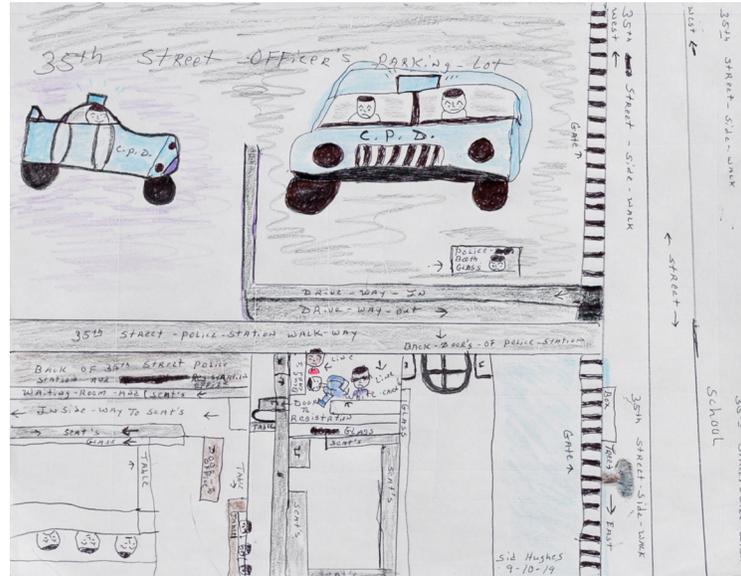


THE
DRAWING
CENTER

Winter Term 2020

Meet the Chicago 400: Lessons in the Carceral State

January 21 – 26, 2020



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Wednesday: 12–6pm
Thursday: 12–8pm
Friday–Sunday: 12–6pm

New York, NY... The Drawing Center is pleased to announce its third Winter Term, an initiative that investigates drawing as a tool for addressing inequity and encouraging social change. Building upon themes presented in the exhibition *The Pencil Is a Key: Drawings by Incarcerated Artists*, The Drawing Center will partner with the Chicago 400, a grassroots campaign of formerly incarcerated and convicted people experiencing homelessness in Chicago, and artist, policy advocate, and researcher Laurie Jo Reynolds. This iteration of Winter Term will explore the intersection of drawing and criminal justice reform, specifically as it relates to fear-based policies, the unintended consequences of public registration laws, and the expansion of the carceral state.

Winter Term 2020 will begin on January 21, 2020 with an exhibition of drawings produced by the Chicago 400 and will culminate with a public symposium on Saturday, January 25, 2020, featuring programming that expands upon the Chicago 400's ongoing advocacy work. All events will be free and open to the public.

With work that operates at the juncture of legislative reform and artistic practice, Laurie Jo Reynolds challenges the demonization, warehousing, and social exclusion of people in the criminal legal system. Her recent work focuses on conviction registries, housing banishment laws, and public exclusion zones, which destabilize families and lead to homelessness, unemployment, and re-incarceration. Reynolds is an Assistant Professor of Public Art, Public Policy, and Media, in the Department of Art at the University of Illinois at Chicago. As part of her ongoing advocacy work, Reynolds is currently coordinating an alliance to support the Chicago 400.

The Chicago 400 are Chicagoans with past convictions who are listed on a public conviction registry—most of whom are also subject to lifelong housing and public space banishment. Because they are also experiencing homelessness, they must report and re-register weekly at Chicago Police Headquarters. The penalties for missing even one day of registration are

extreme—often resulting in a prison sentence or a decade of additional registration time. **This complex maze of laws often forces people and their families into dire situations**, such as sleeping in their cars, camping overnight outside the police station, living in trains and buses, losing employment, and becoming homeless with their families.

The Chicago 400 work with a variety of partners—including victim, criminal justice, and housing advocates, as well as reentry specialists, treatment providers, prison watchdog groups, and faith ministries—in an effort to direct scarce state resources toward proven policies for public safety. Together, the Chicago 400 and their partners seek to reduce victimization, support crime survivors, and allow people with past convictions to meet their essential needs and return to full citizenship. They are currently working to introduce reform legislation in January 2020.

In weekly meetings, **the Chicago 400 produce visual materials including hand-drawn diagrams and maps that depict the logistics of carrying out registration laws**, including their weekly journeys to the police station. These drawings have allowed the group to communicate their experiences to legislators and other system stakeholders, for whom these laws and their impact are largely invisible.

Image: Sid Hughes, Map depicting the enforcement of registration laws. Courtesy of the Chicago 400.

Scheduled Programming

Coffee with Laurie Jo Reynolds and Maya Szilak

Tuesday, January 21, and Thursday, January 23, 12pm–3pm

Artist, policy advocate, and researcher Laurie Jo Reynolds will be present in the exhibition space, along with Maya Szilak, Research and Policy Counsel, John Howard Association of Illinois, and other special guests, to engage with visitors and answer questions about the works on view. Reynolds and Szilak will welcome conversations on any topic—including art education, risk assessments, prison monitoring, Howard Finster, metaphors for finish lines, and direct-mail campaign ads.

Drawing Workshop with the Chicago 400

Friday January 24, 4–7pm

Join the Chicago 400 for an interactive drawing workshop inspired by the visual materials, including hand-drawn diagrams and maps, presented in the exhibition.

