

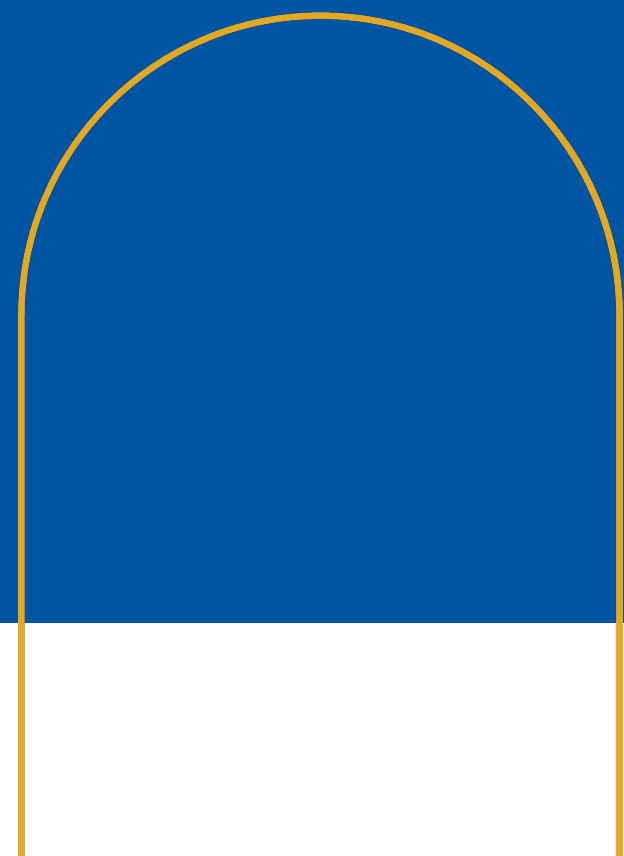
Students:
Amplifying Your Voices



Your Voices: *Sharing and Elevating the Voices of Underrepresented Students*

<https://ischoolblogs.sjsu.edu/yourvoices/>

Paola Mondragon
Dr. Michele A. L. Villagran



Land Acknowledgement

While we gather at San José State University, we are gathered on the ethnohistoric tribal territory of the Thámien Ohlone, who were the direct ancestors of the lineages enrolled in the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe, and who were missionized into Missions Santa Clara, San José and Dolores.

The lands on which San José State University is established was and continues to be of significance to the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe. We also recognize that the ancestors of the Muwekma Ohlone constructed and maintained the three Bay Area missions. Our campus extends to surrounding areas that held a tuppentak, a traditional roundhouse which were once located at the historic ‘Lopé Yñigo’s Landgrant Rancho Posolmi y Pozitas de las Animas (Little Wells of Souls), and also Marcello, Pio and Cristobal’s Land grant Rancho Ulistac, which were places of celebration and religious ceremonies, as well as nearby ancestral heritage “shellmounds,” that served as the Tribe’s traditional cemetery sites and territorial monuments.

San José State University also desires to honor the military service of the Muwekma who have honorably served overseas during World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Iraq and who are still serving in the United States Armed Forces today.



THE ORIGIN BEHIND YOUR VOICES

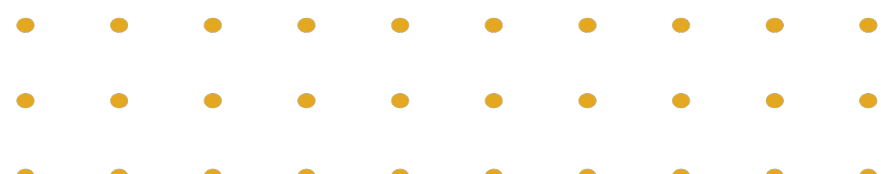
Former College of Professional and Global Education (now College of Information, Data and Society (CIDS)) EDISJ Committee held a working group survey in 2021.

- **55.8%** of students thought they would benefit from events with EDI-focused guest speakers.
- **63.8%** thought they would benefit from affinity groups where students and allies of diverse communities can gather, support, and network with each other.
- **15-20% were unsure whether CPGE is supportive of diverse students and welcoming to diverse perspectives and voices.**



PROJECT PROGRESSION- Your Voices: Learning, Listening, and Sharing

- **2022-2023 project**
- Aimed to empower underrepresented graduate students in Library and Information Science, and Applied Data Science
- Offered space for sharing, supporting, and learning
- **Three components:** Community Learning Spaces (CLS), e-newsletters, and webinars



INFORMATION LITERACY

Creating student-centered spaces that amplify underrepresented voices, fostering inclusive dialogue and authentic expression



