

Shifting Focus: Snapshots of Resilience Exhibit Feedback Summary

January 2021

Photovoice Project Summary

The photovoice project was intended as an opportunity for participants, all formerly incarcerated men, to apply the knowledge they gained in a trauma and resilience awareness workshop they previously attended as part of the larger study. Seven men agreed to participate and six completed the project.

Participants met as a group once a week for four weeks to learn how to use digital cameras (provided by the project) and photography basics. Participants took photos based on weekly prompts. Due to COVID-19, group sessions were suspended in March and the planned photo exhibit was adapted into a virtual exhibit. Participants continued their photo assignments independently and met with the project team individually to complete the project.

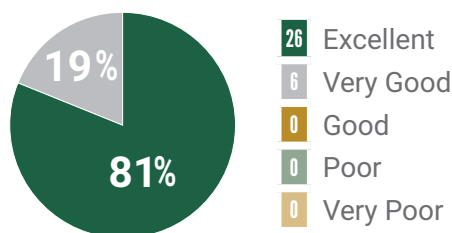
Content for the exhibit and short film came from participant photos and in-depth interviews conducted by filmmaker Jeff Topham and project manager Kate Roth. All photos and captions included in the exhibit were edited and approved by each participant.

Exhibit Feedback

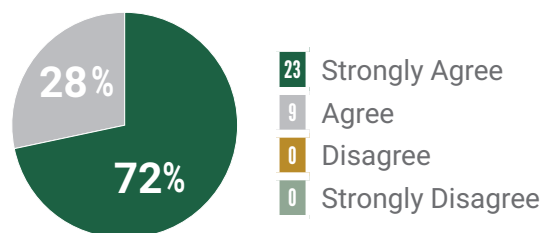
The *Shifting Focus: Snapshots of Resilience* virtual exhibit and accompanying film were launched December 7, 2020. In the first month, the exhibit (www.shifting-focus.com) was visited 900 times and the short film was viewed 210 times. Visitors were asked to complete a short feedback survey, containing both Likert and open-ended response questions. 32 feedback surveys were completed.

EXHIBIT FEEDBACK: LIKERT RESPONSES

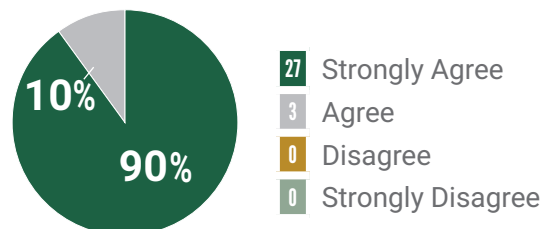
QUESTION 1: Please rate the overall quality of the exhibit.



QUESTION 2: This exhibit provides useful information about the factors that promote resilience in men.



QUESTION 3: This exhibit has the potential to reduce stigma experienced by men who have been incarcerated.



QUESTION 4: How likely will you be to share this exhibit with colleagues, friends, or family?

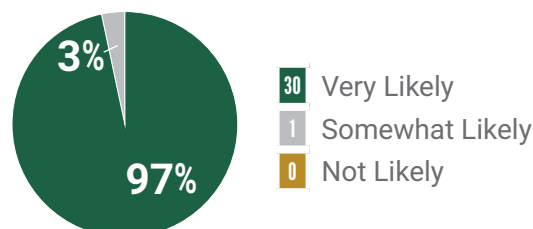













EXHIBIT FEEDBACK: SELECTED OPEN ENDED RESPONSES

Question 5: Please share your personal reflections on the exhibit. What was the most impactful part of the exhibit and why?

-  I loved that the men were able to speak in their own words, to gain empowerment and independence over their own resiliency. From my experience working with formerly incarcerated men the past 13 years, there is so much taken away, including dignity and hope. I think this project was able to return that.
-  When Giuseppe remarks that solitary confinement haunts him to this day and links it to PTSD. This to me refocuses attention to the brutality of solitary confinement and away from blame and stigma.
-  Hearing from the men and then seeing their images, so seeing what they see, will stay with me
-  How the men were so engaged with the project, even though one man mentioned he was “just in it for the \$50”, but then became super engaged. The video was striking, and very relatable.
-  the quotes from the guys by each photo - so many poignant words - even being someone who thinks I wouldn't stigmatize them, the poetics & the clarity of vision from them was almost jarring in its power.
-  These men were able to use photography to explore their relationship to the world. Hearing their own expressions of their experiences was moving and convincing, and made me think that there is hope for them to have resilience in the challenges they face.
-  My son went to jail and I think he still Struggles with self Esteem and his future. I made a mistake- I am Not a mistake jumped out at me. All these Men are Insightful and thoughtful. The eyes of the soul.
-  I think it does a very good job humanizing individuals who have been incarcerated and providing perspective on their experiences. The project also clearly demonstrated the value and positivity it brought to the participants. Projects like this are incredibly important to help break the cycle of incarceration.

QUESTION 6: Please provide any additional comments

-  Felt kinda life changing honestly, yes for them, but for me too. Haven't had the opportunity to know men who have been incarcerated.
-  I liked that it was very impacting and also concise. I like that you really were able to capture a sense of dignity, compassion and humour for the men, and I found it very heartwarming and relatable. I love them! And that although you didn't tiptoe around some of the negative impacts or experience, that resilience was the focus. It's so easy to get mired in trauma in this work. It is a really well done project.
-  Great work, I appreciate efforts to reduce stigma and help people previously incarcerated, especially the effort to recognize trauma.