

Garden for a Changing Climate

A Chicago community-driven public art project

What does climate change mean for you?

GALLERY 400





Garden for a Changing Climate is a community driven participatory public art project that uses a traveling garden of local plants to give Chicagoans a dynamic and tangible experience of the central effects of climate change. As our climate warms, seasons and ecozones will shift. The push-able and pull-able, wheeled *Garden for a Changing Climate* planters demonstrate these changes in accelerated fashion. Through this moving garden, Chicago residents can envision the otherwise largely invisible, slow, and dispersed threat of climate change, and understand how a shifting climate will change our urban environment. Community-based organizations will lead how the *Garden* project draws participants into an understanding of how these changes will affect them directly.



A recent paper, published in the science journal *Nature*, suggests that climate zones (and their corresponding ecosystems) are moving at the approximate rate of 3.8 feet every day. The rate will vary widely for different species, but the principle remains the same—that in order to survive the locked-in warming predicted in our future, organisms, including plants, must move towards the poles.

Filled with diverse Midwestern plants and constructed with reclaimed materials, the fleet of planters are the center of community-based activities, walks, and conversations considering the coming climate-related effects on Chicago. Planned in collaboration with Chicago community-based organizations from the Southeast Side, Little Village, Fuller Park,



Albany Park, and the University of Illinois at Chicago campus, public *Garden for a Changing Climate* walks and events will take place from April to September 2018.

In addition to events accompanying the moving planters, local residents are featured, alongside scientists and naturalists, in the development of a new video series. In clear and engaging ways, the videos will map out the impact of the ecozone shift and the effects of climate change in the city of Chicago—from human health impacts to new plant and animal environments, from extreme weather conditions to housing instability.

At its heart *Garden for a Changing Climate* asks participants to consider our relationship to a



changing climate and asks: What does climate change mean to the lives we live here in our city? How might not just our lives change, but those of the other species we live with and among be altered? What unexpected opportunities to restructure a more just world may be provided with these changes? What are we hopeful about in re-shaping our futures?

Garden for a Changing Climate aims to encourage citizen science and bring new sense-based awareness to the often times imperceptible issue of climate change. Reconnecting our sensitivities with nature's shifts in time and space can help us understand the new paths being made in this quickly changing world—and give us a compass by which to chart our own way forward, together.

Jenny Kendler, *Field of Vision: A Garden for Others*, 2015.

Jenny Kendler, *People's Porphyry*, 2016.

Jenny Kendler, *Milkweed Dispersal Balloons*, 2014



About the Artist

Jenny Kendler is an interdisciplinary artist, environmental activist, naturalist and wild forager who lives in Chicago and elsewhere. She is currently the first Artist-in-Residence with Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), and stewards the non-profit artist residency ACRE, as Vice President of the Board. Kendler's work has been exhibited nationally & internationally at museums and biennials. She holds a BFA from The Maryland Institute College of Art and a MFA from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. jennykendler.com

About Gallery 400

Gallery 400, a not-for-profit arts space at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), supports contemporary art, architecture, and design through exhibitions, lectures, publications, and programs that prioritize interpretative reflection and critical inquiry. Gallery 400's mission is to be a contemporary art hub for social interaction, transformative experience, and multi-dimensional learning. Creating a place to connect, Gallery 400 actively positions its exhibitions and public programs as opportunities with which to build community and as avenues for learning in informal social settings.

This collaborative, community engaged project is funded by the Humanities Without Walls consortium based at the Illinois program for Research in the Humanities at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The Humanities Without Walls consortium is funded by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

How to Get Involved

Want to become an organizational partner? Interested in what the *Garden* can do in your community? Do you have an idea for an activity or event presented with the *Garden*?

We are seeking community partners, large or small organizations and individuals, who are invested in the intersections between art, science, and climate change activism, and would like to further their community's understanding of climate change. Contact our Community Engagement team at gallery400@uic.edu or 312-996-6114 for more information about becoming a partner in shaping events, activities, and projects addressing the local effects of climate change.

Would you like to Volunteer?

Help us implement programs and events, become a community docent, or help care for the *Garden*. The call for volunteers will open in January 2018.

Want a tour or guided visit?

Facilitated tours of *Garden for a Changing Climate* are available upon request. Fulfillment of tour request will depend on staff availability and group size. Please contact us to schedule a tour at gallery400@uic.edu or 312-996-6114.