INFORMATION LITERACY: Embedded into Your Voices & SAYV

- **Platforms for storytelling and engagement**

- Active learning spaces

- **Competencies**

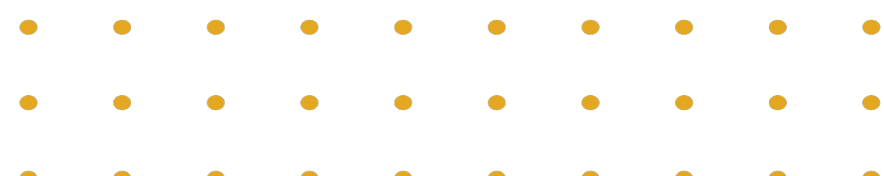
- Critically assess sources

- Creation of narratives

- Engagement

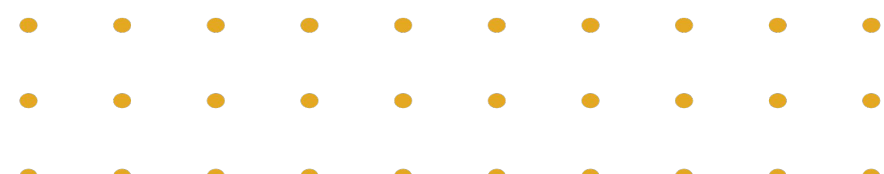
- Peer collaboration

- **Faculty incorporation**



INFORMATION LITERACY: Embedded into Your Voices & SAYV

"As a first-generation immigrant, I understand the lack of access to learning information literacy. Older Latinx do not know how to utilize or see themselves within the library. The importance of bilingual staff in Latinx-serving communities is vital for them to learn information literacy. Librarians and staff should try to go to the communities to inform them about the available resources. Reaching communities directly will make a difference in their lives." - Natali Carmona





BEST PRACTICES GUIDE

Learn logistics, marketing and communications, and best practices for implementing Your Voices components.





YOUR VOICES
LEARNING • LISTENING • SHARING

Your Voices: Best Practices Guide

Kara Price, Laura Dowell, and Dr. Michele Villagran

Your Voices: Learning, Listening, and Sharing (2022-2023) was a year-long initiative led by Dr. Michele Villagran and Kara Price at San José State University School of Information, supported by the 2022-2023 Assigned Time for Exceptional Levels of Service Award.

The project aimed to empower underrepresented graduate students in Library and Information Science and Applied Data Science by providing spaces for sharing, support, and learning. It consisted of three main components: Community Learning Spaces (CLS), e-newsletters, and webinars, all structured around fostering equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging for information professionals.

The *Your Voices* guide highlights the project's successes for further expansion of student engagement and empowerment in its second iteration, Students Amplifying Your Voices (SAYV).

The guide is also available to information professionals interested in replicating *Your Voices* at their institutions.

Logistics

Overview

To meet the needs of underrepresented groups in library and information science graduate programs, it is necessary to research, plan, and coordinate the processes and workflows for each component to ensure its successful implementation and completion.

Marketing & Communications

Overview

Collaborate with internal or external stakeholders to develop your brand identity.



LOGISTICS

- **Identify internal and external stakeholders for collaboration.**
 - Align stakeholders' interest with the project goals to encourage buy-in and consider stakeholders outside the institution.
- **Conduct needs assessment with your target audience before you develop programming.**
 - Incentivize participation to increase feedback, tailor the questions to your project's goals, and identify common themes and priorities to create the foundation of your project.
- **Connect project activities with graduation requirements to increase student engagement.**
 - Communicate “how” or “why”, diversify the format of your programs, and use student testimonials to connect participation to their academic and professional goals.





MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

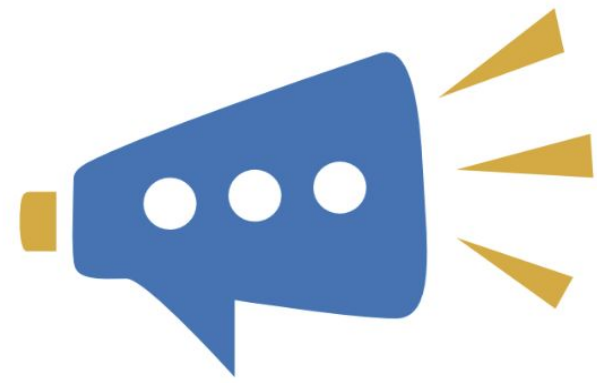
- **Collaborate with internal or external stakeholders to develop your brand identity.**
 - Take inspiration from your institution's brand guide, request assistance from the marketing department or school to develop logos and templates, and prepare templates in advance.
- **Promote, promote, and promote.**
 - Be clear about your purpose and intentions, design matters, create a content calendar for your promotions, and continue to reaffirm your relevance to your target audience.
- **Meet students where they are.**
 - Distribute content across multiple platforms, work with student organizations, departments, faculty, and other students to distribute promotional materials to students within your target audience, and make you, your team, and your project visible through other means to market your project.



