Implementation Plan
DCS Group 4

I

Research

The state of Alabama is in a prison crisis. Prisons are dangerous, overcrowded, understaffed and financially untenable. As reported by the Department of Justice in their investigation of Alabama Prisons, an "excessive amount of violence, sexual abuse, and prisoner death occur within Alabama's prisons on a regular basis."[1] The system by which inmates arrive in Alabama prisons is not a direct one. It has various twists and turns, and for many prisoners involves a long history with the criminal justice system. County jails play a significant role in this journey for many prisoners.

Mandatory minimum laws, which force Alabama judges to hand down punishments set by law, rather than discretion, fill county jails and prisons for even somewhat minor or nonviolent drug offenses.[2] Alabama's Habitual Felony Offender Act, especially mandates long-term sentences for those who have committed several offenses.[3] Those who have multiple stints in county jails find themselves headed to long-term prison stays with little hope of parole or early release.[4] In many cases, for those involved with the criminal justice system, it can seem only a matter of time before County Jails send them to the dangerous and inhospitable prison

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[1] https://www.justice.gov/opa/press-release/file/1150276/download
[2] https://www.alabamapolicy.org/2013/07/23/the-evolution-of-mandatory-minimums/
[3] Ibid
[4]https://reason.com/2019/08/30/alabamas-three-strikes-law-sent-alvin-kennard-to-prison-for-36-years-he-stole-50/

system.

        The systems that lead people to county jails are ones we find hard to address in American

life: racism, poverty, and systemic inequality.[5] These systems have direct criminal justice

connections to the current crisis in Alabama prisons, but are rarely investigated on a personal and

social level.

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[5] https://www.huffpost.com/entry/40-reasons-why-our-jails-are-full-of-black-and-poor-people_b_7492902

II

Community Partners

When we first started discussing the assigned issue of *Prison Reform* as a group, an immediate potential partner came to mind, Alabama Appleseed. I knew Dana Sweeney, a Blackburn Fellow, through the University Fellows Experience. We had spoken several times prior about the issues facing Alabama and how he intended to address them in the future. We also related to one another on the internal struggle of wanting to move away and on to more progressive, prosperous places but feeling duty-bound to stay and make a difference. I first heard that Dana had taken a position at Alabama Appleseed when the rumor of his arrest at a protest began circulating the UFE community, and this was confirmed by Mac Griswold when he met with my Daniel Community Scholars group.

My group knew (from the organization's website) that Alabama Appleseed was taking on a variety of issues directly or indirectly related to the state correctional facilities, and that they would be a good place to start. We weren't attached to any one angle of the issue initially, so I contacted Dana Sweeny to find out what kind of Daniel Community Scholars project might be helpful to their work. Dana put me in touch with Carla Crowder, the executive director of Alabama Appleseed and the two of them along with myself and Sam Reece talked on the phone about a potential partnership. Carla and Dana suggested that we address the prison issue through the lens of cannabis policy, an issue that students could easily get behind given the perceived differences in treatment of cannabis between the University of Alabama community and the larger Tuscaloosa community. Carla felt that the most effective thing to supplement their policy research would be a gathering of individual experiences with the Alabama Department of

Corrections, the Tuscaloosa County Jail, or drug-related arrests in general. We wanted to survey people and add a human element to the largely numbers-based approach that Appleseed had been using thus far. We have since left the cannabis aspect of the DCS project behind, but we still think it's important to gather unique perspectives on the state of the justice system in Alabama, so we decided to interview, record, and potential transcribe a series of interviews of people who have dealt with the system

Our expectations for Appleseed are minimal, except for some data and resources that Dana sent to us, and some advice about how to go about accessing public records, we felt that the project could easily be undertaken by students without a staff commitment from our community partner. At the end, we simply want to give them the stories that we collect, and hope they are able to use them in lobbying or awareness efforts in the state.

III Implementation Plan

Timeline: January 27 to April 5

Pre-Production: Receive permissions, identify potential interviewees, interview workshop

possibly utilizing journalism professors and criminal justice professors on campus.

