

PENTANGLE ARTS

Celebrating 46 Years!

As seen in the Vermont Standard – Nov. 19, 2020

Pentangle Arts Joins The Vermont Mural Project

November 2020 brings good news on the vaccine front, though the news is less rosy when it comes to Vermont's case numbers.

While the theatre remains closed and in-person programming suspended, Pentangle has joined the Community Engagement Lab's Vermont Mural Project. The mission of the Montpelier-based nonprofit is to "Bring people of all ages together in projects that activate their creativity to imagine and build more thriving communities. To envision a Vermont that fully embraces the power of our collective creativity to imagine and co-create solutions that galvanize our communities and drive real change toward a more just and equitable society."

The Vermont Mural Project hopes to draw teams from all of Vermont's 14 counties, and through creatively facilitated dialogue, participants young and old, from all walks of life – will come to know each other, build trust and respect with one another, and identify the ways they want their community to be more equitable, inclusive and anti-racist.

The teams will be guided through collaborative mural making process to inspire community connection and express a shared vision for a better future. Mural artists will be recruited for the project through a call assisted by *Juniper Creative*, a firm that consists of Herrera Condry, creative director and concept designer, mural artist and illustrator Will Kasso Condry, and visual artist and photographer Alex Herrera Condry.

Jennifer Herrera Condry born and raised in Harlem, is the daughter of Dominican immigrants. She worked for 22 years as a student affair professional with a focus on multicultural student success before leaving to focus on building Juniper Creative Arts. During her 18-year tenure at Middlebury College, Jennifer led efforts for the retention and care of college students from marginalized identities and developed co-curricular programs to support student success, identity development and sense of belonging. Jennifer is a

creative director, concept designer, and visionary who facilitates creative place-making to foster community-building, personal expression, sense of belonging, and healing.

Will Kasso Condry was born and raised in Trenton, New Jersey, and is a renowned visual artist, graffiti scholar, and educator. Kasso studied fine art and illustration at The College of New Jersey as a first-generation college student. He furthered his education in the art of aerosol painting with the mentorship of legendary graffiti artist Daniel "POSE 2" Hopkins. Kasso refined his artistry in large-scale mural production under the tutelage of Dave McShane at Mural Arts Philadelphia. He has taught courses on the origins and politics of Graffiti and Street Art and the elements of Hip-Hop at Middlebury College.

Alexa is a recent graduate of the University of Vermont, where she received a B.A. in studio art and computer science. She is an illustrator, photographer, and web designer; and is currently apprenticing under Will Kasso in aerosol painting and mural arts.

The culmination of the project is a presentation of the murals, vision and action statements at The *One World Festival of Arts and Imagination* in Montpelier in September 2021. The murals will be created on a substrate that can be easily transported to Montpelier and temporarily installed. Following the Festival, the murals will return to the community for permanent installation.

I am putting together the Windsor County team that will join a preliminary zoom meeting in early December. The only requirement for the teams is that they include five educators from the county. If you are interested in learning more about the project please contact me at Director@pentanglearts.org.

We are hopeful that by mid-summer when the real work begins teams can safely meet – outside and socially distanced if necessary.

Be well and be safe this holiday season.