



Spring 2021 Praxis
Fieldwork Seminar

About the Organization

An introduction to Juntos



Mission Statement

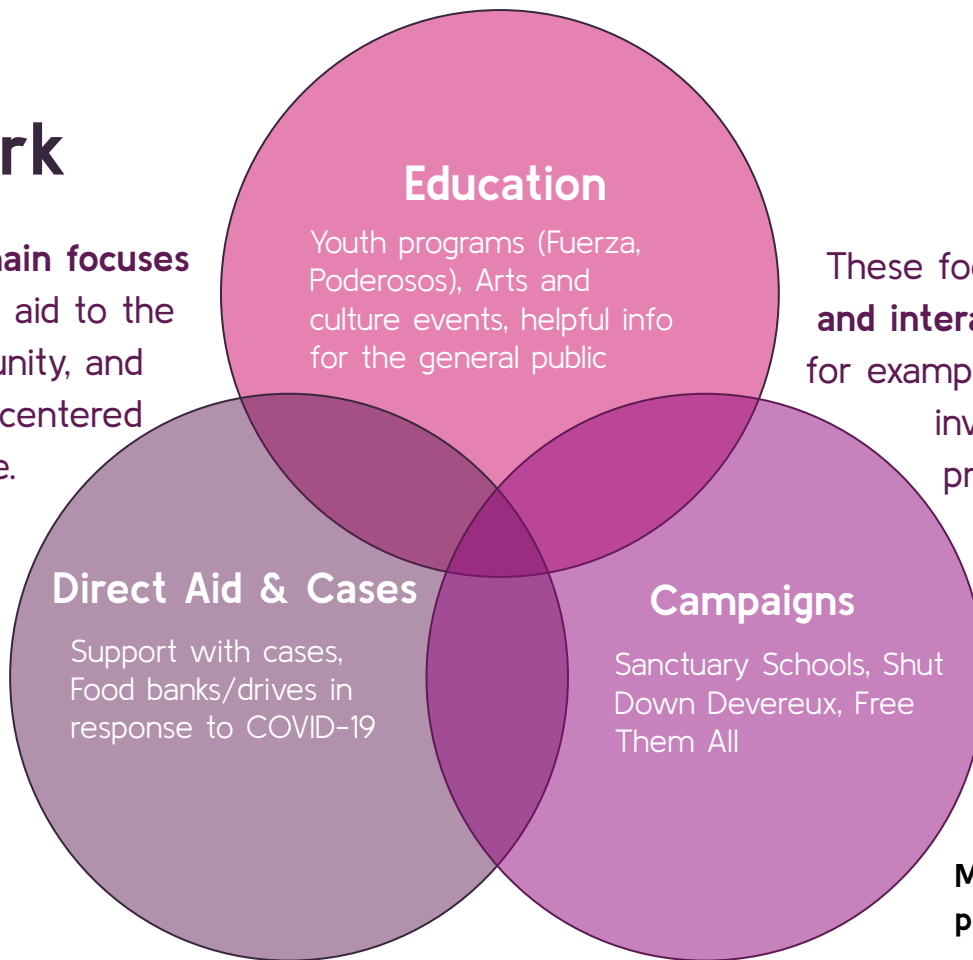
“Juntos is a **community-led, Latinx immigrant organization** in **South Philadelphia** **fighting for our human rights** as workers, parents, youth, and immigrants. We believe that every human being has the **right to a quality education** and the **freedom to live with dignity regardless of immigration status**.

Juntos combines leadership development, community organizing, and focused collaborations with other community-based and advocacy organizations to **build the power of our community members** so **they** may be **active agents of change** and **work against their own oppression**.”

–Juntos website (linked [here](#))

Juntos' work

Juntos has **three main focuses** of education, direct aid to the South Philly community, and political campaigns centered around social justice. Examples of each are included in the Venn diagram.



These focuses tend to **overlap and interact** with each other – for example, many of the youth involved in their Fuerzas program are also active participants in Juntos' Sanctuary schools campaign.

More information about their programs can be found [here](#).

Current Campaign



Juntos is currently running a campaign for the **improvement of schools in Philadelphia**, which includes advocating for the decriminalization of schools. More info about the **Sanctuary schools campaign** can be found [here](#) and an outline of their goals for schools can be found [here](#).

My work at Juntos

An overview of what I've done this
past semester



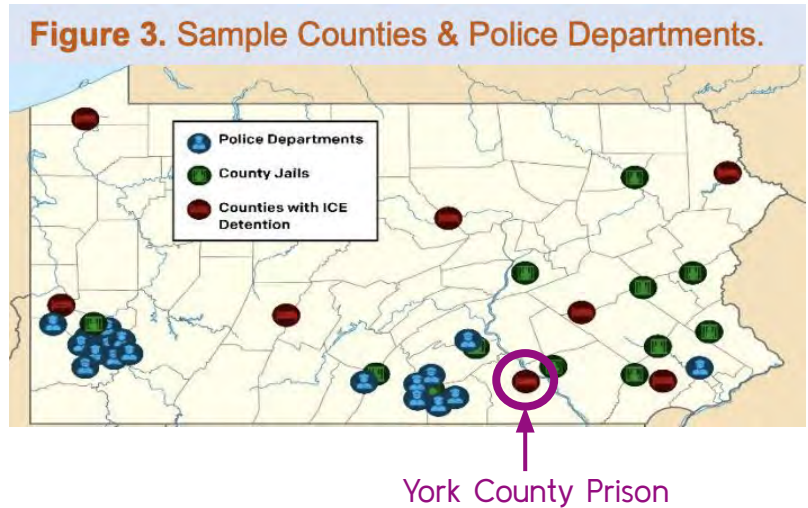
Overview

As an intern for Juntos this past semester, I've spent the bulk of my fieldwork working on their York campaign. This includes:

- Researching contextual information around migrant detention
- Digitizing & analyzing interviews from Juntos' visit to York County Prison in April 2019
- Creating a fact sheet and social media posts based on the interviews
- Being involved in the hiring process for an artist to create an animated video about York

About York County Prison

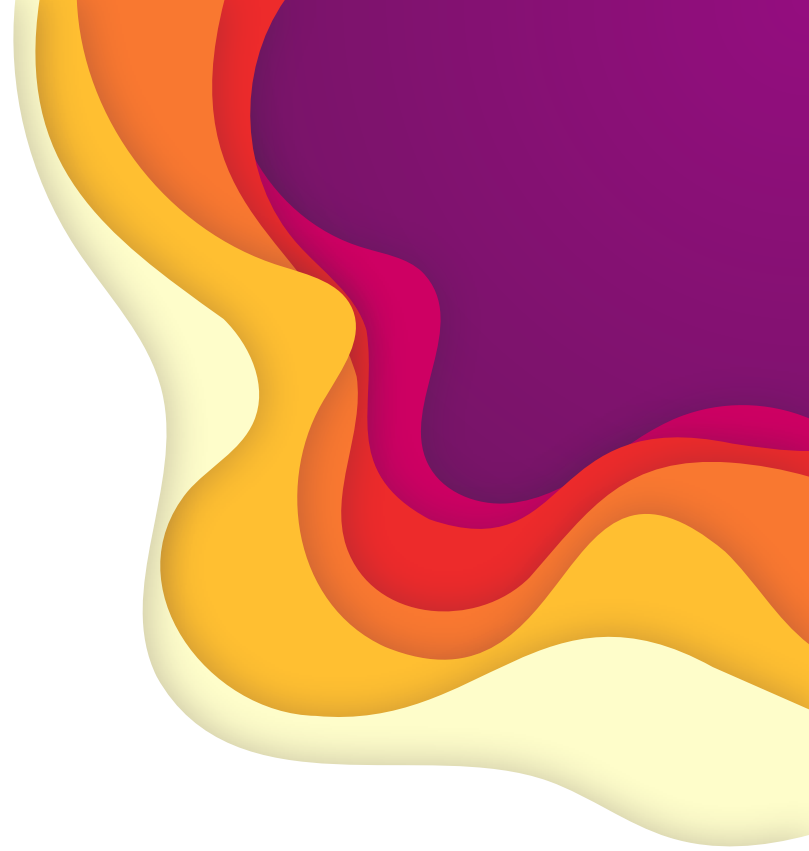
- In addition to being a county prison, York is one of the largest ICE detention centers in the country¹
 - **800 beds** set aside for ICE, with an average daily population (ADP) of **706 detainees**¹
 - York has a **combined population**, meaning there is **no separation** between detained migrants and general population at York



1. Amy Chin-Arroyo and Selena Laigle, "Interlocking Systems", Temple University Press, 2019.

Juntos' 2019 Visit to York

- Toured facility led by ICE officers with Advancement Project, Casa San Jose, Asian Americans United, VietLead
- Allowed to interview detainees (total of 13)
 - Later revealed in an interview that the sign-up sheet was posted the day before the visit by officers with no announcement to the detainees



Research post-visit

- Quantitative and qualitative analysis of interviews

A few key findings:

- Detention length of interviewees ranged between **28** and **481** days
 - 2019 York average was 7 weeks¹, national average was 33 days²
 - 77% of interviewees had been detained for longer than both averages (York and national), the remaining 23% had been detained just shy of the 2019 national average
- Out of the initials concerns raised from the tour, **only one** was addressed by the facility by October 2019 meeting b/t Juntos and York
 - Facility installed privacy barriers in bathrooms – previously had none whatsoever

After Praxis

I will be continuing my work at Juntos this summer, where I'll remain working on the York campaign, specifically collaborating with an artist to create a video about migrant detention (using the data from York).

Given current events around migration and detention in the United States, I will also likely do work surrounding the U.S. government's detention of migrant children under the Biden administration.



Links & References

Helpful links for learning about Juntos

- vamosjuntos.org (website)
 - ◆ vamosjuntos.org/getinvolved (volunteer opportunities)
- @VamosJuntosPhilly on [Facebook](#) | @vamos_juntos_ on [Instagram](#)

References

1. Chin-Arroyo, Amy, and Solena Laigle. "Interlocking Systems: How Pennsylvania Counties and Local Police Are Assisting ICE to Deport Immigrants." *Temple University Libraries*, 25 June 2019, scholarshare.temple.edu/handle/20.500.12613/195.
2. Kassie, E. (2019). Detained: How the United States created the largest immigrant detention system in the world. <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2019/09/24/detained>
3. All image credits go to Juntos, with the exception of "Figure 3", credited to "Interlocking Systems" by Amy Chin-Arroyo and Solena Laigle.

For any form of feedback, feel free to contact me via email — jabrown@brynmawr.edu

Acknowledgements

Thank you to everyone at Juntos for the opportunity to work with you, particularly Zia Kandler and Erika Guadalupe Nuñez for advising and guiding my work.

Thank you to Professor Liv Raddatz for leading our class this semester, and the rest of my cohort – Meagan, Benita, Madeleine, and Joe – for letting a Psych major crash your Cities seminar!