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CONTEMPORARY CRAFT HOSTS CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM

PITTSBURGH, PA (September 2023) – In conjunction with its new exhibition, *Climate Awakening: Crafting a Sustainable Future*, Contemporary Craft is hosting a Climate Awakening Forum on Saturday, October 14, 9:30 AM – 3:00 PM. The forum will bring together speakers from different sectors, including nonprofit organizations, business leaders, innovation catalyzers, and visual artists who promote environmental awareness through collaboration, education, advocacy and innovation. The forum's sessions will examine the climate crisis and discuss innovative solutions. There will also be an optional free tour of the exhibition at 3:00 PM.

The Climate Awakening Forum consists of five sessions. Below is the schedule and list of presenters:

Schedule

09:30 – 09:50 Check in + Coffee

09:50 – 10:00 Introduction

10:00 – 10:50 Session 1: Carbon Dynamics of Honey Craft

10:50 – 11:40 Session 2: Climate Change, Energy, and Policy in Pennsylvania

11:40 – 12:30 Session 3: Visualizing Environmental Justice (and doing something about it)

12:30 – 13:00 Lunch + Networking

13:00 – 13:50 Session 4: Clothing and Ecosystems: The Healing Potential of a Local Textile System

13:50 – 14:40 Session 5: Living in a Sustainable Studio

14:40 – 15:00 Group Reflection + Survey

15:00 – 15:15 Forum Adjourned + Networking

15:15 – 16:00 (Optional) Climate Awakening Guided Tour

Presenters & Session Descriptions

Session 1: Carbon Dynamics of Honey Craft

Presenter: Christina Joy Neumann, RA LEED AP, Owner + beekeeper, Apoidea Apiary llc

This talk will trace the journeys involved in two radically different honey-making methods; small batch localized honey versus bulk "industrial" honey produced as secondary income to migratory commercial crop pollination. The key question we'll investigate through this talk is how beekeeper choice in the honey-making process can have a direct impact on both quality of craft and the carbon footprint.

Session 2: Climate Change, Energy, and Policy in Pennsylvania

Presenter: John Walliser, Senior Vice President, Legal & Government Affairs for the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC)

This session will examine efforts to advance meaningful climate change decarbonization policies in Pennsylvania; reflecting on Pennsylvania's energy profile, political climate, and other factors.

Session 3: Visualizing Environmental Justice (and doing something about it)

Presenters: Mel Ngami, AIA / GBBN; Becca Simon, Director of Programming / Grounded Strategies; and Chris Guignon, AIA, LEED AP BD+C / GBBN

Along with their community partner, Grounded Strategies, GBBN will share their successes and struggles and think about how designers and community organizations can work together to build a better future.

Session 4: Clothing and Ecosystems: The Healing Potential of a Local Textile System

Presenters: Jess Boeke and Sarah Pottle, Co-founders of Rust Belt Fibershed

Join Jess Boeke and Sarah Pottle, co-founders of Rustbelt Fibershed, in conversation as they discuss questions about our clothing and more, ultimately focusing on how our clothing and textile choices have the potential to regenerate our earth, our health, and our local community!

Session 5: Living in a Sustainable Studio

Presenter: Katy DeMent, The Paper Lady & Creative's for Climate

In this session, Katy will talk about her sustainable studio and discuss what it means to be a sustainable artist.

Tickets

Tickets for the Climate Awakening Forum are \$20 and include coffee, a lunchbox, and a Climate Awakening exhibition catalog. Tickets are available at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/climate-awakening-forum-tickets-639577301927?aff=oddtcreator>.

About Contemporary Craft

Presenting contemporary art in craft materials by regional, national, and international artists since 1971, Contemporary Craft offers cutting edge exhibitions focusing on multicultural diversity and contemporary art, as well as a range of artist-led studio workshops, community engagement programs, and a store featuring work by top artists from across the country. Located at 5645 Butler Street in Pittsburgh, PA, Contemporary Craft's exhibitions are free to the public.

Support for Climate Awakening: Crafting a Sustainable Future is provided in part by Cathy Raphael, the National Endowment for the Arts, McKinney Charitable Foundation through the PNC Charitable Trust Grant Review Committee, the Lydon Innovation Fund, JENDOCO Construction Corporation, Aesthetic Plastic Surgery of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Regional Transit, Seton Hill University, and Breathe Project. General operating support is provided by Allegheny Regional Asset District, The Heinz Endowments, Opportunity Fund, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, the Elizabeth R. Raphael Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation, Giant Eagle Foundation, Anonymous foundation, and by private donations.