

TEARING DOWN THE WALLS



C.H.I.P.



Original artwork by Raven Spires from 2020

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CHIP PO BOX

Want to write to us directly?
Contact us at the address below.
We try to ensure that everyone
is responded to within a month.

PO Box 851
Lake Worth, FL 33460

THE PODCAST

Edited by CHIP Steering Committee member Ruddy, 5 episodes of the podcast have been released featuring music, interviews, and perspectives from inside and outside the jails. Now on a monthly release schedule! Tell your community to check it out: "Tearing Down the Walls."

BENDING THE BARS - CALL FOR ART!

The Community Hotline for Incarcerated People (CHIP) is working on collecting art, stories, poems, lyrics, songs, and more from Broward County jails to document the experiences of people incarcerated in the jails and amplify your voices. In this issue of *Tearing Down the Walls*, learn how you can get involved!

FROM THE PROJECT PROPOSAL

On a beautiful weekend day, Sunday brunch takes place in downtown Fort Lauderdale beside the water. Meanwhile, nearby in Broward Main Jail, people who have not yet been convicted of a crime are enduring what the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) describes as **unconstitutional conditions**. Despite over a quarter of a century of legal challenges, the public remains far too unaware of this painful reality. This project aims to amplify the voices of people who are experiencing this injustice in the following ways:

- support the expansion of a **podcast** sharing stories, poetry, performance, and data about jail conditions, especially as experienced by people of color and LGBTQ people;
- curate **original artwork and stories** in a digital exhibit about the jails;
- produce an **album** of original music by incarcerated and formerly incarcerated musicians reflecting on their lives, their ideas for how we can create a better world, and their experiences in BSO custody;
- employ **interactive storytelling methods** to educate the public.

Injustice thrives in silence, and social justice often begins when someone speaks about the injustice they are experiencing. Yet for people who are incarcerated in the four jails run by the Broward County Sheriff's Office (BSO), sharing their stories and experiences is almost impossible. We're especially interested in documenting how **the postcard-only policy** hinders incarcerated people in communicating with loved ones, sharing their experiences, & documenting injustice, etc.

FIND US ONLINE: CHIPSOUTHFL.ORG FB: [CHIPSOUTHFLORIDA](https://www.facebook.com/CHIPSOUTHFLORIDA) IG: [CHIP_SOUTHFLORIDA](https://www.instagram.com/CHIP_SOUTHFLORIDA)



VIDEO VISITS

Everyone incarcerated in Broward jails is entitled to two free video visitations per week from the BSO visitation center. Registration is through Securus, but they will have to travel to the center. Register with Securus and call 954-982-6928 or email shanika_mulkey@sheriff.org with questions.

ON POSTCARDS

As you know, the postcard only policy is dramatically reducing the ability of incarcerated people to contact family and friends. We want to hear from you - by postcard - about how this policy is impacting you. Stories, poems, art, and anything else you can fit on a postcard is welcome. Our goal is to create a huge physical and digital collage of the postcards we receive that will demonstrate the harm and injustice of this policy. If you can't fit everything you want to say on a single postcard and need to send a couple, that will make the restrictive nature of the policy even clearer. Please write **POSTCARD POLICY** in the corner of your submission.

ABOUT CHIP

The Community Hotline for Incarcerated People (CHIP) is an all-volunteer prison abolition group which runs a hotline for incarcerated people in South Florida. We offer information, resources, & referrals to incarcerated people. We document the conditions in the jails, connect incarcerated people with family members and other resources, do direct advocacy and agitate for systemic change.

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

- write to us and share your experiences - we are particularly interested in postcards that include stories and/or artwork that address the injustice of the post-card only policy
- send us original artwork - we are especially interested in artwork that examines the conditions at BSO jails and comments on the criminal punishment system in South Florida, and we will be curating some pieces for an exhibit in June 2023
- call us to tell us more about your experiences, especially your experiences with the postcard-only policy, Wellpath and medical neglect, and the internal grievance process (we are also actively tracking how COVID is being handled by the jail) - our hotline tends to be open Sundays 12-6 and Tuesdays 9-3, although sometimes we can't staff it, so keep trying
- are you a musician, lyricist, or poet? Send us a note letting us know about your experience and interest with writing and recording music, and we'll write back to discuss further collaborative possibilities for the album we're producing

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU

- No matter what, you'll be participating in drawing attention to the unconstitutional conditions in Broward County jails
- If you're included in the podcast, your voice and any other information you want to share will be on Spotify and on our website to reach a growing audience of people interested in the criminal punishment system
- Artists whose work is selected for the exhibit and/or other aspects of the project will be compensated via commissary (please note that not all submitted work will be selected)
- Finally, you'll be part of building community in South Florida to organize for a better world
- This project is in collaboration with researchers at local universities, and that is enabling us to fund the project, including this mailing. No artwork will be exhibited or used in any way without compensation to the artist. We will do everything we can to return work that is not selected for the project, but it may not reach the artist due to issues with mail.

CALL/TEXT (561) 486-9099 CHIP_HOTLINE@RISEUP.NET
CHECK OUT OUR PODCAST ON SPOTIFY: "TEARING DOWN THE WALLS"