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The PASEO Brings New Art to Taos Schools

Outdoor art festival pairs artists with youth to transform the streets of Taos this September

TAOS N.M. August 8, 2016 –The Paseo Project, a new arts organization in Taos, New Mexico, plans to transform the community with art on September 23 through 25, 2016. The transformation, co-director Agnes Chavez states, “will be temporary on that September weekend in Taos Historic District, but lasting in the minds and outlooks of hundreds of Taos students.”

Involving the youth and residents of Taos is central to the Paseo Project’s mission. STEMarts Lab, an educational model developed by Chavez, takes a new kind of art and artists into Taos schools. STEMarts Lab provides students with an art-focused and socially engaged application of STEM (science, technology, engineering, math), and the empowering experience of being part of an international collaboration.

Chavez has paired 12 of the PASEO 2016 artists with teachers in Taos public schools to involve the youth of Taos in the festival. Pre-festival workshops ranging from LED Throwie paintings to pinhole camera-making, smartphone mapping to peaceful protesting through guerilla projection art will include approximately 700 Taos students. Those youth will participate in their workshop artist’s installation during the festival. Agnes describes the STEMarts program: “For STEMarts Labs I select Paseo artists whose work explores 21st century innovations in art, science, and technology. Each has a focus on “social practice,” an art medium that encourages social engagement, inviting collaboration with individuals, communities, and institutions in the creation of participatory art. The artists share their practice with students and guide them to experiment and create a professional performance or installation for the Paseo festival. We invite all students and their families to be active participants in the festival.”

An example of the collaborative nature of these STEMarts Labs@ThePaseo is the workshop happening at TISA with teacher Megan Avina Bowers. Megan has been participating in The Paseo since its inception and this year wanted to explore protest art with her students. With a little research, Chavez found, *The Illuminator Collective*, conceived from the Occupy Wall Street movement in New York City in 2011. These artists use light projections as a means of political expression, environmental transformation, and public discourse and will introduce students to the art of large-scale projection mapping in public space. Students will learn about the Occupy Wall Street movement from which The Illuminator emerged, analyze several projection interventions that The Illuminator has executed over the years, and ultimately craft a small, grassroots political campaign strategy about an issue that matters to them. Using software designed by the artists, students will create images relating to their campaigns that will be projected on to a large scale building during The Paseo for all to see. Students learn projection mapping, photoshop, symbology, rapid-response meme generation, video, and real-time performance with the public. The Illuminator will also be executing a project of their own in which Paseo participants will be able to enter a booth that will powerfully amplify their image and voice simultaneously in light and sound. Participants will be prompted to share a story while inside.

Photos of past STEMarts workshops: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/068j80wuy1dbw5b/AAAV7aAuvqoMU7leVsR6YcYba?dl=0>



About The PASEO 2016

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

In its third year, the PASEO 2016 is held in conjunction with the 42-year-old Taos Fall Arts Festival (September 23 through October 2), a Taos tradition that exhibits works by over 160 painters, sculptors and photographers in two major exhibitions. The two art events combine with numerous gallery openings, a film festival, and an arts and crafts fair to make September an exceptionally creative time to visit Taos.

The PASEO is a New Mexico True event, sponsored in part by the Town of Taos, Taos County Lodgers Tax Funds, and many business and individual donors.

The PASEO 2016 AT A GLANCE

WHAT:

The PASEO 2016 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 20 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>

MORE: www.paseotaos.org and paseoproject.org

See attached list of artists and schools participating in STEMartsLab@The Paseo.



STEMartsLab@ThePASEO 2016

Learn more at paseoproject.org/youth-programs

1. Making and breaking video systems

School: Taos High School

Artist: JAMES CONNOLLY, Chicago IL

Create, control, and manipulate digital video systems through code.

2. NOMIS: Wearable LIGHT with EL Wire

School: Taos Middle School

Artist: JONATHAN SPARKS, Brooklyn NY

Making LED apparel for festival participation and NOMIS loop-based music performance.

3. Pinhole camera art/performance

School: Taos Academy

Artist: DOSSHAUS, Santa Monica CA

Photo documenting festival with self created pinhole cameras in the DOSSHAUS style.

4. Radio Confessional LED

School: Taos Charter

Artist: PARKER JENNINGS, Santa Fe NM

Making lo-tec illuminated signage to bring awareness to the broadcast frequency and producing scheduled programming for the radio booth.

5. Raspao Sound/video cart

School: VISTA Charter School

Artist: ALEXANDRA GELIS, a Colombian-Venezuelan artist living in Toronto, Canada

Student-created sound and video content for hybrid Raspao/Snow cone cart.

6. Protest with Light

School: Taos Integrated School of the Arts

Artist: THE ILLUMINATOR, New York NY

NYC-based political art collective who utilizes guerrilla projections in the urban landscape. Students express the change they'd like to see in their worlds.

7. ROAM

School: Questa High School

Artist: JULIE LIBERSAT, Denton TX

Interactive urban exploration and mapping game for smart phones. Students get lost and document their journey with photographs and text tags.

8. Captured Atmosphere

School: Taos International School

Artist: J. GIL, A. HERRUZO, J. SANCHEZ, Los Angeles CA

Performance of a live audio-visual show, displaying generative, real-time and audioreactive animations.

9. Attic Windows

School: Anansi Charter School

Artist: LEAH BEUCHLEY, raised in Penasco NM, lives in Los Angeles CA

Collaboratively constructed quilt of light. Electronic generative and interactive.

10. BLINK

School: Dreamtree Project and Roots and Wings

Artist: MERCHE BLASCO, Brooklyn NY

Innovative light decor for bike performance.

11. Sand Rays

School: Taos Pueblo Day School

Artist: BERT BENALLY, from Navajo Nation, living in New York NY

Traditional sand painting creation with interactive Arduino LED lights.

12. Matter of Memory

School: Questa Junior/Senior High School

Artist: HECTOR LEIVA

Interactive urban exploration and place-based, public memory archive app for smart phones. Students use the app to create and listen to GPS-tethered memories within the interactive urban landscape of the PASEO and the downtown Taos area.

Maker Activities

In addition to these workshops in Taos schools, STEMarts will introduce festival-goers to new art forms with "Maker Activities" at The Toolbox on Civic Plaza Drive.

LED Throwie Painting

Sponsored by FUSE Makerspace and STEAM NM

Artist: Matthew Barbato, Americorps VISTA

Ages: 6 and up

Description: Kids assemble LED Throwies with a colored LED, magnet, battery and some tape, and have fun throwing them at a large scale metal canvas.

SHINE ON!

Sponsored by MAKE Santa Fe

Artists: Leah Buechley and Patricia Michaels

Ages: 10 and up

Description: This 10-minute Maker activity, designed by Leah Buechley and Patricia Michaels, combines Native American design and electronic paper jewelry.