WHAT IS SAYV?

Students Amplifying Your Voices
Student-Centered and Student-Run Spaces





Students: Amplifying Your Voices

Goals of SAYV

To make more **student-dedicated spaces** in the SJSU College of Information, Data & Society (CIDS)

To **build community** for diverse populations of students to form connections

To support **peer and professional development**

To share resources that meet **student needs and support**

Join the Conversation: [SAYV Community Form](#). Questions? Send us an **email**.



Community Learning Spaces

Creating spaces for underrepresented students to interact by implementing student-centered spaces where students can freely exchange ideas or experiences with each other.

Discord

Creating a Discord server to create and maintain a safe space for students of all backgrounds and identities to build community and connections.



Podcast

Conversations with students of diverse backgrounds share their experiences at the iSchool & ADS concerning their identities.



**From the Fringes to the Foreground:
Shining the Spotlight on Student Voices**

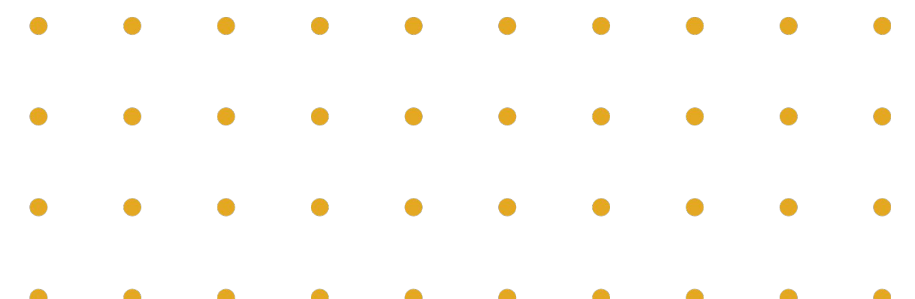
COMMUNITY LEARNING SPACES (CLS)





COMMUNITY LEARNING SPACES

- **“Nothing about us, without us, is for us.”**
 - Recruit moderators for CLS through your networks, allow students to maintain confidentiality, and let students decide what to report back.
- **Underrepresented groups encompass more than ethnic/racial identities and gender/sexuality.**
 - Encourage students to speak to their intersectional identities, support conversation outside of CLS, and do not group adjacent identities if they are not intersectional.





CLS GROUPS 2022-2023

- Recruited topics and participants through Google form sent via iSchool email alerts
- Dates and topics chosen by students; no more than three communities chosen per response
- **Topics:** Neurodivergence and people with disabilities, self-care and wellness, and LGBTQIA+
- Moderators chosen by interest and communities chosen on form



Questions Responses **24** Settings



YOUR VOICES
LEARNING • LISTENING • SHARING

Your Voices - Community Learning Space (CLS) Submissions

The School of Information and Applied Data Science Department recognize how critical it is to foster discussion and solicit input about advancing diversity, equity and inclusion to educate the next generation of information professionals. Without an inclusive and culturally aware environment, our Academic Units cannot enhance the student experience or understand the value of their presence at San José State University.

“Your Voices: Learning, Listening, and Sharing” aims to capture students’ voices in a space that allows conversations among underrepresented students to occur. It is an opportunity for the Academic Units to foster an inclusive community and support students by creating spaces to gather, network, and share among each other.

After finalizing the top community learning spaces, we will host eight sessions total, beginning in October 2022.

CLS and topics discussed in the said groups will be determined by student interest. To ensure confidentiality, all community learning space meetings will be provided guidelines, password protection, and recording features disabled.

You may direct any comments, questions, or concerns to yourvoices.sjsu@gmail.com.





CLS GROUPS 2024-2025

- Continued recruitment with same methodologies
- Dates and topics chosen by students
- **Topics:** AANHPI, Latinx, LGBTQIA+

Challenges:

- Determining what days/times would work best for students with varying schedules
- Virtual space





FEEDBACK

"It was affirming to hear that a lot of us seek community and have felt that there were barriers to participating in a community."

