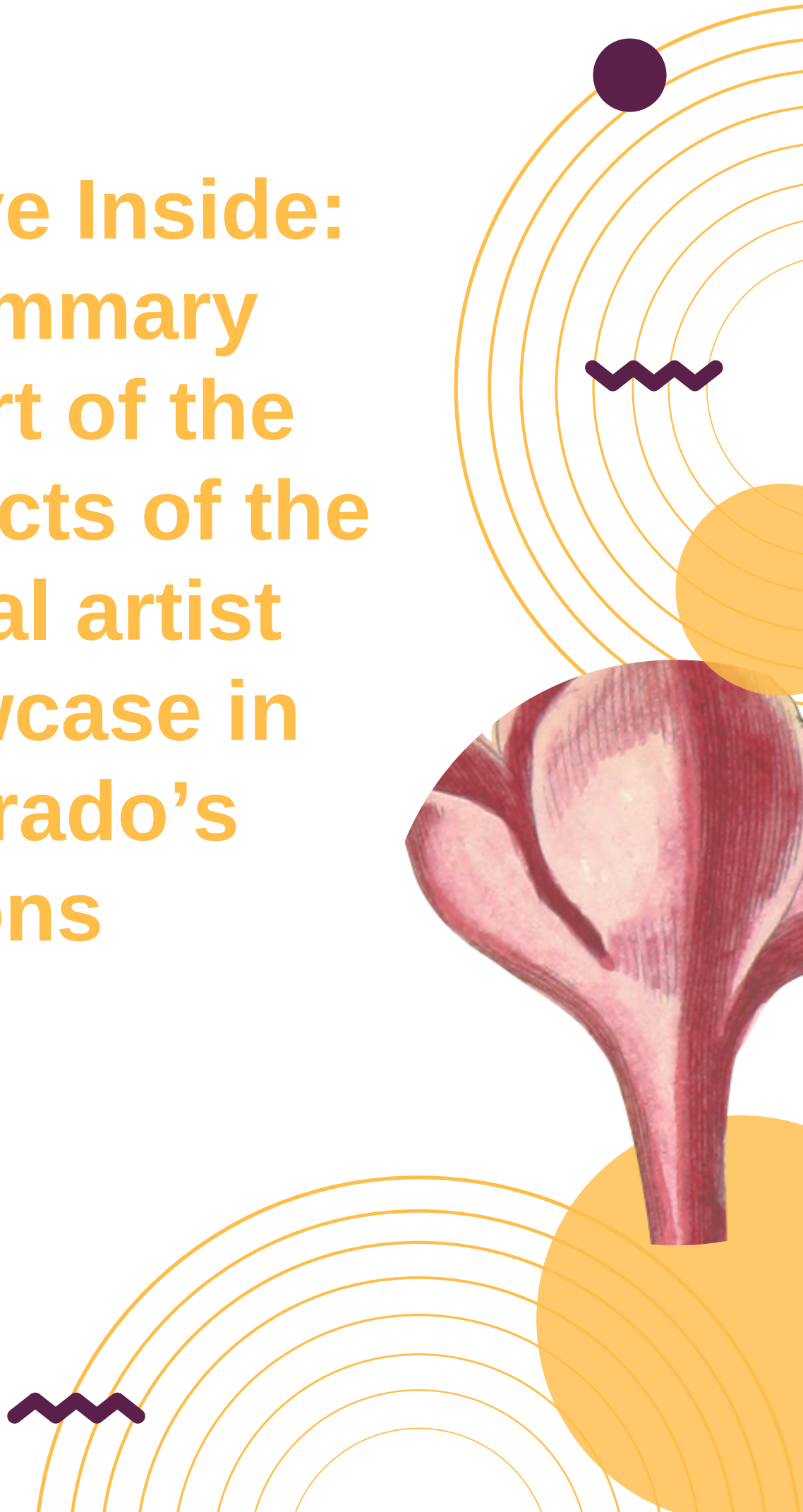


**A/Live Inside:
A summary
report of the
impacts of the
virtual artist
showcase in
Colorado's
prisons**



About this Report



"Alive Inside" was a 3-hour virtual event hosted by the University of Denver's Prison Arts Initiative (DU PAI) and the Colorado Department of Corrections (CDOC) in November 2020 broadcast via Youtube Live. "Alive Inside" featured pre-recorded performance, music, dance, and visual art from CDOC facilities, as well as live roundtable discussion between incarcerated participants and leadership from DU PAI and CDOC. Throughout the course of the event, approximately 10,000 individual computers logged on to the event in the public, many of those connections being from families or small groups. Additionally, "Alive Inside" aired on every TV in every prison in the state of Colorado, making it available to every incarcerated person and CDOC staff member in the state.

