

Youth Visions in a Changing Climate

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

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



Youth Visions Creative Studio



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

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



Workshops & Planning



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

The Beach Co-Op works collaboratively and creatively within ocean communities and with government and business to urgently protect, restore and regenerate the integrity of ocean ecosystems. Their mission is to effectively connect people, institutions and organisations through evidence-based education and experiential learning to keep South Africa's beaches clean and healthy and to protect and enhance ocean health.
info@thebeachcoop.org

Dr Ffion Atkins is a postdoctoral researcher with the African Climate Development Initiative at UCT, and is also affiliated with The Beach Co-Op (TBCCO) as Co-Director for Research and Citizen Science. With an MSc in Water and Coastal Management and a PhD in Oceanography, she currently focuses on understanding resource flows in African coastal cities, and how to create the conditions where people and planet can thrive.
ffion.atkins@gmail.com

Dr Nadia Silas has over a decade of experience working at the interface between research and practice and collaboratively developing innovative methodologies to co-produce knowledge and co-design responses that are grounded in local realities. Dr Silas completed a transdisciplinary doctoral degree at Stellenbosch University and specialises in systems thinking - with a focus on how to improve decision-making and governance processes to enhance equitable, resilient and sustainable development.
nadiasilas@gmail.com

MAKIONE is an internationally acclaimed graffiti artist living and working in Cape Town. He has been painting graffiti art since 1989. Aerosol Art Practitioner. Graffiti Art Teacher. Hip Hop Student. HandControl 360. Khoe Descendant.
makione@gmail.com

HC360Crew Brought together by their shared love of graffiti art and ethos, the HandControl 360 Graffiti Art Crew came into existence in 2017. Since then, their skills have kept growing as they learn from and share with each other. Together they have completed many murals that bring not only colour to communities, but provide thought provoking content that touches on heritage, sustainability, climate change and more.
hc360@gmail.com

Amava Oluntu is, alongside the community around them, responding to social and environmental issues and share networks and resources that enable us to become strong change agents. They develop community-based solutions with an asset-based approach, working from the inside out using existing life wisdom and skills that benefit the broader community. Through reconnecting people and networks, they respond to societal issues, unlock opportunities, increase social connectedness and contribute to just futures. Entrepreneurial learning, skills development and exchange of knowledge are core cross-cutting components as they catalyse socioeconomic development and community resilience.
amavaoluntu@gmail.com

Youth Visions in a Changing Climate

HC360
HANDCONTROL

MAKIONE

CareCreative seeks to facilitate creative, diverse and participatory spaces underpinned by an ethic of care for both people and planet. She uses creativity to facilitate conversations, interactions, co-design and artmaking. Much of her work focuses on environmental issues with the intention that the artworks are used as platforms and points of discussion for topics around environment, education, social inclusion, youth, women, indigenous culture and community collaboration.
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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

MURAL CONCEPT

Development and Co-creation of the Design with Youth Participants



FYNBOS | WETLAND | OCEAN



Our painting is a Journey of water through the landscapes of Fynbos, Wetland & Ocean... featuring the plants and animals that make up these environments.

Water is our main character/ hero of the painting, how it moves through these landscapes and what its messages are for us.

Microbiome
Microplastics
Future Resilience

September '21

Co-design project plan

Invite Youth Participants

Workshop 1
Muizenberg Beach & Zandvlei

- Silent beach Clean up
- Workbook reflections
- Conversations around:
 - Zandvlei
 - Urban wetlands
 - Public art
 - Climate Change
 - Connecting through food

Workshop 2
Mitchells Plain

- Connecting to place with local indigenous chief
- Plastics clean up
- Conversations around:
 - Stormwater ponds
 - Sources of beach plastic
 - Storytelling (Hydro rug)
 - City Portrait Canvas visioning
 - Connecting through food

Workshop 3
Seapoint & V&A Waterfront

- Connecting to place
- Plastics clean up
- Walk from beach in Seapoint to the Waterfront
- Interacting with TARA
- Participatory painting/ public interaction

Workshop 4
Muizenberg kitchen

- Expression and reflection
- Collage
- Painting
- Drawing
- Conversation
- Music
- Connecting through food

.....end of 2022

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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