"I loved hearing everyone's journeys and how they ended up in the iSchool."

"Simply knowing there are other LGBTQIA+ students on campus is helpful."

DISCORD SERVER

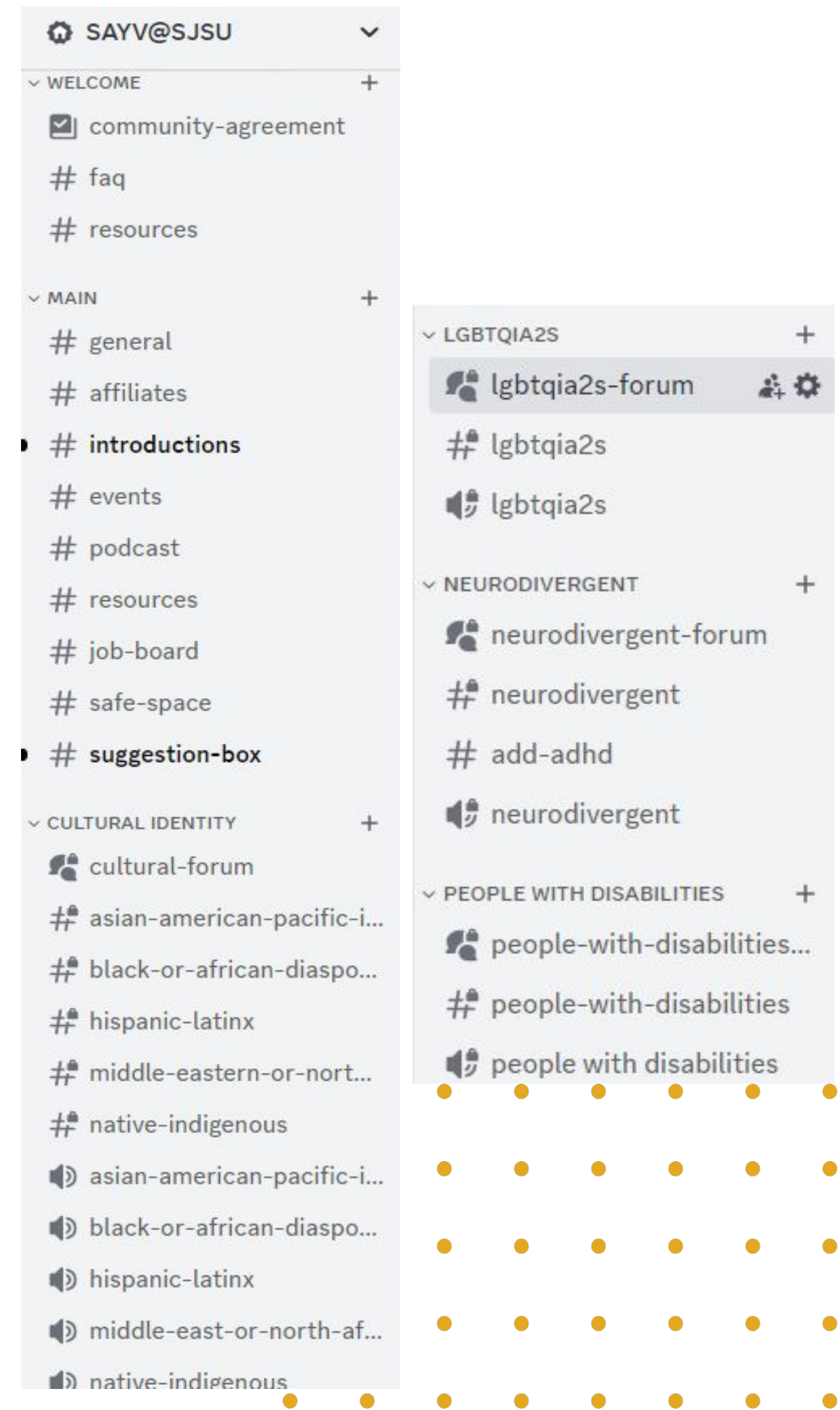
A safe space for students to build and find community.



DISCORD SERVER

STUDENTS AMPLIFYING YOUR VOICES (SAYV)

- Using a Discord server, we created channels for students to self identify and join community of peers.
- Offers resources and events such as study groups.
- Moderated with survey questions when students join and volunteer moderators to uphold community agreement.



DISCORD SERVER

STUDENTS AMPLIFYING YOUR VOICES (SAYV)

- *Implementing changes based on CLS feedback to support student communities*
- **Creating supportive spaces & managing logistics for future meetings**



LGBTQIA+ related news
A place to share news impacting the community.