Week One: January 27-31
Phase 1: Collect Interviews
<u>Offender Alumni Association</u> - Former Inmates, Family and Friends, potentially
Appleseed, Current Inmates at Tuscaloosa Prison - Church Ministries
Week Two: February 3- 7
Phase 1: Collect Interviews
Animation Workshop (Creative Media Professor/Student)
Week Three: February 9-14
Phase 1: Collect Interviews
Week Four: February 17-21
Phase 1: Collect Interviews
Editing Workshop (Creative Media Profesor/Student)
Week Five: February 24-28
Phase 2: Animation
Phase 1: Additional Photography
Week Six: March 2-6
Phase 2: Animation
Phase 1: Additional Photography
Phase 3: Editing
Media Release Workshop (Journalism Professor/Student)
Week Seven: March 9-13
Phase 2: Animation
Phase 3: Editing
Week Eight: March 16-20
Phase 2: Animation
Phase 3: Editing
Phase 4: Media Release Workshop
Week Nine: March 23-27
Phase 2: Animation

          Phase 3: Editing

          Phase 4: Media Release Work

Week Ten: March 30- April 3

          Phase 3: Editing

          Phase 4: Final Steps, Final Media Release

Interview Workshop Details:

Each workshop will last two hours, and will feature a "crash-course" from a Campus community member who can give volunteers instructions on best practices in our four areas. Volunteers will be instructed on the use of software, handling cameras, and interview techniques, etc. Volunteers will be able to practice their skills and ask questions.

Week One: January 27-31

Pre-Project: **Phase 1** volunteers will be asked to attend an **Interview Workshop** in January, a crash course in how to ethically and effectively conduct interviews.

Working with Tuscaloosa County Jail ministry partners(?), **Phase 1** Volunteers will begin conducting interviews with formerly incarcerated Tuscaloosa citizens, identified and pre-interviewed by the coordinating team. **Transportation** in University Vans will be required. This will be to and from the county jail or the Blackburn office. As such, we will be requesting Volunteers **21+ with a UA van license** to be part of this phase. Community members can video with **camcorders and audio records** checked out from **University Libraries.**

The executive team will prepare a rough draft of a "script" for the film at this point to all teams.

Three teams,one for each group of interviewees: **Inmates, Former Inmates, Loved Ones** will each conduct an interview for the first three weeks of **Phase 1.**

Week Two: February 3- 7

Conducting more interviews.

Week Three: February 9-14

Conducting more interviews.

Week Four: February 17-21

An extra week to conduct more interviews, if needed. Expect interviews to not go according to plan.

Week Five: February 24-28

Additional photography from our teams. Shots of locations mentioned, Tuscaloosa County Jail, UA Campus, etc.

Week Six: March 2-6

Continued additional photography time.

<u>Week Two: February 2-6</u>

Phase 2 volunteers will be asked to attend an animation workshop to receive a crash-course in **Adobe Animate** software.

<u>Week Six: March 2-6</u>

One of the components of the video will be animation, working from stories/scripts prepared by **inmates.** Using University-provided **Adobe Animate** software, the **Phase 2** team of volunteers will prepare three 2-3 minute animated shorts. This is a time-consuming process, and the animation should be designed to be easily worked with and visually distinct.

Interviews/projects will need to be edited and script for an animated format during this week/before this week.

<u>Week Seven: March 9-13</u>

Continued animation work.

<u>Week Eight: March 16-20</u>

Continued animation work.

<u>Week Nine: March 23-27</u>

Complete animation work.

Week Four: February 17-24

Phase 3 volunteers will be asked to attend an **Adobe Premiere** workshop.

Week Six: March 2-6

With raw material collected, the editing process will begin, fleshing out the **script** more fully**.** Using the University Provided software **Adobe Premiere, the Phase 3** team will be responsible for crafting raw footage and animation into the finished product, taking **9 interviews (6-camera, 3-animated)** into a **15-20 minute short film.**

Week Seven: March 9-13

Continued editing work.

Week Eight: March 16-20

Continued editing work.

Week Nine: March 23-27

Continued editing work.

Week Ten: March 30- April 3
Final Editing Work, completing project

<u>Week Six: March 2-6</u>

 Phase 4 volunteers will be asked to attend a Media Release Workshop.

<u>Week Eight: March 16-20</u>

 Media release work will begin, contacting news sources and potential writing Op-Eds for sources like The Crimson White, the Tuscaloosa News, and Al.com. Volunteers will also work on submitting the film to Film Festivals, like Black Warrior Film Festival on campus and Sidewalk Film Festival in Birmingham.

 <u>Week Nine: March 23-27</u>

 Continued Media Release work.

<u>Week Ten: March 30- April 3</u>

 Final media release work, YouTube release of completed film.