The DU PAI research team had Alive Inside attendees fill out brief online surveys before and after the event. We asked them a few questions about themselves, as well as their feelings and beliefs about people who are incarcerated and the issue of incarceration. We were able to match 142 responses from pretest to posttest.

This report is to summarize our findings from the event.

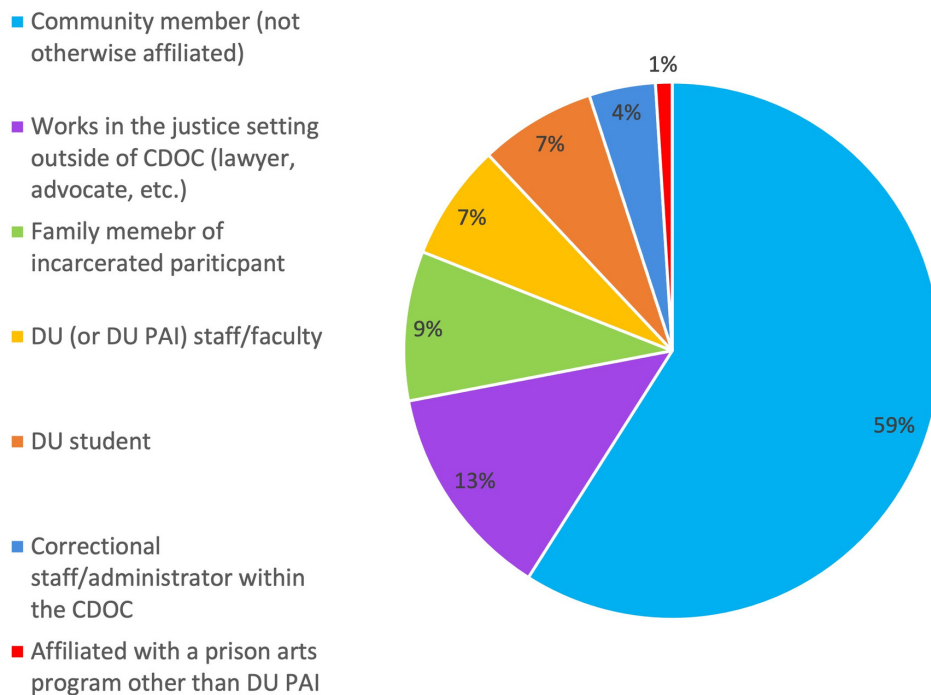
For more information about this report or other DU PAI events, visit our website (<https://liberalarts.du.edu/prison-arts>) or contact us at prisonarts@du.edu.

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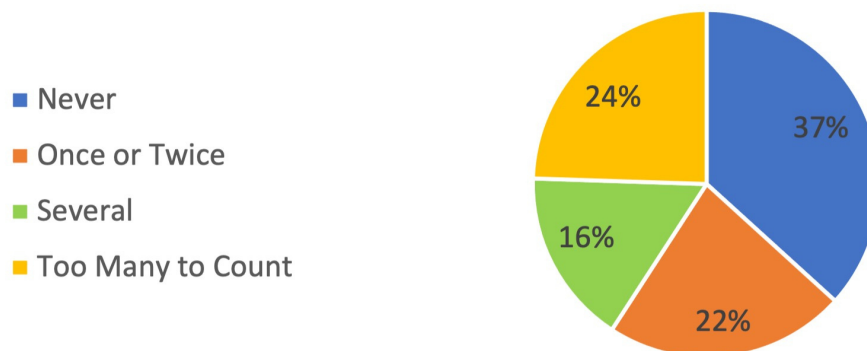
Who Attended this Event?

