



NYC Parks



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Four Artists Chosen for Year-Long Urban Field Station Artist in Residence Program

“This arts residency pushes my boundaries to think beyond being a studio artist. I feel like an ecologist, immigrant advocate, teacher and community organizer all at once,” says Cecile Chong, Artist

The Nature of Cities, USDA Forest Service, New York City Parks, and the State of Hawaii announce the 2021 cohort of four artists to participate in the Urban Field Station Artist in Residence Program. The artists will spend a year embedded with diverse teams of researchers and natural resource practitioners in New York City, Santo Domingo, and Honolulu. The residency is designed to explore the nature of cities, the art of nature, and the expression of scientific ideas through collaborations with artists and urban ecology practitioners.

The four artists will work with USDA Forest Service, NYC Parks, and State of Hawaii teams in New York City, Honolulu, and Santo Domingo, creating the potential for diverse and innovative outcomes. The core questions include: how are artists changed when they collaborate with scientists? How are scientists changed when they collaborate with artists? How can collaboration create new ideas and new directions that can inform sustainable, resilient, and inclusive cities?

“The Artist Residency is representative of the approach to “knowledge co-production” emblematic of the USDA Forest Service’s [Urban Field Station Network](#). Art is a form of inquiry, and encounters between science and art give us the chance to rediscover elements of both, yielding results that neither art nor science could create on its own. These advances contribute to the knowledge and practice required to develop more just, thriving, and sustainable communities,” says Sarah Hines, USDA Forest Service Network Coordinator.

“What is really so great about this residency and is inspiring me to push new boundaries within my work is the complex knowledge base I have access to. This includes not only a seemingly

endless wealth of scientific knowledge but also knowledge of how science and people interact. A profound combination in this day and age in an urban setting like NYC!", said Nikki Lindt, Artist

Four artists were chosen of the more than 100 who applied for the residency: **Cecile Chong**, an Ecuador-born, New York-based multimedia artist who works in painting, sculpture and installation, layering materials, identities and histories. Her work addresses ideas of culture interaction and interpretation, as well as the commonalities humans share both in our relationship to nature and to each other. Her project in the residency will be to research the connection between New York City parks and their surrounding immigrant communities.

Sharon Heitzenroder is a feminist, artist, activist, and educator. Much of her work deals with issues related to mental health, gender, and disparities perpetuated by systems of power. Her work in the residency will document the environmental change in Honolulu over the past 50-100 years, specifically the loss of green space. **Nikki Lindt**, born in the Netherlands, is a NYC based artist working primarily in the mediums of painting, video and (underground) sound. She often works in collaborations, among others with scientists, philosophers and sociologists to examine climate change at the intersection of art, science and culture. Her work in the residency will explore above ground and underground sound in NYC, focusing on the sound gradient of underground sounds in an urban setting all the way through to a (city) forest. **Kilia Llano** is a multimedia artist born in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic and currently working in painting, urban art (murals), drawing, installations and digital art. Her work is based in identity, how we as a culture address nature and how our surrounding is related to who we are. Her work in the residency will explore "Migration" through two murals in the city of Santo Domingo.

"The main reason I started painting in the streets was to have the chance to communicate ideas to all people without distinction. This art residency bring this motivation to a whole new level because it will convert my work into powerful messages about conservancy and how nature can connect human beings", said Kilia Llano, Artist

"The Urban Field Station - Nature of Cities Artist in Residence program gives artists the ability to work outside their comfort zone and break into new communities. As artists, the program allows us to work collaboratively with scientists, other artists, and community organizations, providing us with support while breaking down barriers and opening doors for artistic exploration", said Sharon Heitzenroder, Artist

Founded in 2017, the Urban Field Station Artist in Residence program has expanded this year to support artists across the United States and internationally. The program is planned to expand further in the coming years to include additional locations, more artists and science teams, and new modes of expression and creativity that build connections between urban nature and people.

This year's partnerships include:

- USDA Forest Service: NYC Urban Field Station, City Trees, Country Trees, Smart Forests and International Institute of Tropical Forestry

- NYC Parks: Forestry, Horticulture and Natural Resources division and Community Outreach and Partnership Development division, including Partnerships for Parks and GreenThumb
- State of Hawaii: Kaulunani, Hawaii's Urban & Community Forestry Program

"NYC Parks is happy to partner with the USDA Forest Service and The Nature of Cities to support these talented artists through the Urban Field Station," said NYC Parks Senior Public Art Coordinator Elizabeth Masella. "Since its inception, the program has provided an innovative space for artists to explore the cross-sections of art, science, and the urban environment. We look forward to seeing the contributions of this year's international cohort as they engage with the dynamics between nature and communities."

"The Nature of Cities was built to explore what we can learn at the fizzy boundaries where different ways of knowing and modes of action meet. If you want to learn something new, something unexpected, it makes sense to put artists together with scientists, designers, planners, and activists", says David Maddox, Executive Director and Publisher of The Nature of Cities.

The New York City Urban Field Station (<http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/nyc>) is a unique scientific collaboration between the NYC Parks, the USDA Forest Service's Northern Research Station, and the non-profit the Natural Areas Conservancy. First launched in 2006, the Urban Field Station provides a location for this long-term research partnership promoting applied science on urban ecology, conservation, stewardship, and ecological literacy to support ecosystem management and human well-being. The facility is designed as a shared office and lab where city and federal scientists work hand-in-hand to address critical land management questions relevant to NYC and other cities across the country.