

Youth Visions in a Changing Climate

WHAT?

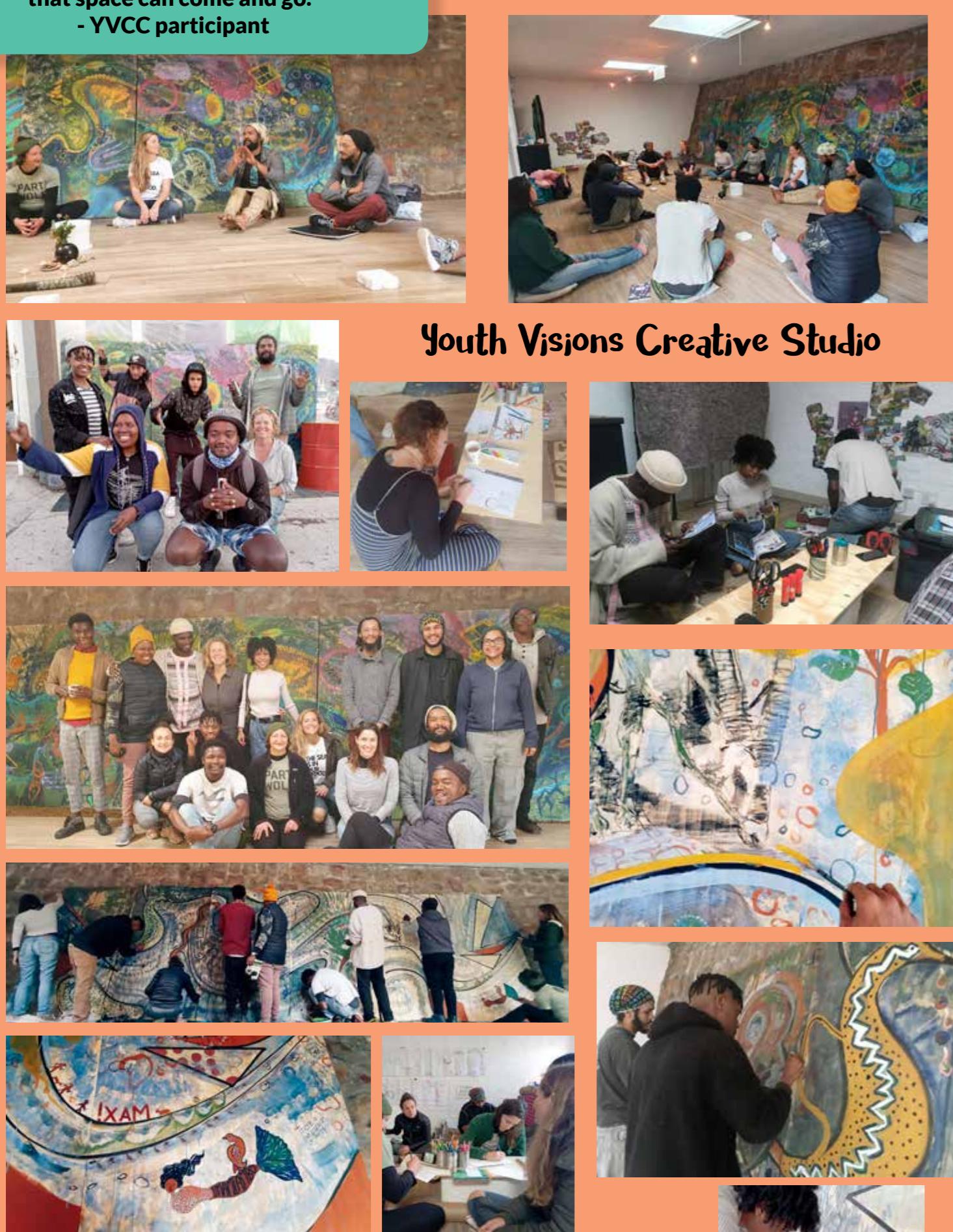
This collaborative project between academics, artists, facilitators, city officials and conservationists seeks to explore youth visions of nature-futures in Cape Town in a changing climate.

Aim: Explore participatory arts-based and immersive approaches to surfacing youth visions of nature-futures

Objectives:

- Co-create project design and implementation
- Conduct immersive living labs for individual and collective reflection to foster systems thinking on local natural systems and our diverse connections to them
- Surface key drivers of change to understand where change can happen
- Offer creative, safe spaces for creative reflection and storytelling
- Present collective visioning using public art

"I'm so excited to be here again, it's a thing of community, of how we can create spaces of community even though the people in that space can come and go." - YVCC participant



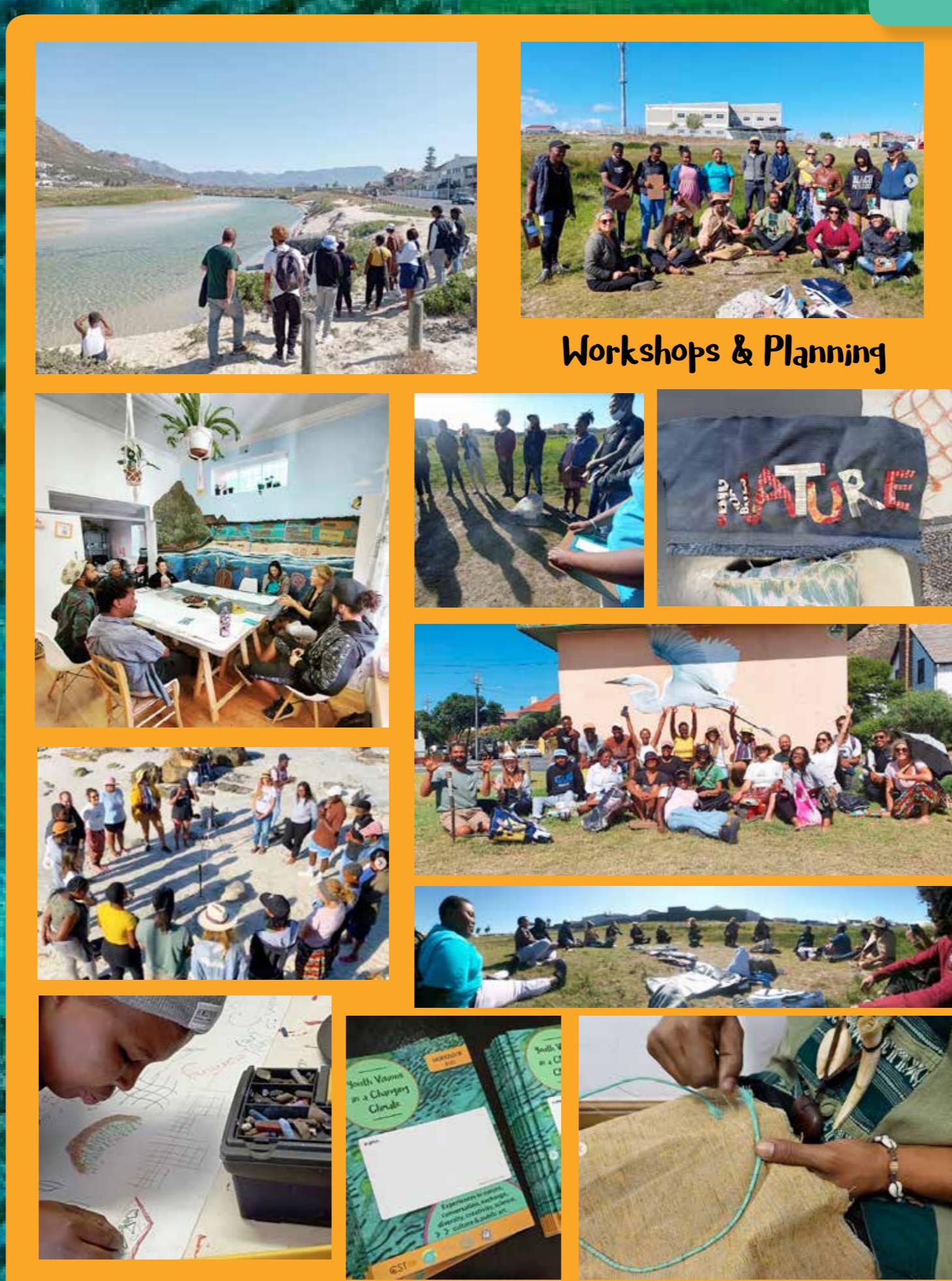
collage, draw, paint, speak, dream,
listen, write, share, envision.

Exploring participatory, arts-based approaches to engage youth and identify opportunities to build resilience in Cape Town.

WHY?

Despite increasing efforts, youth perspectives remain largely excluded from decision-making processes concerning their future, and the social-ecological challenges they are set to inherit. The need to include diverse perspectives and values of human-nature connections in projects that shape the urban environment is critical, especially in rapidly urbanising areas of the Global South. Surfacing these emerging perspectives is critical for understanding leverage points to move towards a more just and sustainable future that creates the enabling conditions to become a water sensitive city.

"Today the vision becomes real, the same way if we keep making our visions clearer and clearer and sharing them with each other they can drop down into reality in a way that we don't expect. We can create a future that we are inspired to move towards and along the way if we have a clear idea- we see clues along the way and that is something reminds you of your future and we can bring energy together more quickly move together to a future we want." -YVCC participant



"The future is bright, gets brighter every day. I am the future and the future is me" - YVCC participant

Reflections

- Our methodology and reflections on the process offer insights into urban planning processes that can further resilience building agendas
- There is a need to co-develop more Afrocentric climate literacy based on local realities
- Multiple capacities and hives of activity already exist in communities and need to be acknowledged, mobilised, resourced and elevated
- Creative visioning and futuring can help identify pathways for change and democratise science
- Many youth are seeking creative, immersive and safe spaces for co-learning and connection
- Recognition of the importance of connecting with City planning processes to understand critical intervention points and elevate the role of youth in decision-making processes



The project has existing funding from the Cape Higher Education Consortium and the City of Cape Town Joint Research Programme 2021/2. Further funding is being sought to continue the project.

Gratitude to Food Jams, TARA Océan Foundation, Muizenberg Kitchen and ProNature Paint

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