

WALL OF SONG PROJECT

FEELING GOOD

It's a new dawn / It's a new day / It's a new life / For me /

And I'm feeling good / I'm feeling good

— Feeling Good, the song made famous by Nina Simone

**WORDS
TO
ACTION**

The Institute for the Study of Sport, Society and Social Change and The Wall of Song Project invite you to sing FEELING GOOD—the song made famous by Nina Simone—as a call-to-action, an anthem of solidarity for women's athletics and a more equitable, racially just community.

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FEELING GOOD ORGANIZERS + COLLABORATORS

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Link to campus, community, cultural partners, affinity groups, and [collaborators](#)

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FEELING GOOD is supported by an SJSU Artistic Excellence Project Grant from the College of Humanities & the Arts and a California State University Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Award.

Since 2019, San Jose State University's renowned [Institute for the Study of Sport, Society and Social Change](#) and [The Wall of Song Project](#) have been inviting athletes, fans, students and community supporters to sing [FEELING GOOD](#)—the song made famous by Nina Simone—as an anthem of solidarity and a call to action for women's sport and a more equitable, racially just community. Hundreds have already added their voices to our growing, inclusive video chorus.

This ongoing [collaborative](#) art, film, performance, and sports stadia singing project of FEELING GOOD acknowledges, celebrates, and builds upon the deep legacy of Black athlete activism at SJSU. Through it, we explore the ways in which art and collective singing rituals can, despite our social realities, embolden our voices to support women's athletics and work towards a more inclusive community—particularly for Black and Indigenous women, girls, and non-binary athletes of color, who live at the intersection of racial injustice and gender inequity.

[WHY SHARE OUR VOICES FOR WOMEN'S SPORT?](#)

While there has been some progress since the enactment of Title IX, we continue to see disparities in access, pay equity, working conditions, leadership and coaching opportunities, sports coverage (and the largely invisible work of [athlete activists](#) in women's sports). We also have noticed the well documented ways in which collective singing can help to cultivate joint perspectives, charge our courage, and touch each other at a distance (as we have especially seen during this time of physical distancing.)

[WHY SING "FEELING GOOD" RIGHT NOW?](#)

Nina Simone sang about "a bold world, a new world" in 1965. The invitation is to be emboldened by Simone's courageous and radical example in the midst of our own need for a more equitable and racially just kind of future.

[HOW DOES IT WORK?](#)

The Wall of Song project is participatory and interactive. The first step invites athletes, fans, students and community supporters to sing "Feeling Good" online at <https://wallofsongproject.com/sing-2/>. It only takes a few minutes and you don't need to be able to sing—it's not a solo!

[CONNECTION TO ATHLETE ACTIVISM?](#)

San José State University, is a unique place in which to launch and grow FEELING GOOD due to its legacy in athlete activism as the birthplace of the [Olympic Project for Human Rights](#), a movement led by Dr. Harry Edwards and Ken Noel that culminated in the iconic protest of 1968 Olympic medalists Tommie Smith and John Carlos.

[SONG AS A BRIDGE TO EMBODIED ACTION:](#)

This collaborative art, athlete activism, and civic singing platform is designed to build inclusive community by drawing upon the ways in which song can help connect, amplify, and embolden our voices to work towards positive social change. We are developing calls-to-action with our collaborators, including an invitation to [donate](#) to [The Institute for the Study of Sport, Society, and Social Change](#) programs and services—particularly as it pertains to the equity of women and girls in sport.

How might we collaborate? Here are some potential ways we might consider collaborating and combining the reach, legacy, and potential of our platforms, as works best (and we are open to other ideas!):

- Join us in inviting athletes, fans, and community supporters to share their voices and sing "Feeling Good" online at <https://wallofsongproject.com>.
- Partner with us on a PR and social media campaign. Our goal is to amplify our voices in solidarity across our respective communities. Follow us @wallofsongproject @sjsuwordstoaction and #SJSUWordsToAction #LeadHerForward!
- Collaborate as a project partner, sponsor, or co-host an event with us! We'd value an opportunity to discuss the potential of FEELING GOOD as part of a live or virtual women's sporting event. See this [highlight reel](#) and [introductory video](#) from our 2.24.20 event launch.

Thank you for your review and consideration! In song and solidarity,
Akilah Carter-Francique & Mel Day, Co-organizers,