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PASEO Pop-up Demos the High-tech Craft of Quilting Light

Penasco native, Leah Buechley and the students of Anansi Charter School use paper electronics to tell Taos stories

Taos NM, August 18, 2016 – The PASEO, Taos’s new outdoor art festival, is previewing one of 22 innovative art installations with a “Pop-up” presentation on Friday, August 26, 2016. The in-progress artwork, titled *Attic Windows*, is the brainchild of a local girl who grew up to become the inventor of LilyPad Arduino, a set of sewable electronic modules that can be programmed to create interactive garments and accessories.

Leah Buechley, born in Penasco, was a professor at MIT Media Lab for five years before moving back to New Mexico in 2015. While at MIT, she directed the High-Low Tech research group. High-Low Tech explores the integration of electronic tools with “low” technology – cultural and material elements not usually paired with science – with the goal of enabling diverse people to create their own technologies. For the PASEO, Buechley will be working with students from Nicole Miceli’s eighth grade class at Anansi Charter School. The class will construct a quilt of light using student-designed squares that will glow in response to touch. Buechley says, “I’m delighted to back home and excited to explore how the rich cultural traditions of northern NM can enrich my work.”

The workshop will be one of 12 organized by STEMartsLAB@ThePASEO. PASEO co-director Agnes Chavez developed the program to reinforce STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) principals using art. Every Taos middle and high school, from Questa to Ranchos, collaborates with a Paseo artist to create an art installation or performance for the festival, which happens September 23 to 25, 2016.

Another local girl-turned-national-celebrity involved with The PASEO 2016 is Taos Pueblo native and fashion designer, Patricia Michaels. Buechley and Michaels will be collaborating on a PASEO 2016 event for children called *Shine On!* This 10-minute maker activity combines Native American design with electronic paper jewelry. Kids at the festival will create their own sparkling interactive wearable bracelet, pin, or barrette using motifs created by Patricia and playful paper-based circuits designed by Leah. Chavez says, “Inviting Leah and Patricia to come together for this collaboration is an example of what can happen through the STEMarts program at The PASEO. The festival becomes an incubator for multicultural and interdisciplinary exchanges and our kids get to be a part of it. Makes me happy!”

The public is invited to come to the Toolbox (107 Civic Plaza Drive) from 5:30-6:30pm on Friday August 26 to get a glimpse of what they will see at Paseo in September. They will experience the excitement of participating students and hear Leah and Patricia speak about the art and science behind the *Attic Windows* and *Shine On!* Paseo projects.



At a Glance:

PASEO Pop-up, Attic Windows with Leah Buechley

Event date: August 26, 2016

Location: The Toolbox, 107 Civic Plaza Drive, Taos NM

Time: 5:30-6:30pm

The PASEO 2016, a New Mexico True event, is a festival dedicated to bringing the art of installation, performance and projection to the streets of Taos, New Mexico.

WHEN:

September 23-25, 2016

The PASEO 2016 main events, Friday and Saturday, 5pm-10pm

Daytime@ThePASEO, Saturday and Sunday, 10am-5pm

STEMarts Labs are held in the schools the week before the festival

WHO:

Over 25 artists present 22 installation pieces; many including Taos youth from 12 Taos schools

WHERE:

Taos Historic District, including Taos Plaza and adjacent streets. The PASEO Visitor Center is located in the Encore Gallery of Taos Center for the Arts, 145 Paseo del Pueblo Norte

ALSO:

The PASEO After Party at Taos Mountain Brewing, from 9pm Saturday, a ticketed event.

Pecha Kucha Volume 20, 7pm, Sunday at TCA, a ticketed event

HOW: Made possible through grants and donations: Donate at <http://tinyurl.com/DONATE2PASEO>

Resources:

www.paseoproject.org

www.stemartslab.com

www.leahbuechley.com

www.highlowtech.org

www.lilypadarduino.org

www.patriciamichaelsfashion.com

Photos:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/85010rz5f7nkjb5/AACIndxf6yeR1OQT7fG2FlfPa?dl=0>