These graphs represent the responses from the 142 attendees who participated in the pre-test and post-test surveys.

59% of attendees were community members



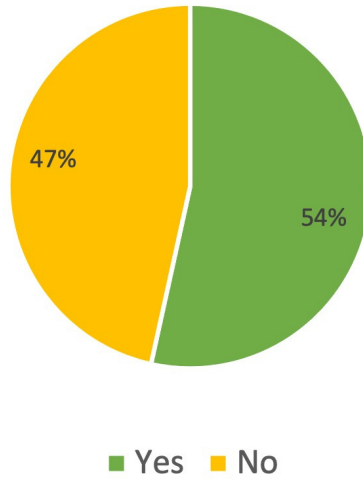
37% of attendees have never visited prison



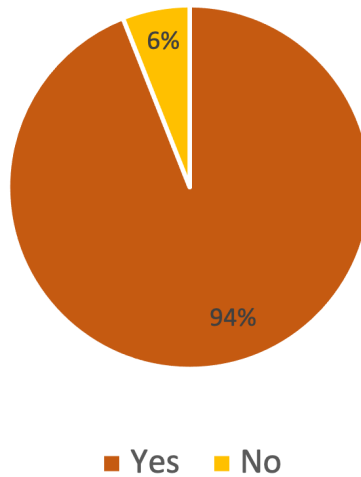
Who Attended This Event? Cont.

These graphs represent the responses from the 142 attendees who participated in the pre-test and post-test surveys.

54% of attendees have been a victim of a crime

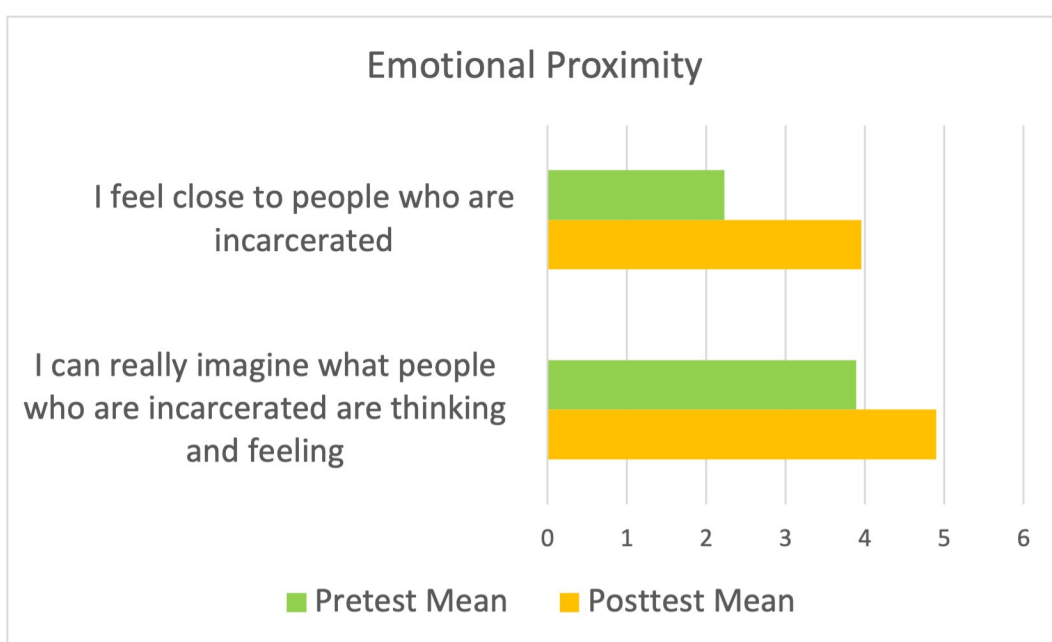
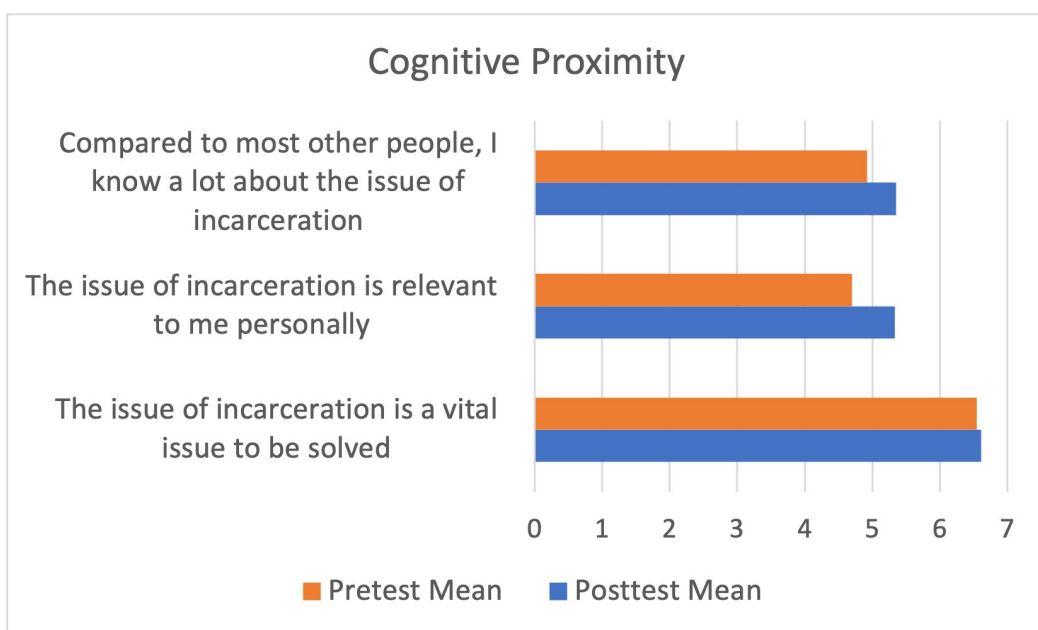


