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2024 Cohort of Artist Residents in the Urban Field Station Collaborative Arts Program Announced

New York, 8 February January 2024

We are pleased to announce the 2024 cohort of artist residents in the Urban Field Station Collaborative Arts Program (UFS Arts) – the 8th year of the program. The 2024 cohort will consist of twelve artists hailing from across the US including Baltimore, New York City, Miami, Springfield (MA), Honolulu, Chicago, Milwaukee, Detroit, Minneapolis/St Paul, and San Juan (PR). Selected from among 100+ applicants, the new resident artists will collaboratively engage with land managers and research teams at the USDA Forest Service, USFS's Urban Connections Program, the [Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest](#), and the International Institute of Tropical Forestry; along with local partners, including the State of Hawaii and NYC Department of Parks and Recreation.

The artists will work in many forms of artistic expression and thematic interest, including in sound art, music composition, muraling, visual art, and community practice art, in thematic areas including climate justice, social justice muraling, forest conservation, and community engagement. In collaboration with the scientists and practitioners, they will explore, interpret, and communicate urban social-ecological systems through their works of art and imagination.

UFS Arts is an artist residency created in collaboration with the USDA Forest Service and [The Nature of Cities](#) with a three-part mission of building understanding of and engagement with urban social-ecological systems through arts; facilitating trans-disciplinary collaboration between artists, scientists, and land managers; and curating events and public programs that explore the ideas emerging from these collaborations.



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Artists in the 2024 cohort

Climate Justice

Xavier Cortada, Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest

www.cortada.com

Carolyn Lambert, Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest

<https://carolynlambert.com/>

Laura Nova, New York City Urban Field Station

www.lauranova.com

Roxane Revon, New York City Urban Field Station

www.roxanerevon.com

Reverberation: Sound as Experience (USFS Urban Connections)

James Everest, Minneapolis

<http://www.jgeverest.com>

William Langford, Detroit

www.WillThePoet.com

Kate Schaffer, Milwaukee

<http://www.keschafferart.com/>

Cesar Almeida, Chicago

<https://djantoniocesar.wordpress.com>

Urban & Community Forestry

Dirk Joseph, Baltimore

<http://stringtheorytheater.com/>

Richard Johnson, Springfield (MA)

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/richard-johnson-479892183/>

State of Hawaii, forest conservation

Takuma Itoh, Honolulu

<http://www.takumaitoh.com/>

International Institute for Tropical Forestry

Hector Resto, San Juan (PR)



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About UFS Arts Residency Program

The Arts Residency Program is a hybrid virtual, community-centered residency program hosted by the USDA Forest Service in partnership with The Nature of Cities. A collaborative transdisciplinary program where artists are paired with natural and or social scientists, land managers, or practitioners to work together, drawing on knowledge from their discipline respectively to explore urban social-ecological systems. Works of art may result, but the aim of this program is to foster transdisciplinary collaboration, mutual understanding, diverse representation, and enhanced communication, above the production of a final work or project.

For more information, Media and Press:

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Lindsay Campbell

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To learn more about each artist, and to view their practice and bio visit www.ufsarts.com

Projects

Cesar Almeida, Chicago

"Wild Spirit" is a project merging hip-hop morality and environmental justice, that illustrates a compelling story that speaks to the experiences of inner-city individuals of color who yearn to establish a meaningful connection with the natural world through a cohesive collection of poetry, sound recordings, and beats.

Xavier Cortada, Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest

I'll work with scientists in creatively engaging the community around the importance of forests (economy, ecosystem services, climate, mental health). Immersed in local forests, they'll capture their unique observations through an interaction between a piece of paper and elements of the forest itself.

James Everest, Minneapolis

Through community partnerships and collaborative research, I would develop a series of site-specific sound + performance installations for outdoor natural site/s along the Mississippi River Gorge that will have both in-person and virtual components for the wider community to participate in and learn to hear the song of the river.

Takuma Itoh, Honolulu

"Symphony of the Hawai'i Forests" is a collaboration including the DLNR Division



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of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW), the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Hālau 'Ōhi'a, and others to strengthen our pilina (relationships) with each other, our forests, and the arts.

Mark Johnson, Springfield

A series of "be the change" public events with families and young people connecting participatory art, engagement, and nature.

Dirk Joseph, Baltimore

My project is a puppet show that inspires interest and appreciation for urban forests. Scientific information about ecosystems information will be presented through humorous interactions of characters. The show will debut in Baltimore's Stillmeadow Peace Park and forest before going on to be performed in other locations.

Carolyn Lambert, Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest

A film about the challenges of devoting one's life's work to the study of climate change. The film will feature audio recordings of conversations between the filmmaker and Hubbard Brook researchers about the personal and emotional impacts of their work, combined with footage of field work and data collection methods.

William Langford, Detroit

This is an interdisciplinary project where I write a series of spoken word poems dedicated to sites of natural beauty in Detroit. I will share these poems in these locations via QR codes and other media forms, such as visual displays.

Laura Nova, New York City Urban Field Station

What are the criteria of "care" for both humans and trees to become centenarians? How might interspecies communication combat social isolation, particularly in aging populations? By offering NYC elders "Tree Pal" relationships, I plan to document the audio-visual story of these caring interactions to amplify the power of relationships.

Hector Resto, San Juan, PR

A mural in San Juan on the subject of rare species conservation.

Roxane Revon, New York City Urban Field Station

The "Routes" project aims to conduct research into the development of root systems and their socio-economic significance within the urban landscape of New York City to create new subterranean maps that show their intricacy with other urban systems, through drawings and multimedia installations.

Kate Schaffer, Milwaukee

Mino-akking: A Contribution to Natural History gathers and shares the stories of Milwaukee, those of past and present human and nonhuman residents. These stories will be collected through research, observation, and interviews and then shared with the public in some way (podcast, blog, zines, etc.).



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