Objectives:

Project Goals

Goal #1: Produce a 15-20 minute short film featuring the stories of the incarcerated, formerly incarcerated, and those close to the incarcerated to bring their stories into the local discussion on the Alabama prison crisis.

Who:

- Three current inmates at the Tuscaloosa County Jail.
- Three members of the Tuscaloosa community who are former inmates of the Tuscaloosa County Jail/Alabama Prisons
- Three family members/friends/loved ones of current of the incarcerated

What: Tell their story of their connections to the system - that could be how they were arrested, their lives and experiences as incarcerated or formerly incarcerated, the ways in which the Criminal Justice system has impacted itself on them. As some of those interviewed may not want to be identified, or it may be hard to record visual interviews with them, animation will be used to visualize those interviews in the final product (especially those interviews recorded in the County Jail.)

When: Interviews will be collected - interviewees recorded via video, audio, or in writing, from January 27-February 21. Animation, additional photography and editing will be done from March 2-April 3. Interviews will be scheduled for best availability - with an entire class of Blackburn Students working on the project, matching volunteers with interviewees should be an attainable scheduling goal.

Where: Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Various places and spaces can be used for photography (houses, apartments, neutral meeting places, etc. - **Pre-Interviews.**) Tuscaloosa County Jail. Interviews will be conducted at county jail or Blackburn offices.

Goal #2:

Release *Silent System* to the press, and receive coverage at a community-wide level.

Who: Team members and volunteers will reach out to local news media (Crimson White, Tuscaloosa News, local TV stations, etc.)

What: Op-Eds/Reporting on the Project

When: Phase Four, March 16-April 3

Risk Management

Backup-Plan

The core part of our project is doing community, people-based interviews. If feasibility of videography becomes an issue, we are willing to move to a podcast format, with audio instead of

video editing and without the problems of animation/cameras/etc. As long as the stories we are seeking to capture can be presented well, the form they take are of lesser importance.

Safeguards for Interviewees

Interviewees will *not* be made to release their names or likenesses. The project is designed in order to be able to use a wide variety of media (animation, written stories read on tape, etc.) so that we can present stories without negative blowback for our interviewees.

Physical

In case of student or interviewee emergency:
We will have on file students' and interviewee emergency contact information including name, relation to the person, and phone number. In case of emergency we will immediately contact their emergency contact as well as any needed emergency services. In addition, Blackburn Interim Director, Jerran Hill, will be notified as well other Blackburn faculty and student leaders.

In case of lack of students or interviewees:
We will know what volunteers and interviewees are participating by January 20th. The students and interviewees will be responsible for giving a response to project leads before the 20th on participation so leads can plan accordingly. If the numbers for either participating party isn't within a desirable range recruitment for the needed party will continue until January 25th.

Emotional

In case of emotional stress from student or interviewee:
The student and interviewee both reserve the right to have information not included if they wish. While this can be a strenuous conversation, there will be breaks from interview sessions offered. The interviewee and student both reserve the right to quit if they so choose for any reason.

Reputational

In case of noncompliance of press:
If the listed sources of press decide to not publish the given information, we will communicate why this is information worth their attention. If the sources of press decide our

information needs revision in order for them to publish, we will give them their desired revisions within reason to the original vision of the project.

In case of fears of reputational/relationship consequences for interviewees:
Part of the goal of our animation is to allow interviewees to remain anonymous if so wished. Otherwise, voice or even performed versions of interviewee-approved written stories/accounts are all forms we can use in the project. An interviewee may be as anonymous as they wish, as a qualitative and semi-participatory action-style project, we're asking for feelings, impressions, and stories, not for journalistic sourcing.

Financial

In case of insufficient budget:
If we do not have enough money, we will limit the suggested workshops, and possibly limit the number of used vans and designate a single round trip to meet the given budgeted amount.

Environmental

In case of severe weather:
Tornado or severe thunderstorm warnings or watches would result in cancelling any and all transportation and affiliated work for the project concerning volunteers or interviewees. The persons designated to work this day will all be contacted via email and phone and alerted as soon as possible of any cancelations due to severe or threatening weather.

Communication

In case students or interviewees are unresponsive:
The leaders of the project will communicate any noncommunication issues with present Blackburn faculty and deliberate on an approachable solution. The project leaders however, should attempt to communicate with the individual not communicating and attempt to engage with them why their communication matters and is important to the desired project result.

