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NEWS RELEASE

E(ART)H CHICAGO ARTWORKS AIM TO SPARK CONVERSATIONS & INSPIRE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION *Climate Change & Environmental Justice Public Arts Initiative to Launch June 3rd, With Installations, Live Performances, Film Screenings & More*

CHICAGO – E(art)H Chicago kicks off its transformative exhibition June 3, that harnesses the power of art to build awareness and inspire action. While enriching the city's public spaces, the initiative aims to stimulate meaningful conversations about the intersectionality of climate change and environmental justice.

"E(art)H Chicago is a powerful platform that unites art and sustainability, sparking conversations that drive us towards a more equitable and resilient future," said Angela Tovar, chief sustainability officer, city of Chicago. "By engaging our diverse communities through art, we can inspire collective action and address the urgent challenges of climate change and environmental justice."

E(art)H Chicago showcases 12 artworks placed strategically across Chicago's diverse neighborhoods and downtown. Funded by nearly \$700,000 in grants from the initiative's originator and lead funder, the Illinois Science and Energy Innovation Foundation (ISEIF), with the Builders Initiative, The Joyce Foundation, Chicago Frontline Funders Initiative and Regeneration Fund, the initiative is placing artworks across the city to encourage reflection, dialogue and collective action.

"E(art)H Chicago has given me a unique platform to explore our relationship with the earth as our shared home," said artist Leonard Suryajaya, whose work is located at DuSable Harbor is one of the exhibits. "With my sculpture *Homebound*, I delve into the interconnectedness of nature, culture and humanity, raising awareness about the urgent need for environmental justice. The initiative amplifies the voices of passionate artists like myself, contributing to this crucial conversation through art."

E(art)H Chicago's organizers hope it serves as a catalyst for fostering a stronger bond between individuals and their local environment, inspiring a collective commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable practices.

"The E(art)H Chicago exhibition adds a vibrant and thought-provoking dimension to our city's public spaces and parks, fostering a deeper connection between residents and the environment that surrounds them," said Chicago Park District Superintendent & CEO Rosa Escareño.

These installations serve as focal points, enriching their surroundings and inviting residents and visitors to engage with them, creating an artistic tapestry that encourages exploration and discovery and serve as catalysts for connecting individuals with pressing environmental issues and amplifying the voices of underrepresented communities.

"Projects like the E(art)H Chicago initiative are precisely why we invest in arts funding – it is essential as we continue to invest in our communities and build a city and state that reflects the beauty and passion of the people in it," said Gov. JB Pritzker. "Illinois recognizes the power of art to convey important messages and we are proud to showcase the work of these talented artists who are driving conversations and action on climate change and environmental justice."

The E(art)H Chicago initiative showcases diverse visual and conceptual art forms, including sculptures, murals, live performances, film screenings and more. Through interactive installations, performances, workshops and panel discussions, attendees will have the opportunity to explore the exhibits, interact with local artists and collaborate with environmental activists. The physical artworks will remain available for at least one year beyond the opening week:

- **Pollinator Solace Columns /Plant-tastic:** Sat., June 3, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (Back of the Yards, Sherman Park)
- **In the Grove: a Filament Theatre Original Trail Tale:** Sat., June 3, 10 & 17, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. (Southeast Side, Eggers Grove)
- **Rio de Bienvenida/River of Welcome Launch Event:** Sat., June 3, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. (Canalport Riverwalk Park, 2900 S. Ashland Ave.)
- **Redemptive Plastics Progressive Opening Event:** Sat., June 3, 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. (Austin - Multiple locations)



- **House of Kapwa Opening Ceremony:** Sat., June 3, 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. (Burnham Park, 41st Pedestrian Bridge & Oakwood Beach)
- **The Hills: Documentary Film Screening:** Thurs., June 8, 8:30 - 10:00 p.m. (Outdoor screening at Calumet Park)
- **Rest.Rise.Move.Nourish.Heal: Live Dance Performance:** Thursday, Fri. & Sat., June 8, 9 & 10, 6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. (Art on the Farm - Grant Park), fee charged, sliding scale tickets available
- **Triangle Garden Party:** Sat., June 10, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. (McKinley Park Community Garden)
- **Little Village Dreams: Community Mural Painting + Celebration:** Sat., June 10, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. (Semillas de Justicia Garden)
- **Southeast Environmental Task Force: Block Party:** Sat., June 17, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.. (Hegewisch, 13300 S Baltimore Ave.)

Artists and not-for-profit organizations applied for the grants in 2022, using guidelines drawn up by more than 100 Chicagoans of a wide variety of backgrounds and ages, including artists, environmentalists, community leaders, youth leaders, policy makers and organizers. Grant applicants were urged to have a relationship with the community where the artwork would be developed and displayed.

"There is no better time to turn climate and environmental despair into hope. We're excited to support artists to inspire us to exercise hope in the face of an emergency," said Uzma Noormohamed, Program Director, Illinois Science and Energy Innovation Foundation. "Through this program, Chicagoans will join their neighbors to experience free public art and events that will build community, inspire action and challenge the dominant climate narrative of despair."

Eight artworks are located in the Chicago Park District. Many are located in areas lacking public art and in communities facing environmental injustice. A virtual gallery on the E(art)H Chicago website, will feature digital representations of the artworks and provide access to the exhibits for those who are unable to visit in person.

"E(art)H Chicago intertwines nature and art, with eight of the twelve artworks placed in Chicago Park District parks. This fosters a connection between Chicagoans and their local communities, highlighting the significance of preserving green spaces and promoting environmental equity," said Juanita Irizarry, executive director of Friends of the Parks.

The E(art)H Chicago physical artworks will be on display starting June 3rd for a period of one year or more, depending on the artwork. Admission to all exhibits and events is free and open to the public, with some live performances charging a sliding scale fee. For more information about E(art)H Chicago, including a map of exhibit locations and a schedule of events, please visit the official website at <https://earthartchicago.org/>.

"By bringing art directly to our neighborhoods, this initiative fosters a sense of pride and unity among residents while highlighting the urgent need for sustainable action within our own backyard," said Brendan Reilly, alderman, 42nd ward and ISEIF board member.

ABOUT:

The Illinois Science and Energy Innovation Foundation (ISEIF) was created to inform and engage Illinois consumers in the transformation to a digital electric grid. ISEIF accomplishes this through funding innovative education, outreach and research projects to increase energy literacy. For more information, please go to: <https://www.iseif.org>.

E(art)H Chicago is a citywide community-based art initiative to raise awareness, create dialogue and inspire action on climate change, natural resource use and environmental justice. The program aims to highlight communities and artists innovating around these critical issues by engaging residents in Chicago neighborhoods, while centering voices typically left out of the climate conversation. For more information, please go to: <https://earthartchicago.org>.

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