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**Thesis Committee**

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Bellevue Arts Museum

# Injustice Murals

**Emerging Curator Initiative Thesis**

**University of Washington, Museology Graduate Program**



## PURPOSE, CONCEPT, AND IMPACT

The **purpose** of the project was to create an exhibition at the Bellevue Arts Museum which documented and shared the street art inspired by the health, economic and racial crises during the Seattle protests of 2020 with the Bellevue, WA community.

The exhibit's **concept** was:

**"Street Art is a Shared Experience."**

The **impact** of the exhibit aimed to inspire empathetic connections between the guests at the Bellevue Arts Museum and the Seattle communities affected by the protests of 2020.

## Reflections

While the project was originally focused on pandemic street art, the exhibit evolved to include street art related to the racial and economic crises, just as we all have evolved as a community.

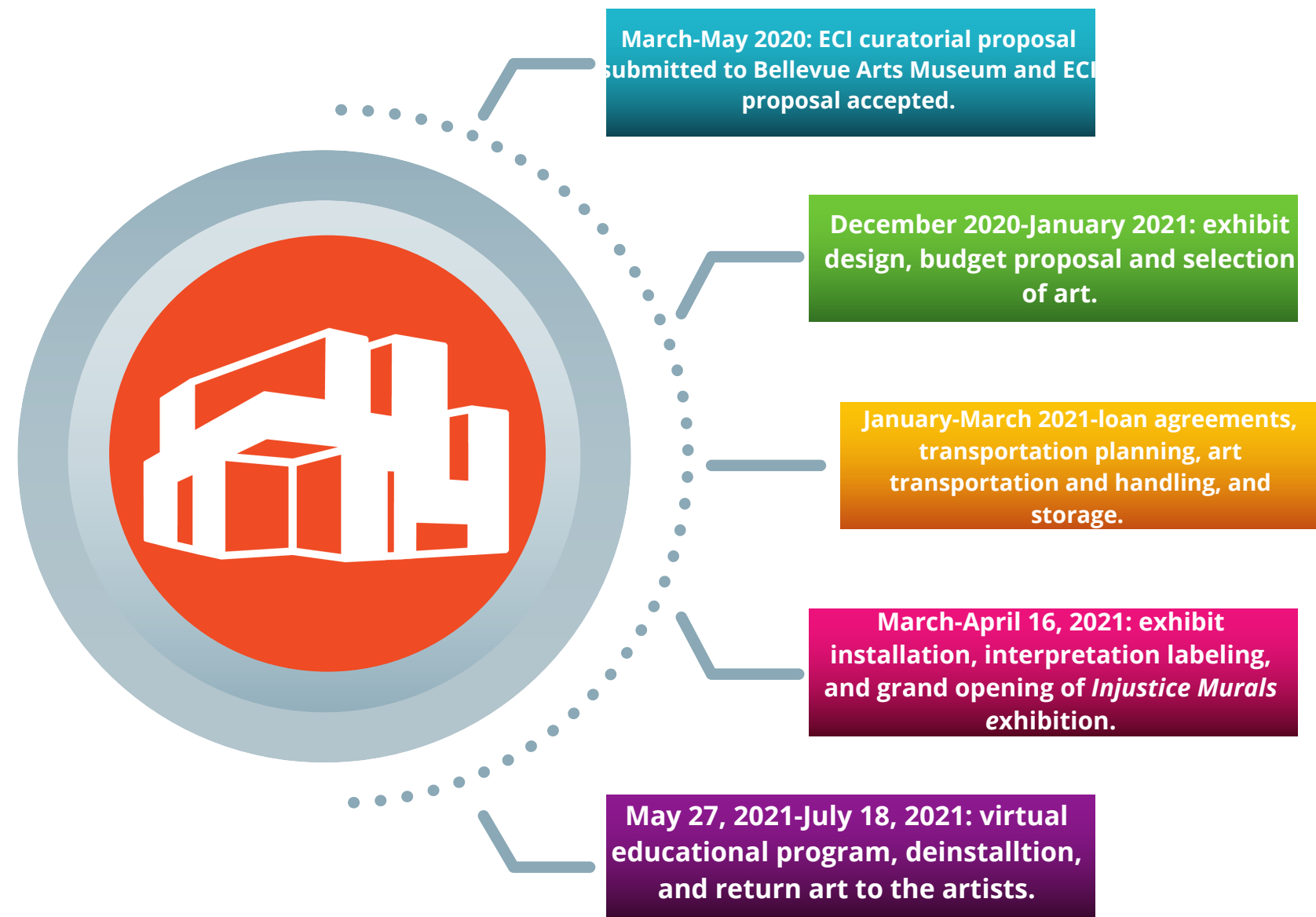
This ephemeral art's life was prolonged in a museum's controlled environment, allowing for more community engagement.