Timing

In case of scheduling conflicts:
Scheduling will be decided weeks well in advance and is up to volunteer and interviewee to notify the project leads via email or phone in advance if a specific selected day doesn't work.

Interviewees and students will be notified at least one day in advance of any approaching deadlines, workshops, meetings, or interviews etc. Their response is required, if not they will be planned around to ensure fluid project movement.

IV
Budget

Our budget consists of costs that are difficult to determine in the stage that we are currently in. Things like film festival fees, transportation costs, marketing costs, and costs involving food can be dictated by what the project determines, but line items that regard production of the film can vary based upon market prices. We came about a production cost of $400 due to the varied costs of different types of licensing. Music is a larger cost of around $50-$200 while other forms of licensing can add up if enough photographs or art is used. If licensing is free, this charge may not be incurred, but these funds may be likely to go towards purchasing more artwork or photographs instead. In our project, we require the help of professionals in making a final product. The costs of video editing consulting are around $50 an hour. We came to an estimate of four hours of work to touch up our film after the volunteers have finished their work, bringing us to the total of $200. Animation professionals can cost on average around $40 an hour, so we estimated that after a total of four hours, the cost would total to $160. These are unknown costs but we believe our estimations to be on the higher end of cost. In starting the project, we may find that it will suit us best to do the majority of the "professional" work ourselves after learning about the design programs. This would leave us at no cost for these services.

	Quantity	Revenue per Unit	Total	Running Total	Notes / Details
Group Number:					
Project Name:					
Revenue:					
Daniel Foundation Grant	1	$ 5,000.00	$ 5,000.00	$ 5,000.00	
TOTAL REVENUE				$ 5,000.00	

	Quantity	Expense per Unit	Total	Running Total	Notes / Details
Expenses:					
Example: Supplies	30	$ 2.00	$ 60.00	$ 60.00	Example - Coloring Books for Classroom Activity
Example: Volunteer Management	50	$ 3.00	$ 150.00	$ 210.00	Example - Snacks for Volunteer Training (50)
Example: Ticket Costs	30	$ 5.00	$ 150.00	$ 360.00	Example - Zoo Field Trip for Pre-K Students (30)
Example: Transportation	4	$ 60.00	$ 240.00	$ 600.00	Example - Shuttle Rental (4 hours) for Field Trip
Production Costs	1	$ 400.00	$ 400.00	$ 400.00	Liscensing or purchasing music, artwork, and photography
Film Festival Fees	1	$ 135.00	$ 135.00	$ 535.00	Admission into Sidwalk Film Festival, Black Warrior Film Festival, and Mountain Film festival
Marketing Materials	8	$ 20.00	$ 160.00	$ 695.00	Posters to disperse around campus
Hiring professional to overlook video editing	1	$ 200.00	$ 200.00	$ 895.00	A firm overlooking our final production to assist in video editing
Light refreshments for workshop	4	$ 110.00	$ 440.00	$ 1,335.00	Drinks and snacks for volunteers and teachers
Meals for Interviewees	45	$ 10.00	$ 450.00	$ 1,785.00	Providing a meal for each person interviewed and each interviewer
Hiring professional to overlook animation	1	$ 160.00	$ 160.00	$ 1,945.00	Outsourcing final editing work to professionals in animation
Transportation Costs	15	$ 23.20	$ 348.00	$ 2,293.00	Travel cost of each interview assuming 40 mile round-trips at $0.58 per mile (IRS.gov estimate)
Workshop materials	4	$ 40.00	$ 160.00	$ 2,453.00	For all paper, presentation materials, and creative supplies used for workshops
Expenses			$ -	$ 2,453.00	
Expenses			$ -	$ 2,453.00	
Expenses			$ -	$ 2,453.00	
Expenses			$ -	$ 2,453.00	
Expenses			$ -	$ 2,453.00	
Expenses			$ -	$ 2,453.00	
Expenses			$ -	$ 2,453.00	
Expenses			$ -	$ 2,453.00	
Expenses			$ -	$ 2,453.00	
Expenses			$ -	$ 2,453.00	
Expenses			$ -	$ 2,453.00	
Expenses			$ -	$ 2,453.00	
Expenses			$ -	$ 2,453.00	
Expenses			$ -	$ 2,453.00	
Expenses			$ -	$ 2,453.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES				$ 2,453.00	
DIFFERENCE				$ 2,547.00	**Balanced or Budget Surplus**