Events
A place to share LGBTQIA+ related events

Support group meetings and study sessions
A place to coordinate group meetings for support or sharing. This place can also be used to schedule study sessions

OLDER POSTS

The Good News
A place to share some good news and share your wins, the big and the small.

Share the load
A judgement-free space to vent, share concerns, and seek support from the community.



PODCAST SERIES

**From the Fringes to the Foreground: Shining the Spotlight on
Student Voices**



PODCAST SERIES

[“From the Fringes to the Foreground”](#) sets the stage for underrepresented students and early career information professionals to discuss their experiences and promote their projects.



**From the Fringes to the Foreground:
Shining the Spotlight
on Student Voices**



<https://spoti.fi/4hrmkyF>




PODCAST SERIES

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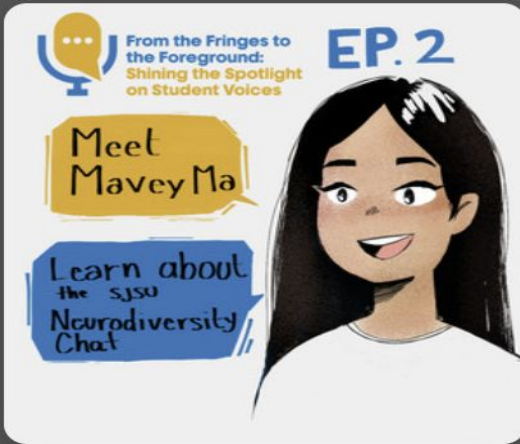
EP. 3
From the Fringes to the Foreground:
Shining the Spotlight on Student Voices

Feature:
Essy Barroso-Ramirez
and
Michael J. Aguilar

Ep. 3- Essy Barroso-Ramirez & Michael J. Aguilar
Apr 23 · From the Fringes to the Foreground

+ Save on Spotify

1:07:45



EP. 2
From the Fringes to the Foreground:
Shining the Spotlight on Student Voices


Meet
Mavey Ma

Learn about
the SJSU
Neurodiversity
Chat

Ep. 2 - Mavey Ma
Mar 5 · From the Fringes to the Foreground

+ Save on Spotify

43:43



EP. 1
From the Fringes to the Foreground:
Shining the Spotlight on Student Voices

Ep. 1 - Katherine Witzig & Brandon Castle
Nov 1 · From the Fringes to the Foreground

+ Save on Spotify

37:34



JOIN THE SAYV COMMUNITY NOW!

Fill out the Google form or scan the QR code to join the SAYV communication group:

<https://forms.gle/zBboGSD4qWrLqViS8>

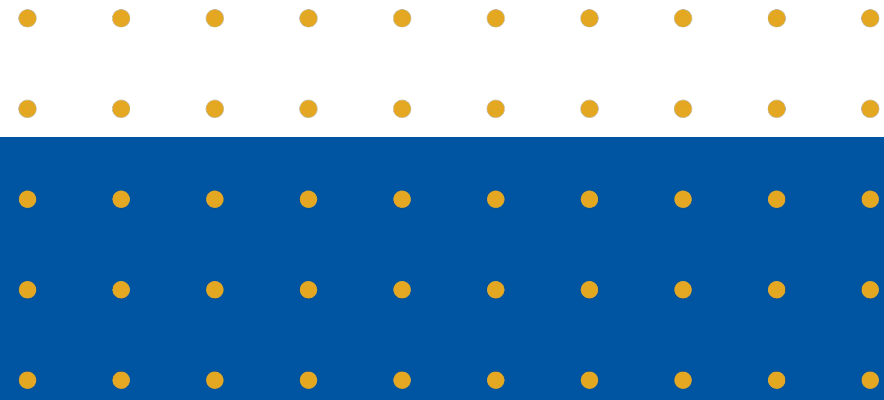
This will add you to our listserv to stay up-to-date on the latest news and events related to the project.

Questions? Send us an **email** at yourvoices.sjsu@gmail.com.



QUESTIONS FOR YOU!

- What questions do you have about Your Voices and SAYV?
- What student-centered spaces do you have for underrepresented students to freely exchange ideas with each other?
- How do you encourage students to get involved in more experiences where they can practice information literacy skills?
- In what ways can we create spaces for students to have a voice and amplify their voices?



Students:
Amplifying Your Voices

Thank You!

yourvoices.sjsu@gmail.com

Questions?

<https://ischoolblogs.sjsu.edu/yourvoices/>

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