Our Fellow Americans: A Symposium on Public Conviction Registries

Saturday, January 25, 12–6pm

12–1pm

“We Carry the Laws Out”: Opening Reception + Exhibition Walkthrough

Join members of the Chicago 400 Art Committee for a walkthrough of the exhibition of drawings that diagram and depict how they follow the registry regime and housing and public space banishment laws.

Participants include:

John Cameron, Art Committee, Chicago 400; Sid Hughes, Art Committee Co-Chair, Chicago 400; J.J., Art Committee, Chicago 400; Clifford Kight, Art Committee Co-Chair, Chicago 400; Scott McFarland, Chicago 400 Alliance

1–1:45pm

Meet the Chicago 400: Lessons in the Carceral State

Learn about registry and banishment laws from the people experiencing homelessness, and the Chicago 400’s unique arts and political action campaign to reform them. The conversation will review the Chicago 400 organizing strategy, how art is a transformative part of the work, and their advocacy for policies that prevent victimization, support survivors, and hold people accountable for harm.

Participants include:

Gary Dabney, Bronx, N.Y. resident experiencing homelessness because of N.Y. laws; Michael Moore, Legislative Committee, Chicago 400; Laurie Jo Reynolds, Coordinator, Chicago 400 Alliance; Zakiyyah Seifullah, Legislative Committee, Chicago 400; Maya Szilak, Research and Policy Counsel, John Howard Association of Illinois.

2:15pm–3:30pm

Let Us Try to Explain This: New Yorkers Are Detained in Locked Facilities Because They Can't Find Housing That Doesn't Exist

Visitors to the exhibition may wonder if there are similar registration policies in New York, or a campaign to address them. Indeed, New York also has policies with extreme unintended consequences. Learn about the people impacted, the constitutionality of this arrangement, and strategies to address this crisis from legal experts, advocates, and people who have been through this system.

Participants include:

Allison Frankel, Aryeh Neier Fellow, Human Rights Watch/ACLU, New York; Emily Horowitz, Professor and Chair, Department of Sociology & Criminal Justice, St. Francis College, Brooklyn; author of *Protecting Our Kids?: How Sex Offender Laws Are Failing Us*; Charles King, Chief Executive Officer, Housing Works, New York; Robert Newman, Legal Aid Society, Criminal Defense Practice, Special Litigation Unit, New York; and counsel for Richard Alcantara in *Alcantara v. Annucci*; Robert O., Directly impacted-person and advocate for reform of housing banishment laws, New York; Pauline Syrnik, Fellow, Legal Aid Society, Criminal Appeals Bureau, New York; Amber Vlangas, Survivor, registry-impacted family member; Advocacy Chair for the Center for Rational Justice Studies.

4pm–4:45pm

The Logic of the Punitive State

Lester Packingham was convicted of a felony for saying "Thank you Jesus" on a public Facebook post. He decided to challenge it, ultimately taking the case to the United States Supreme Court, which ruled unanimously that his First Amendment rights were violated. Using this rare victory as a point of departure, Goldberg will discuss strategies for addressing the expansive reach of the carceral state. Lancaster will historicize this discussion by exploring the complicated relationship between sexuality and punishment in our society, the modern suburban culture of fear, and the punitive logic that has put down deep roots in everyday American life.

Participants include:

David T. Goldberg, constitutional and public law litigator in the U.S. Supreme Court and federal and state appellate courts, and counsel for J.R. Packingham in *Packingham v. North Carolina*; Roger Lancaster, Professor of Anthropology and Cultural Studies, George Mason University, Washington DC; author of *Sex Panic and the Punitive State*; Willie Trent, directly-impacted person and advocate, New York Sex Offense Policy Work Group

5–6pm

Closing Reception

Join organizers, presenters, and other policy advocates for a closing reception of the show and the symposium.

6pm–8pm

Next Steps Mixer and Dinner

(organized by the New York Action Alliance & co-sponsored by the New York Sex Offense Working Group)

The New York Action Alliance and The Chicago 400 are co-hosting a "Next Steps" Mixer to bring together professionals, advocates, those directly impacted, and/or anyone else interested in helping New York and other states become leaders in transforming their public conviction registry laws.

Winter Term 2020: The Chicago 400: Lessons in the Carceral State is organized by Rosario Güiraldes, Assistant Curator. *Our Fellow Americans: A Symposium on Public Conviction Registries* is organized by Bill Dobbs, Emily Horowitz, David T. Goldberg, Laurie Jo Reynolds, Jill K. Sanders, and Pauline Synchron, with support from the New York Action Alliance and the New York Sex Offense Working Group.

Credits

Winter Term 2020: The Chicago 400: Lessons in the Carceral State is made possible by The Drawing Center Exhibition Fund and by the MacArthur Foundation. Special thanks to Art for Justice, and Open Society Foundations, along with Chicago partner organizations Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation, Treatment Alternative for Safe Communities (TASC), Kolbe House Jail Ministry, and John Howard Association of Illinois.

About The Drawing Center

Founded in 1977 by curator Martha Beck (1938–2014), The Drawing Center is a museum in Manhattan's SoHo district that explores the medium of drawing as primary, dynamic, and relevant to contemporary culture, the future of art, and creative thought. Its activities are both multidisciplinary and broadly historical, and include exhibitions, public programs, publications, and a unique artist-run exhibition program aimed at the contemporary artists' community.