94% of attendees have not been incarcerated



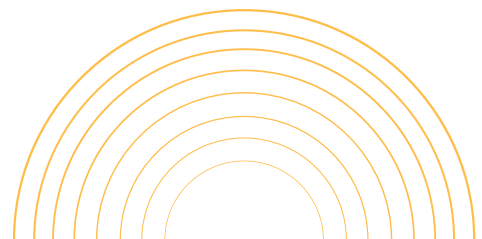
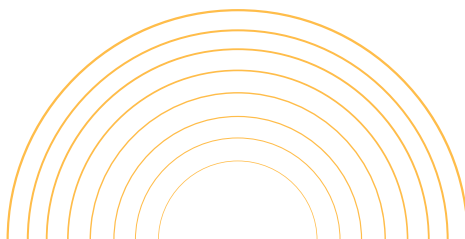
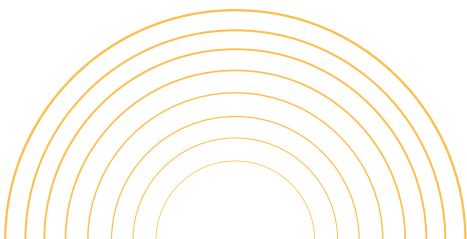
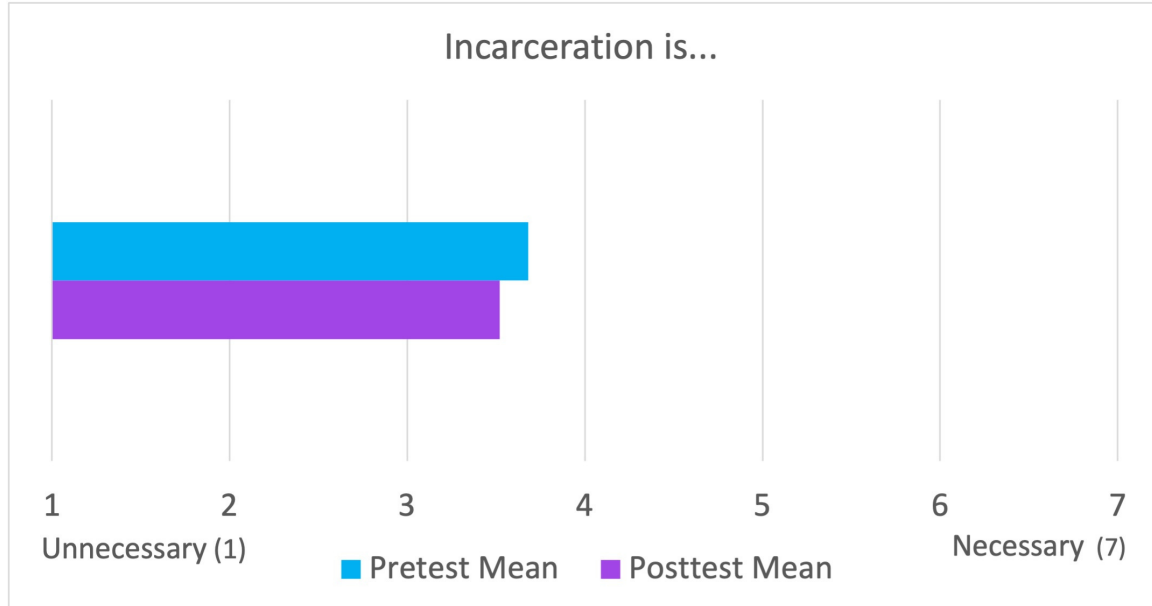
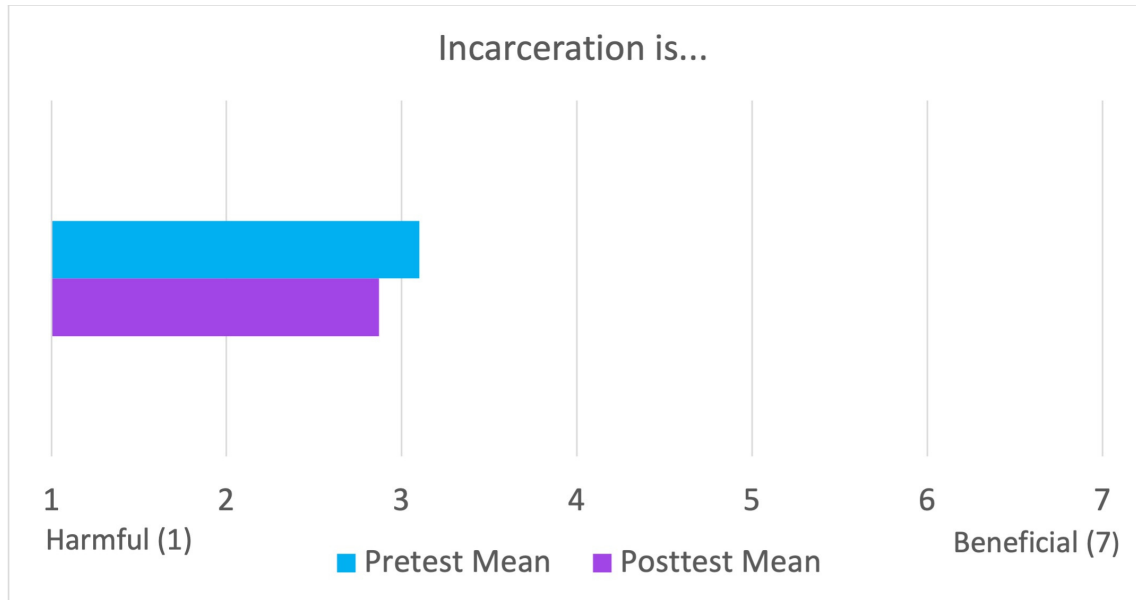
Pre-Test & Post-Test Data

142 Survey participants were asked to rate a series of statements at pretest and posttest on a scale between 1-7: 1 being not true at all and 7 being extremely true. After attending Alive Inside, attendees reported feeling like they *knew more about issues of incarceration*, and that *issues of incarceration were more relevant to them personally*. Attendees also felt *less far away from incarcerated individuals*, and like they could better *imagine what incarcerated individuals were thinking and feeling*. After watching Alive Inside, attendees also reported viewing incarceration as *more harmful*, and *less necessary*. Lastly, attendees reported their strong intentions to *take action on issues of incarceration* after attending the event. Many of these changes were even more significant among people who had never visited prison before.

