

CLIMATE TRANSFORMER 1.0

“Getting Climate Change Out in the Open: a pop-up public art installation”

Amherst Town Sustainability Fair
Amherst Town Common
Saturday, April 22, 2017

(Numbers represents the Amherst College student part of the team)

STRUCTURE

Helena Burgueno 19 is leads building the Transformer in the AC scene shop with Jonathan Doyle on 4/7 and 4/14/17 - see attached plan created by UMASS AIAS architects, led by Randy Crandon and Kevin McManus of UMASS and then Helena will reuse the frames for her chalk fest across town the following weekend. Kelley Baumann 19 helped with drawings for the final design of the Climate Transformer to ensure that the outcome could be two complete greenhouses. UMASS Gardenshare and The Common School are interested in the resulting greenhouses.

EXHIBITS

The Climate Transformer has five exhibit components:

1. **The World We Love**- includes photos from Amanda Wright's Year Abroad photo competition and photos by Greg Brown '98:

examples:

[Stairway to Heaven](#)

[The Heart of Town](#)

[Little Sky](#)

[Boat Ride Through the Amazon](#)

[Untitled \(Grandma's yellow orchids\)](#)

2. **The Chamber of Horrors/Data and Solutions** exhibit.

By Alisa Pearson Amherst College and MOF, Ezra Marcus UMASS Gardenshare and Grace McCabe UMASS Divest

With David Ruth 17 as part of his thesis project in compassion in

architecture, David directs sounds at the viewer of this part of the exhibit, in order to affect how they receive this information. His thesis advisor is Prof. Thom Long, also of Hampshire College. David will talk with people about how his sound installation makes them feel. This is the Climate Transformer as data collection point.

Sonic Exhibit by David Ruth '17

The sounds you hear as part of the "Chamber of Horrors" exhibit are an extension of my senior thesis project that explores the intersections of sound, design, neuroscience, and emotion--particularly compassion. I learned that music and rhythm have a wonderful quality of creating feelings of togetherness and empathy that are both necessary for compassion. My hope is that as you enter the Chamber, you will meditate on the various things you see and allow the music to bring you to a place of compassion towards the environment and of hope that by working together, we can bring about solutions to the various environmental problems we face today.

3. [IsThisHowYouFeel/ Talking Truth Booth](#): run by Madeleine Charnery, Pioneer Valley [Mothers Out Front](#) volunteer, like Climate Transformer organizer Alisa Pearson, and Sustainability Librarian at UMASS. Visitors create a record of how they feel about climate change. These handwritten documents are being collected at UMASS- over 300 are already in the library archives.

4. [Performance/Art space](#): Valentine Prof. John McDonald wrote a piece for Joshua Ferrer 18E for solo cello for the "Wall of Grief"-- the spine of the Climate Transformer design. This is in response to the hypothesis that this Grief keeps people from engaging with the work of finding the solutions we need so urgently. It reflects the organizer Alisa Pearson's motto: We only grieve what we love and love is what guides us to acts of greatest service.

An AC string quartet plays the [133 years worth of data quartet](#), and Jayson Paul 16 and Isa Goldberg 17 formed *Eco-pella* with Fernando Liu Lopez 18, Evan Young 19 ; Emily Rockwell 20; Anna Makar-Limanov 20 ; Rebecca Ruescher 17; David Wang 17

Eco-pella performs music related to the Transformer, including a new work by composer Geoffrey Hudson called *Wake Up*. Geoff conducts a group of community choral singers including children who formed to perform this at 11:45am on 4/22. Both groups will join for the short Climate Cantata, *Wake Up*, written for the Climate Transformer.

Ted Keyes has kindly offered to help with projections including Prof. Eric Sawyer's Sunderbans composition for the threatened Indian rainforest play on the projection wall. Prof. Justin Kimball proposed bringing photographer John Willis of Marlboro College to project his work with the Lakota Indians who have so bravely been protecting water at the Dakota pipeline. Jen Matoney debuts her short Mothers Out Front documentary.

5. The community/social component is to be building a plastic bottle greenhouse based on [this Scottish design](#)- so that there will be no waste when we are done at the end of the Climate Transformer exhibit. UMASS Gardenshare leads this effort, and we hope for an all-join-in community barn-raising experience on the day of the Amherst Town Sustainability Fair on 4/22 where the Climate Transformer will take up 35x35 square feet to feature the solutions that are all around- many right adjacent on the Common that day.

ENTRANCE/EXIT/PERIMETER

Lee Bridegam UMASS emerita was our chief bottle collector, as was UMASS Prof. Kristina Stinson, who is organizing the concurrent March for Science on 4/22.

PUBLICITY

Website still to be built:

Thanks for even considering helping to tell this story. So far we've put up things on FB;

<https://www.facebook.com/Amherst-Climate-Transformer-Project-1308414505885689/>