

Facilitation Tool: Art and Science Collaborative to Visualize Possible Futures



Credit: Images and silk paintings produced for the Art and Science Collaborative Art Show at Kachemak Bay NERR, Spring 2017

Purpose of Project

The purpose of this project is to make climate change research accessible by connecting science, art and education. More specifically, it helps to reach a wider circle of stakeholders and enhance understanding of climate science and envision a resilient community future. Goals of the project could be to:

- Educate about possible local climate futures and environmental change.
- Focus on positive adaptation and a resilient community vision to climate impacts.
- Foster community collaboration among scientists, artists and youth.

Target Audience

Community residents and youth

When to Use

- There are various times in the adaptation process to use: e.g., in advance of or following visioning of adaptation success, to kickstart an adaptation process, or to broaden community participation and buy-in.
- The project may illuminate the impetus for adaptation (i.e., observed or expected changes), a vision for successful adaptation, or various aspects of “adaptation success” (e.g., process, decision-making, actions, adaptive capacity, overcoming barriers, outcomes).

Directions

- **Materials Needed**
 - ◆ Silk Squares or Watercolor Paper
 - ◆ Watercolor Paints
 - ◆ Climate Change Student Activity Book (written by you and/or an educator)
 - ◆ Long-term Data



This facilitation tool was created to serve as a reference for individuals interested in indicators and metrics to help communities define and track progress on their climate adaptation goals. Additional background and resources are available on the website: www.ResilienceMetrics.org.

This website was developed in partnership with the National Estuarine Research Reserve System with funding from NOAA.



➤ Step-by-step delivery of exercise

Identify Resources

- Do you have a National Estuarine Research Reserve (<https://coast.noaa.gov/nerrs/>) or another research institute in your area that collects relevant data?
- Do you have any long-term data available from your organization or partner organizations?

Identify Artists in your Area

- Do you have an artist in the local school? (e.g., <https://education.alaska.gov/aksca/AIS.html>)
- Do you have an “Artist in Residency” Program? (e.g., <http://www.artistcommunities.org/residencies>)

Identify Education Audiences

- Local Schools
- Scouting Troops
- After School Programs

Identify Product Audiences

- What local or state audiences will be able to see the final art?
- What is the pathway to ensure that your local project is seen by a broader audience?
 - ◇ Present as a local art exhibit
 - ◇ Create a climate change art contest in your community for paintings or other art to be showcased
 - ◇ Present to a local city council meeting
 - ◇ Make an appointment with your state representative

Example Use and Outcomes

The paintings created from this tool were used to increase awareness of climate change impacts to many audiences ranging from school children to state officials. This project grew out of a workshop in Homer, Alaska, on Climate Resilience in 2017, where researchers and decision makers identified the opportunity to explore climate change with involvement of the vibrant arts and education communities. The student booklet was developed with a local elementary school. Students picked a topic, researched the data, made a graph with their data findings, then illustrated the graph. This allowed the students to see multiple sides of the topic and connect with it analytically and creatively. The paintings were then taken to Juneau and hung in the Legislative Information Office and the Lieutenant Governor’s Office. Creating multiple methods to deliver the same message delivered it in a strong and personal way to elected officials and other audiences that would have been reached otherwise.

Other Resources / References

- This project was informed by Jill Pelto’s art, view her website here: <http://www.jillpelto.com>
- For more information on the project or the art booklet, contact Syverine Bentz at: syverine@alaska.edu
- Job Aid “How to Conduct a Visioning Exercise”