REPORT FROM THE CREATIVE RESIDENCY MANAGER

It is an honor to work in support of the Creativity and Inspiration principle at one of the country’s premier public gardens and forest reserves. The Creative Residency serves as a vehicle to encourage and facilitate focused work for creative thinkers and makers. The public is given the opportunity to experience and engage with nature in new ways, through the eyes of our Residents. We jointly host workshops, talks and exhibitions both virtually and live onsite (as COVID restrictions permit) with other area organizations. These collaborations strengthen our mutual bonds throughout the community. Deepening our connection to nature through creative experiences helps us feel like part of a greater societal fabric and less alone.

2020 was a year of flexibility and resiliency for Bloedel Reserve and the Creative Residency Program. We persevered through the shutdown and reopening of the grounds. We pivoted to provide creative content virtually. We forged and strengthened relationships with community partners. And thanks to the generosity of a donor who provided COVID relief to cover our operating expenses, we made it through the year within budget.

We weren’t idle while we were closed. In addition to successfully learning to provide creative content virtually, we revamped the jury and application process for the 2021 residencies with an eye towards transparency, efficiency, and professional standards. We are now using a diverse panel of external jurors who are recognized experts in their fields. Applicants are invited to apply in one of five categories. We are working with other Bainbridge Island organizations to strengthen ties, provide opportunities for the Residents to connect with the public and to explore where more collaboration and cross-programming can occur. Several collaborations have been scheduled for the first half of 2021. The first was a virtual dye workshop led by researcher and visual artist Madelaine Corbin, which was cosponsored with BARN and held on January 22.

Instead of in-person community events in 2020, the Creative Residents provided us with outstanding content for the Creativity & Inspiration section of the From Our Backyard to Yours landing page on our website. We will continue to provide content this way in 2021, including introducing some new interactive content for downloading and new content designed for taking on experiential walks at the Reserve. Dorota Haber-Lehigh has given us two wonderful drawings which can be downloaded and used for coloring and G.C. Waldrep has provided writer’s prompts for three sites on the grounds which can be used to inspire and generate eco-poetry. Between the months of August and December, the stories about our Creative Residents and their activities that appeared in our weekly e-newsletters have each averaged 200 clicks each. These stories have allowed us to greatly increase the number of people who are able to experience Bloedel Reserve through the eyes of our Creative Residents.

Sincerely,

Amy Weber
Creative Residence Manager at Bloedel Reserve
2020 HIGHLIGHTS

Kimberly Trowbridge, our first-ever Creative Fellow, was in residence for part of January, followed by Carl Morgan in February. Both of these residents had successful outreach into the community. Kimberly hosted a couple of tours and a salon on the grounds. Carl held a lecture-demonstration at Bainbridge Arts and Crafts, where 10 of his intricate mechanical sculptures were also on display.

In March, Nathan DiPietro arrived only to have his residency cut short by the COVID-19 shutdown. He still managed to do some really interesting work using a drone and virtual painting tools. His videos are posted on the Bloedel Reserve Vimeo page, as well as being highlighted in our weekly E-Newsletter and posted on our website. Nathan was able to return in September to finish his residency and he completed a virtual artistically interpreted 3-D mapping of the Reserve that he will also share with us.

Amy Weber joined the staff as Creative Residency Program Manager in mid-March just in time to send Nathan home for the COVID-19 shutdown. Due to the closure, the following Creative Residencies were cancelled and the Residents were invited to come back in 2021 (conditions permitting): CMarie Fuhrman, Catherine Alice Michaelis, David Keplinger, and Pete Wyer.

All except David Keplinger have confirmed that they will be part of the class of 2021. David, unfortunately, has had to decline coming in 2021.

During the closure, we began to collect and post creative content on our website from the artists who would have been here, as well as from some past residents. We discovered that we are capable of having a strong digital presence with deep and rich content. We will continue adding content to our Creativity & Inspiration website section and highlighting it in our weekly E-Newsletters as we go forward beyond COVID times.

We resumed hosting Creative Residents in June with the arrival of father and daughter team Mike and Laura Bartunek. They shared some delightful excerpts of their back-and-forth conversations held during their time at the Reserve, along with the artwork they created during their residency. In July, Creative Fellow Kimberly Trowbridge visited again in anticipation of her solo exhibition, which was scheduled to open at BIMA in the fall of 2020. That show has now been postponed to the spring of 2021. August brought Dorota Haber-Lehigh to the Reserve where she shared her beautiful botanical illustrations with us. She also provided us with a page of illustrations that could be downloaded, printed and is to be colored by children (or adults).

continued on next page...
2020 HIGHLIGHTS continued...

The call for applications for 2021 opened in August and ran through October 2. Fifteen jurors, divided into five categories, collectively evaluated 175 applications. Ultimately nine applicants were selected to receive invitations to come in 2021. Also in September, Nathan DiPietro returned to finish the residency that was cut short in March. Sarah Wallace Scott joined us in October and gifted us with a joyous video of her relationship with the Bloedel trees. November Resident Naoko Morisawa created a wood mosaic based on our Moss Garden. Photos of her progress during her stay can be found online.