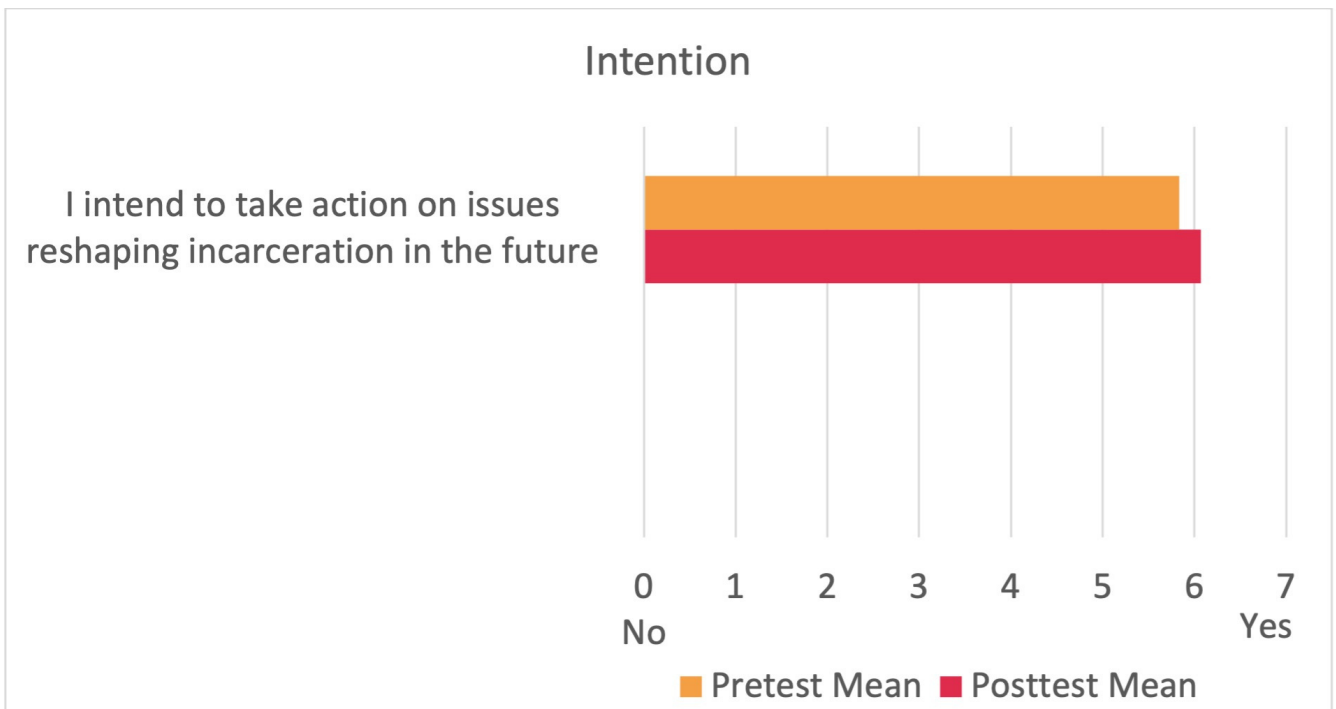




Pre-Test & Post-Test Data Cont.



Pre-Test & Post-Test Data Cont.



Word-Cloud Description of Event



In the post-test survey, 239 participants were asked to describe their experience with the event in one word. Out of all responses, the words above are common themes that were most prevalent within the survey. These words give insight into the true impact of this event and those who shared their art and stories from Colorado's prisons.

