

monumentum project

AUGMENTED REALITY CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL MARKERS

The Monumentum Project uses Augmented Reality technology to create virtual memorial markers at specific public locations where youth have been killed by firearms in the U.S. These Augmented Reality memorials will be experienced using a custom-built Augmented Reality app on your phone or tablet at the real location where the shootings took place or a significant place in the youth's life (street, park, etc.). The memorial markers will include "clickable" points of interaction, with audio and video narratives from family and relations, speaking about the child's life. The current pilot project will produce four Augmented Reality memorial markers in four different U.S. cities.

Augmented Reality technology allows us to place virtual objects in real space. These virtual objects appear real when seen through our phone or tablet screens; and can have multi-media content accessible through its app. At the moment, most Augmented Reality applications are used in gaming or as marketing tools ([IKEA AR tool](#) "places" one of their sofas in your living room). Importantly, AR does not create an entire virtual world like Virtual Reality (VR), Augmented Reality only places virtual objects, video and sound into real space as seen through our screens.

We believe this innovative use of Augmented Reality, in actual communities, can bring significant attention to a critical and overlooked issue. While most static public memorials are concrete, expensive and follow a single historical *narrative of importance*; we aim to use Augmented Reality technology to democratize who gets memorialized, bring diverse voices into the creation of these narratives and place beautiful virtual memorials in the real world.

Importantly, each marker will be produced in collaboration, and with the expressed permission of the youth's family and the media produced will always be stored on secure drives. These memorials will also focus on the youth's life, experience and family stories; not necessarily on the firearm incident.

For more information please contact:

[Jesenia Pizarro, Ph.D.](#) Assoc. Prof. School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at ASU
jesenia.Pizarro@asu.edu

[Andres Torres-Vives](#) Professor of Practice / The Sidney Poitier New American Film School at ASU:
andres.torres.vives@asu.edu

ASU News Story

<https://news.asu.edu/20201229-creativity-asu-team-create-augmented-reality-memorial-child-victims>

Reference Sample Augmented Reality projects

<https://www.apple.com/augmented-reality/>

NYTimes story on Monuments and Art:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/24/t-magazine/confederate-monuments-reimagined-racism.html>
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/02/arts/design/liberty-bell-nancy-baker-cahill.html>