A deep sense of trust with the artists, and meaningful relationship building was necessary to curate a collaborative and inclusive exhibition.

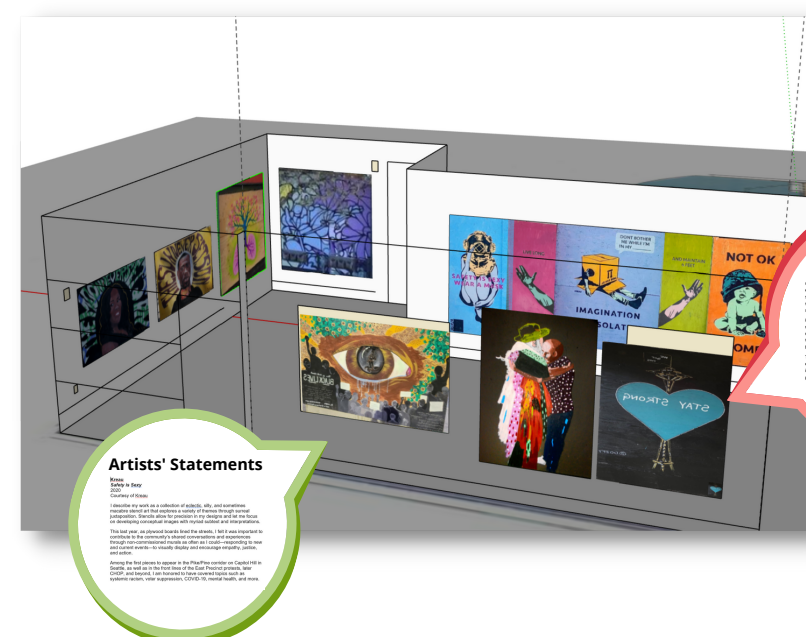
This exhibit took place on unceded lands of indigenous Duwamish, Suquamish, and Stillaguamish tribes, and this acknowledgement has not replaced necessary and authentic relationship building.

This project was supported and made possible with the guidance and support of Wilson O'Donnell, Lane Eagles, Andrew Walsh, Kyana Wheeler, Dr. Jessica Luke, Regan Pro, Mikala Woodward, Dylan High, Steven Harvey, Val Johnson, and to the Museology Graduate Program, my children, family, friends and peers, the artists, and the solidarity and community of Seattle who have endured traumas and have undergone transformation.

## PROCESS DEVELOPMENT



## Exhibit Layout and Interpretation



The exhibit's interpretation was designed utilizing references from Nina Simon's participatory modeling of art as social objects, and planned according to Anila Swarupa's inclusive fracturing design.

The layout was created in collaboration with the artists. Shared authority was accomplished by including artists' statements.

## Community Engagement with the Deliverable

The exhibit opened on April 16, 2021 and closed on July 18, 2021.

BAM Visitor services reported that the opening weekend was booked over capacity. Informal surveys were asked of the guests, whose responses stated that the exhibit was soothing.



Scan to visit online exhibit

## Educational Components

The interpretation labels were inclusive of the artists' firsthand experiences.

The virtual panel planned on May 27, 2021 shared what was lost in media coverage, the ongoing injustices, and break from traditional panel individual discussions so that the artists circle can engage with each other, and the audience in a Q&A session.



Scan to visit program description