Common Themes from Participant Responses After Event

At the end of this event, participants had the ability to engage in a survey and were asked, "What changed for you, if anything, as a result of participating in this event?". Below are five of the most common themes that emerged from the participants written expressions after the event. With so many positive responses, it is clear to see that the work created from the artists at this event had a major impact on those who attended. The five major changes people experienced and took away from this event are listed below:

- 1. More Commitment to Justice Reform**
- 2. Feeling of Connection**
- 3. Changed Perspectives**
- 4. Power of Art and Healing**
- 5. Shared Humanity**

Participants of this event described that after this experience they are more committed to justice reform through restorative justice initiatives, a feeling of emotional connection with those inside, and changed perspectives of incarcerated folks based on the lived experiences and stories that were shared. Additionally, various participants mentioned the power that art can have in terms of healing, and that above all there is a shared humanity between all of us inside and outside of prison walls.



Responses of Affirmation



Below is a compilation of 20 quotes to help represent the participants remarks on question, "Is there anything you'd like the artists to know?". The responses from these participants help display acknowledgment of the artists hard work, as well as the desire to connect further with those behind the "wall".

1. Thank you for being bold, brave, and authentically you and sharing your beautiful talents. Don't give up, the world needs your light for purpose and change. You opened my eyes and I can't wait to have conversations with people closest to me to invoke change in our broken system and use our resources to make change happen. Thank you.
2. They put their hearts and souls into this experience. It shows how hard they worked. Amazing! You are appreciated more than words could ever convey. Heartfelt gratitude and may you be well.
3. You are a gift to the world, to the US-- and to Colorado. We are better because of you. I will share this experience-- that I am changed from-- with my 4yo daughter, with my family and people in the world. I look forward to you being my neighbor. We have so much to learn.
4. We see you. We believe in you. And we CANNOT wait to see what you accomplish next.
5. I got to see my son's face and see his words quoted on the screen. It made his experience more real to me. I have faces to put with names. I embrace your humanity. I wish you hope. I wish you well.
6. So incredibly powerful. Performing arts has such power to connect us with each other, THANK YOU for sharing your gifts and stories.
7. Thank you for your passion, courage, presence and humility. I am deeply moved. I was in tears watching the men dancing out on the field. So rare and beautiful to see men embodying fluidity, real emotion and freedom with such grace. This gives me hope for the future.
8. Just thankful they were willing to share and be SO vulnerable about their life experiences. Amazing. I look forward to the full presentations 2021!
9. I want them to know how proud I'm of all of them. Special shout out to my son Michael Clifton and that I love him ♥
10. THANK YOU!!! YOU ARE LOVED!!!!!!!11.



Responses of Affirmation Cont.

11. Thanks mate! (I'm from Australia). You are all so incredibly talented, please continue to be the change you want to see.

12. I appreciate the vulnerability and power that each artist brought to their work. I see you, I see your humanity, and I want to do better by you. You aren't forgotten.

13. Stay Strong - keep creating life and light! You are all amazing and so important.

14. I want everyone I know to experience your art and feel your message. This was powerful and emotional. Thank you so much for all of your hard work and vision.

15. I'm so, so thankful for all of the performances tonight. Each and every one of you is talented and important. You are enough.

16. I am grateful that they shared these beautiful, spiritual and strong artistic works. They have a new place in my heart now.

17. Thank you so much for sharing your art. I am humbled to have been able to witness what you've created. Thank you so much. Please keep creating- it matters. You matter, and I am thankful for you.

18. WOW, Thank you. An honor to have experienced this program. ALL THE WORDS shared in the Antigone play - yes, family. A beautiful representation of family.

19. I am very proud of them. They have all moved me with their work. We need their creativity, their insights and their leadership here on the outside.

20. I am so humbled and grateful for your vulnerability and honesty. Most people don't have the courage to be so genuine, let alone in a prison setting. Thank you for inspiring other incarcerated people and teaching the whole world there is so much more to you than the events that brought you to prison.

