

Environment
& Culture
Partners



Mt. Tahoma (Rainier), WA

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Project Spotlight: Caretakers of Wonder

The environmental impacts of a changing climate put our children's physical and mental health at risk. Children are more vulnerable to the health impacts of climate change including asthma and allergies, new diseases, and the effects of heat, drought, floods, and other extreme

weather events. According to current research, 84% of children are also experiencing moderate to severe climate anxiety. There are resources to help our older children cope with the current and anticipated challenges of climate change, but what about support for younger children?

The Caretakers of Wonder (CoW) project consists of nine children's museums in four ecologically diverse regions across the U.S. ECP, along with a super-team of museum professionals and experts from climate education, communication, and early childhood psychology are working together to develop frameworks to support children 0-8 in building climate knowledge, agency, compassion for the natural world, and hope for a bright climate future.

In February, ECP's CEO, Sarah Sutton and Managing Director, Stephanie Shapiro convened with the many talented and compassionate project practitioners at the Madison Children's Museum, another of the project leads. Sarah shared this about her experience there:

“Shifting an organization's messages and practices to incorporate a changing climate is complex work. This time to focus, together, helped participants clarify their own goals while in conversation with a supportive team of colleagues and subject experts. They aired past successes and current concerns, offered their own experiences, and began charting next steps more confidently. Some wanted advice on greener exhibits, others on how to incorporate conservation and climate messages without alienating any of their audiences; they all looked for good ways to support their dedicated staff as they all invest in this expanded dimension of their mission-driven work. Now our work focuses on streamlining the work of individual sustainability initiatives by combining efforts and sharing existing resources. This means developing operational guidelines for communications, exhibits, and materials and supplies, and building capacity for energy efficiency initiatives.”

Learn more about CoW

Helen Frankenthaler, *Cool Summer*, 1962, oil on canvas, 69 3/4 x 120 inches (177.2 x 304.8 cm).



© 2023 Helen Frankenthaler Foundation, Inc. / Artists Rights Society (ARS), NY. Photo credit: Rob McKeever, courtesy Gagosian.

Project Spotlight: Frankenthaler Climate Initiative (FCI)

ECP is thrilled to be a partner of the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation's FCI Grant program. We get to hear about (and sometimes support) all the exciting and innovative sustainable energy and energy efficiency visions and projects of cultural organizations across the U.S. We can see where and how the cultural sector can lead the charge to a bright climate future.

FCI is the first program of its kind in the U.S. for the visual arts and is the largest private national grant-making program to address climate change through cultural organizations. FCI offers three grant types which aim to support organizations wherever they may be in achieving their clean energy or energy efficiency goals. It helps organizations make the upgrades they desperately need, while providing an opportunity to reduce their organization's carbon emissions from energy use.

The program has awarded \$8.1 million to 128 visual arts organizations and schools so far. If your organization has a robust visual arts focus, you may be just the right candidate. [Applications](#) are due March 31.

[Learn more about FCI](#)



Sign Up for the Carbon Inventory Project (CIP)

Energy use in buildings is one of the largest sources of carbon emissions worldwide AND museum buildings use a lot of energy to power their activities.

Through CIP, ECP and our partners at New Buildings Institute and New England Museum Association will announce the first U.S. cultural sector carbon footprint on Carbon Day, June 16, 2023. **But we need you!**

Whether you've been logging energy data for years or are new to this and starting from scratch, we want you to join in and we will help you along the way - you and your organization's data count.

Join your peers at the [Science Museum of Minnesota](#), [Minnesota Marine Art Museum](#), [Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum](#), [The Museum of Russian Icons](#), [The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum](#) and more and share in their commitment to understanding and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from energy use.

Sign up for CIP and share it with your colleagues too!
<https://tinyurl.com/SignUpforCIP2023>

Learn more about CIP



ECP's Reading Corner

Cozy up and get inspired with some of our staff's favorite culture and climate reads this month:

Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World

By Katharine Hayhoe

All the Feelings Under the Sun: How to Deal with Climate Change (for teens)

By Leslie Davenport

A Guide: Reducing, Measuring and Offsetting Carbon

By the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA)



Managing Director, Stephanie Shapiro (Left) and CEO, Sarah Sutton, New York Climate Week 2022

Meet Us in Person

Our staff will be at these upcoming events and hope you will too. Come say hi!

- **4/21** Nature and Well-being Conference, Tacoma, WA
- **4/28** American Institute for Conservation (AIC) National Convening, Held in Trust: Transforming Cultural Heritage Conservation for a More Resilient Future, Washington, D.C.
- **5/17-5/21** AIC Annual Conference, Jacksonville, FL
- **5/19-5/22** AAM Annual Meeting, Denver, CO

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Environment and Culture Partners
539 Broadway
Tacoma, WA 98402

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