

Involving Stockton faculty, students, and alumni and government officials, civic leaders, arts and neighborhood organizations in the planning process, 48 Blocks Atlantic City, which launched on June 24, 2017 as a daylong celebration of arts and creativity in Atlantic City, was to feature 48 creative projects—8 in each of Atlantic City's 6 wards. The first year, we exceeded this expectation with over 90 projects. (In 2018, we had over 130.) These projects included murals, installations and other visual arts, music, interactive and participatory projects, gardens, yarn-bombing, yoga, tai chi, poetry, skate park demonstrations, ballet, art bikes, circus arts, and multi-media. The planners wanted to explore AC's creativity; the neighborhoods and residents themselves decided what forms that creativity took. The event also celebrated the wealth of history and culture in the city, with six locations designated to collect oral histories from and scan historic photos and photograph artifacts for city residents.

The goals of both the planning process and the event itself from the start were consistent with and illustrative of Stockton's anchor institution designation. The project's original vision was to

encourage neighborhood planning initiatives, and uncover and empower neighborhood leaders, discover (as noted above) hidden creativity and talent within the neighborhoods, spotlight and celebrate Atlantic City, and add to the inventory of public art throughout the city.

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promote 48 Blocks AC to the public and provide (through permanent public art and the *48 Stories* book) lasting testaments to the city's artistic revitalization

Further, *48 Stories*

will involve Stockton students in its creation through their work for South Jersey Culture & History Center, which will publish the book. Students will be involved as photographers, interviewers, designers, and editors. They may also be involved in training others to do interviews with participants and stakeholders (the result of an earlier 2020 grant to SJC&HC for a project on Hammonton garment workers to train students in the art of taking oral histories) will generate revenue to support 48 Blocks AC through sales and as an aid to grant applications

Please describe the results of your project and compare them to your original expectations. Elaborate on how well your objectives were met and how they might have changed. Note any particular obstacles that may have prevented your achieving full satisfaction on desired outcomes.

We were able to produce the book *48 Stories*

Residential Hall on the AC campus--with many of the people featured in the book on hand to talk about their experiences and sign books.

We will also provide copies of the book to potential donors and with grant applications.

FINANCES:

**This money may not be loaded yet. In that case, we have spent the entirety of our first-year funds. Our budget for next year is \$5000 for 48 Blocks AC alone.