The Bells: An Inclusive Public Soundscape

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The Bells: An Inclusive Public Soundscape
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Problem: The campus soundscape perpetuates a ubiquitous form of cultural inequality by omission. Carillons developed in European churches; repertoire constructs listeners as white, Christian, middle-/upper-class, cisgender, heterosexual, male. No marginalized listener can “opt out.”

Project 1: Commission culturally recognizable music from composers from underrepresented ethnicities
Project 2: Student contest to arrange music of systemically less audible social groups (LGBTQ+, DREAMers, veterans, 1st-gen students, multiracial students, working class, and more). Five $200 prizes.

Opportunities for change: 5 hours of public concerts/week on Charles Baird Carillon (pictured) & Lurie Carillon (North Campus); 23 students studying carillon

Goals: Make our public spaces more inclusive sonic environments; transform our campus symbols to serve all in our community; attract and fund diverse students to study and play our carillons

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