And finally, in December, G.C. Waldrep came and let the gardens be his muse while he worked on a section of a poetic manuscript. He has contributed a three-part, virtual writing class, with instructions and prompts that can be downloaded from the Bloedel Reserve website. The writing prompts are inspired by various sites around the Reserve. Anyone can visit the Reserve and take an experiential tour of these locations, where they can create their own eco-generated poetry based on the evocative prompts.

As we head into January, excitement is already building for the 2021 roster of Creative Residents. The full roster of 2021 Creative Residents along with information about the jurors and process can be found here the Creative Residency page on the Bloedel Reserve website.
### 2021 CREATIVE RESIDENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 5-26</td>
<td>Madeleine Corbin</td>
<td>Detroit, Michigan</td>
<td>Ecological researcher and multi-disciplinary artist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 1-22</td>
<td>Mary Ellen Childs</td>
<td>Minneapolis, Minnesota</td>
<td>Composer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1-22</td>
<td>Ed Carriere</td>
<td>Indianola, Washington</td>
<td>Suquamish Elder basket maker and canoe carver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 29-April 19</td>
<td>CMarie Fuhrman</td>
<td>Idaho</td>
<td>Writer (rescheduled from 2020 due to COVID)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 3-24</td>
<td>Catherine Michaelis</td>
<td>Shelton, Washington</td>
<td>Book artist (rescheduled from 2020 due to COVID)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1-22</td>
<td>Sara Brickman</td>
<td>Seattle, Washington</td>
<td>Poet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 28-July 19</td>
<td>Peter Marting</td>
<td>Kirkwood, Missouri</td>
<td>Behavioral ecologist creating art installations from his research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 24- August 14</td>
<td>Scott Kildall</td>
<td>San Francisco, California</td>
<td>New media art and researcher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 1-22</td>
<td>Pete Wyer</td>
<td>England</td>
<td>Composer and musician (rescheduled from 2020 due to COVID)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 1-22</td>
<td>Roshni Robert</td>
<td>Norman, Oklahoma</td>
<td>Painter and Watercolorist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 28 -November 18</td>
<td>Zoë Schlanger</td>
<td>Brooklyn, New York</td>
<td>Journalist covering science, health and the environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 29 -December 20</td>
<td>Erin McCoy</td>
<td>Seattle, Washington</td>
<td>Poet and writer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2021 JURORS

**Group One:**
- Writing Prose, Fiction, Non-Fiction, Etc.
  - Margaret Combs
  - Ruby Hansen Murray
  - Nancy Rawles

**Group Two:**
- Poetry
  - Kelli Agodon
  - Holly Hughes
  - Bruce Whiteman

**Group Three:**
- Visual Arts 2D, 3D, Digitally Assisted, Craft, Installation
  - Matthew Offenbacher
  - Hilda Shen
  - Kristin Tollefson

**Group Four:**
- Performance, Music, Dance, Music Composition, Film
  - Reggie Garrett
  - Robin Holcomb
  - Stan Shields

**Group Five:**
- Other (Research, Science, Engineering, Etc.)
  - Laura Bartunek
  - Yota Batsaki
  - Carl Morgan
## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Attendees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kimberly Trowbridge Walks</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kimberly Trowbridge Salon</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carl Morgan Lecture/Demo at BAC</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **92** Total In-person Attendance at 2020 Events
- *Due to COVID, the in-person attendance numbers are down as in-person events were only possible in January and February. Total 2019 in-person attendance for Creative Residency events was 236.*

### Emails to Constituents with Creative Residency Content

- **20** Emails
- *On average, each email went to 9,643 recipients.*
- *Of those recipients, on average about 30% of them opened the email (approximately 2,893 people per email or approximately 57,860 total). Bloedel continues to have a significantly higher e-mail open rate than the industry average which is 17%.*
- *Sixteen different stories specifically related to our Creativity & Inspiration initiatives were posted on our new web page *From Our Backyard to Yours*. Many of these stories included links to expanded content beyond the initial posting itself.*

Looking ahead, we anticipate that the number of people reached digitally will help increase the number of people attending live events. This new digital reach should significantly expand the overall reach and impact of the Creative Residency Program.
**FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

In spite of fundraising efforts needing to largely be put on hold for the Creative Residency due to COVID-19, **15 separate individuals or entities donated** to the Creative Residency Program in 2020:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$57,500</td>
<td>Contributed for Operations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$337,700</td>
<td>Contributed to the Endowment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$738,767</td>
<td>As of December 31, 2020, the originating corpus of the Fletcher Bay Foundation Creative Residency Endowment at Bloedel Reserve</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COMMUNICATIONS**

*From Our Backyard to Your content samples:*

- Tree Hugging
- Birds Eye Flyover
- Dragonflies & Kingfishers

*Kimberly Trowbridge's mockup for installation of her upcoming show at BIMA*

*Sarah Wallace Scott “Tree Hugging” at Bloedel*