



***an art-sci approach to community engagement on the existential challenge of our time***

**The ArtSci-Climate LAB** will be an experimental workshop and seminar for training and mentoring college art/design students as Climate Troubadours. The LAB and its student-Troubadours will produce intellectually intriguing and emotionally resonating art-sci, community engagement projects. These projects will help build a more resilient society by addressing the progress-limiting social and cultural challenges to climate change understanding and action. These challenges include individual climate-anxiety; lack of climate change public education; and the critical need for envisioning the healthy, equitable, and sustainable future we deserve.

This LAB will be uniquely attuned to achieving its goals from the skills and insights of its Co-Directors: an art/design/maker practitioner with a social science practitioner, its multidisciplinary Advisory Committee, the talents of its student-Troubadours, and the host institution's visionary leadership.

In the LAB, student-Climate Troubadours will learn-by-doing as credited assistants contributing their existing creative skillsets to LAB-initiated, community engagement projects (ie. youth performance projects in after-school programs about climate change concepts, or short graphic novels for government outreach programs about water resources and climate change, etc.). Student-Troubadours will learn about and become comfortable discussing climate change concepts/impacts/possible solutions, and about art/design creating social impact. Additionally, they'll discover how to "pitch" project ideas; secure project collaborators, partners, venues, and sponsors; the importance of including social impact assessment tools; and how to write Letters of Agreement.

**The LAB's Engagement Project Objectives are:**

- capturing public imagination,
- sparking a curiosity for understanding,
- encouraging open and inclusive climate conversations,
- empowering via participation in the *research-design-make* process,
- motivating next-step climate actions.

## **The LAB's Engagement Project Model:**

- 1) The engagement project's initiator-artist will conceptualize and design the project's aesthetic structure and functionality based on their creative skills, venue, and resources.
- 2) Design social impact assessment tools and include them in the project budget.
- 3) Community participants are led in a "research-design-make" process to contribute authentic perspectives as design elements to complete the group aesthetic structure.

## **The LAB's "Research-Design-Make" Process involves participants:**

- identifying the climate change issue that matters most to them,
- researching their climate change issue and collecting compelling images, science data and text (including feelings),
- analyzing and selecting the collected materials that can best express their climate message,
- designing and making their climate message as a component of the final group engagement project.

**The LAB's Engagement Motto: *creating-farther-faster-together***<sup>1</sup> embraces the following strategies to help young art/design Climate Troubadours more effectively respond to the climate urgency they feel. This approach involves:

- adopting an art-sci problem solving perspective<sup>2</sup>,
- using the design principle of "form follows function,"
- practicing makerspace values (skill-sharing, adaptability, collaboration, etc.),
- creating an ArtSci-Climate LAB Certificate Program,
- shaping an inclusive, post-LAB, peer-to-peer mentoring community<sup>3</sup>.

**PLANNING PHASE:** LAB details will be formulated during its Planning Phase. This document represents the initial version of the Concept Phase and will be used to secure a Social Scientist Co-Director, and a multi-sectoral Community Advisory Group.

### **WHO:**

**Cynthia Pannucci** will provide the LAB's art/design direction. She is an award-winning arts/crafts professional whose art-sci worldview was forged over 30-years of "learning-by-doing" as the artist/founder-director [of Art & Science Collaborations, Inc. \(ASCI\)](#). Its seminal work created a nurturing, virtual hub and New York City testbed for the global art-sci movement. Her personal website: [ArtSci-Climate.com](http://ArtSci-Climate.com)

**A Social Scientist** (TBD) researching human behavior related to climate change will be the LAB's co-director; and will lead a research/assessment and publication project about the social impacts of the LAB's art-sci engagement project model.

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## ENDNOTES:

[1] The phrase “farther, faster, together” was coined by Helicon in its research report [“FARTHER, FASTER, TOGETHER: How Arts and Culture Can Accelerate Environmental Progress;”](#) commissioned by ArtPlace America in 2018.]

[2] [Project-based learning approach at STEAM schools.](#)

[3] Former Vice-President Al Gore’s [Climate Reality Project’s Certificate training program](#) includes a successful peer-to-peer mentoring platform supporting global climate activism.

~ **TROUBADOURS** [definition]: In medieval times, troubadours were poets who went to the crossroads of a town and sang songs of the news in rhyming verse so people could more easily remember it. Thus, making the news more engaging and memorable.

### ~ OTHER INFLUENCES INSPIRING THE LAB:

\*[The Peace Corps](#) and [AmeriCorps](#)

\*Harvard professor and author Howard Gardner’s influential [Theory of Multiple Intelligences](#) and cognitive development in Montessori education.

\*[Daniel Pink's writing](#) on the importance of conceptualization, storytelling, and empathy for achieving success in the 21-Century job market; and how best to \*motivate\* us.

\*Climate-anxiety is real, states a 2022 article ["If climate change keeps you up at night, here's how to cope"](#) in a Harvard Health Publishing issue from Harvard Medical School.

\*[Recent courses taught by RISD industrial design professor Charlie Cannon](#): “Innovation Studio: A Systems Primer,” and “Theories of Change: Design For Impact.”

\*[Design for Social Innovation at SVA](#) in NYC is a 12yr.old MFA Program chaired by Miya Osaki which “...uses systems design, critical thinking, and imagination to move people to become more resilient and resourceful.”

\*Renown advertising company Ogilvy, credits its success on a mix of behavioral science and creativity; their online [Behavioral Ideation Tool is free.](#)

\*[GENERATION: A Workforce Training and Mentoring international program](#)

(there will be more)

~ this document was created by Cynthia Pannucci, March 2024 ~