



Maya Ginsberg, **Seen and Heard:** A Case Study of the Voices of Our City Choir

Voices of Our City Choir (VOCC) was founded in 2016 by musicians Steph Johnson and Nina Deering, who were troubled by both the increasing number of people experiencing homelessness and the criminalization of homelessness in San Diego. The mission of the choir is "...transforming the perception and experience of homelessness through the healing power of the arts. We are building bridges connecting diverse communities in positive ways through musical performance, advocacy and education" (Voices of Our City Choir, 2018).

The purpose of this study is to examine VOCC and the lived experience of its members to discover and to determine models for homelessness advocacy through the arts. The research questions guiding this study are:

- 1 How has participating in VOCC impacted members' sense of community and identity?
- 2 How effectively does VOCC achieve its stated objectives of advocacy, education, and challenging public perceptions of homelessness?