

Tishman Blog Post - Anna Lathrop

As a current student in the Transdisciplinary Design MFA program at Parsons, my work involves looking at big, complex systems and imagining the new worlds that have potential to be born should these systems evolve. The climate crisis was created within the intersections of these systems, and it is only by working at points of intervention and opportunity that we might manifest a new world that has climate justice at its core.

When Groundwater Arts originally formed back in 2018, we wanted to help cultural institutions and individual artists evolve in the face of the climate crisis. But how? The issues of climate justice, and its intersections with racial, social, gender, disability, and other facets of justice within the human and social experience are, in a word...complex. We responded with our movement building tool entitled Green New Theatre. It's a set of actionable principles and strategies that can inform both organizations and individuals that weave climate justice into the foundation of their practices. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has forced live performing arts to pause for the foreseeable future, we decided to hold a series of public working calls that could help the field strategize our next steps.

The Tishman's donation allowed us to ensure that our calls could be accessible over a virtual medium. The grant given to us by the Tishman Environment and Design Center, along with support from Theatre Communications Group, First People's Fund, and HowlRound Theatre Commons, have paid for American Sign Language Interpretation and CART (live captioning) for three public calls, with a goal of six total calls spanning the whole of 2020. So far, over 300 people have attended our calls, and over 1100 people have watched the public recordings on Facebook and YouTube. We expect that this momentum will continue beyond 2020, beyond COVID, and into our new future.

Links to recordings:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCA9lxxSoqiMMd8-wSYjBLTg>

Graphics of calls below:



