

*School for Designing a Society* ...and the traces left by it

School for Designing a Society is a non-profit (501c3) whose mission is to encourage democratic citizenship by means of composition, design, and performance.

### Cover Letter with Certification

“I hereby certify that I am authorized to approve this Report, which serves as a Request for Reimbursement, that I have reviewed the attached invoices in the amount of \$1,000: that all costs claimed have been incurred for the Project in accordance with the Agreement between Susan Parenti and the CITY OF URBANA; that all submitted invoices have been paid; and no costs included herein have been previously submitted.”

*Susan Parenti*

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signature, authorized agent of the grantee

## POST-PROJECT EVALUATION - "Free Community Art Parties" School for Designing a Society

### **Accomplishments**

The original plan for this project was to offer 3 free, outdoor art-making parties (mosaic and puppets) to neighbors of the School for Designing a Society house nestled in Crystal Lake Park, as we had done in a self-funded way in 2018. We had scheduled August of 2019 to implement the three parties (between our July program in West Virginia and the start of the fall semester). However, immediately on returning from West Virginia, Susan Parenti was hospitalized after a car accident and had to spend August recovering.

Still keeping our overall goal of "turning space into place" and offering artistic engagement to underserved populations (as well as interweaving with a free collaborative program we offered in the fall called Re-writing, Re-righting Cassandra) we shifted our location from Crystal Lake Park to the Urbana Market in the Square where we hosted "Climate Change Cafes" on a weekly basis, **Saturdays 9am to 12 noon. We started Saturday Sept. 27, 2019, and continued weekly until Feb. 15, 2020**, when the Mall was closed to the public.

In those Climate Change Cafes we served tea and goodies, intermingling discussion and performance on Climate Change topics with passers-by. We reached **20-40 people each Saturday**; our group consisted of 4-15 performers/discussants. The set-up included rugs and pillows to sit on, a canopy, tables and chairs, a bulletin board of local groups and efforts, zines & flyers, accordion music, interactive theater, puppets, choral singing. There were spontaneous offerings by musicians and jugglers who joined in. In addition to the Climate Change Cafes, we offered two free house theater performances at the Franklin Street house followed by literal take-away of materials for groups of audience members to host their own Climate Change Cafes. **Audience of 40**. We created other street-and-mall theater events: poncho performance. We commissioned Ja Nelle Pleasure to create 18 unique 'poncho' costumes for these cafes and performances

Puppet workshops and performances 2019-2020:

**April 6**, puppet demonstration at the Urbana Celebrates the Boneyard, engaged around **25 people**. • **May 24**, puppet-making workshop at Krannert Performing Arts Center with **60 5th-grade students** from Yankee Ridge school (this event paid for by U of I) • **June 3**, puppet performance and theater workshop, Behind the Scenes in Illinois summer camp, at Krannert Center, **9 students** • **Sept 7**, puppet performance opener for touring musician Michael Holt's free house theater performance, **audience 25** • **October 26**, at Market at the Scare, with puppet-making materials, joined in with Idea Store (not quite rained-out!) engaged **10-15 people** • **November 22, 2019**, Puppet performance with Q & A, five performers, at Yankee Ridge Elementary School assembly for **330 students** • **December 31**, puppet-making workshop, Franklin Street house, 15 participants • **March 6, 2020**, interactive puppet performance with wind machines, school assembly, Flossie Wiley Elementary School, **270 students**

**Impact grant had on our organizational development:** The grant allowed us to create a new form of performance / audience-engagement (Climate Change Cafes) and explore ways of engaging children and adults with puppets.

**Hours in project completion (estimate):** planning, 30; admin 10; production 50; presentation / engagement with audience, 60;

**Total number of participants:** 1000

# ***SLOW DOWN: It's Urgent*** **How We Stopped (Almost) Everything and Learned to Like** **Our Thinking Regarding [Anthropogenic] Climate Change**

*Hi! You're invited to a showing of what we Cassandras have learned by focusing on Climate Change for the last 3 months. The Re-Writing/Re-Righting Cassandra project started September 16 2019 when 20 of us—both from in town and from out-of-town/country—met here in Urbana to focus on the question: how to limit the damage of catastrophic climate change. The question has a clock ticking: the United Nation Council on Global Climate wrote in Oct. 2018 that we have 12 years left to answer this question.*

*Now we're at the end of the 3 months, and want to share with you what we've been doing during this time—what we've learned, unlearned, refused to learn, what questions we've been asking, what answers we've arrived at, and where we are going next.*

**Where?** Independent Media Center

**When?:** Wednesday, Dec, 4, 2019, 6-9pm

**Cost?** Free, donations appreciated

**Food?** Yes it's potluck/ snack luck style. Bring something if you can.

**Contact?** [susanroseparenti@gmail.com](mailto:susanroseparenti@gmail.com)

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**Susan Parenti**

*Educational Coordinator*

**The School for Designing a Society** [www.designingasociety.net](http://www.designingasociety.net)

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**This program is partially supported by a City of Urbana Arts Grant.**



**AT the SAME TIME**

*Sunday November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019*

*A house theater by assemble/ensemble and the re-writing/re-righting cassandra project*

*pieces made and performed by:*

Susan Parenti Mark Enslin Al Schneider kathrin Schimak  
Ian Bickelhaupt Pam Scott Hanrahan

*with special guest appearances from:*

mr. schneider  
and  
Jeff Glassman as The Doctor

*and musical accompaniment by*

**The Cohen, Enslin, & Sawyer Band**

Elizabeth cohen  
Mark Enslin  
Cathleen Sawyer

assemble/ensemble is the performance sub-group of the re-writing/re-righting cassandra project, a three month project focusing on how to limit the effects of catastrophic climate change. We have been meeting three times weekly since mid-september. This house theater performance comes from these meetings: what we have brought, what we have created together, and what questions we have been asking each other.

**This program has been partially supported by the Urbana Arts and Culture Program.**

