

2022-2023

ARTISTS AT WORK THRIVE REGION

With meaningful support from the Lyndhurst Foundation and important partnership from ArtsBuild, THE OFFICE performing arts + film was honored to have had the opportunity to bring an activation of the Artists At Work (AAW) program focused on climate resilience to communities of the greater Chattanooga Thrive Region.



AAW THRIVE REGION ARTISTS: 2\$ON THE PRINCE MARY BARNETT MONICA ALICIA ELLISON JUNO (AKA TANQUERAY HARPER) ROBERT WINSLOW

AAW THRIVE REGION ORGANIZATIONAL PARTNERS: ARTSBUILD CREATIVE ARTS GUILD GREEN|SPACES THRIVE REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP (THRIVE) THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND THE SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE YOUNG FARMERS COALITION (SETNYF)

The implementation of Artists At Work in the Thrive Region was made possible by the support of The Lyndhurst Foundation. Artists At Work is produced and administered by THE OFFICE performing arts + film with generous support from the Mellon Foundation.

2\$0N THE PRINCE

ARTSBUILD | THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND



2\$0N The Prince (aka Kourtney Brown) aims to serve love and life through art. The art he creates derives from his experiences and reflections. 2\$0N's artistic practice is to speak the truth and the truth always derails against the false narratives that poison our leaderships in the world. He sees the environments he's in as places to exchange information—and to relate with someone through creativity is his way to exchange. 2\$0N was born and raised on the Eastside of Chattanooga, Tennessee. Throughout his school experience he would express his talents the most through visual arts and music. His skills sharpened the most outside of the classroom. Coming from the inner city and walking the streets inspired his style for graffiti and Hip-Hop. Those street art forms related to his spirit the most and led him to a haven where he could expand even further. Rondell Crier who is the director of Studio Everything gave him a platform to perform his talents.

During his term with AAW 2\$0N spent time with Alton Park community members to gain a deeper understanding of their perspective of the changes being made to the community through city development. His recorded conversations capture the generational variety of opinions and the need for organizations to be more personable in their community engagement efforts. 2\$0N is working to create a virtual platform for local voices to be shared and remembered as developmental changes to the community continue.



MARY BARNETT

ARTSBUILD | THE SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE YOUNG FARMERS COALITION

Mary Barnett is a creative partner, writer, photographer, and mixed-media artist whose work centers around place, materiality, and story, offering an archivist's instinct for preservation with an artist's interpretive sensibilities. Her statement-driven media explore the conservation of natural, historic, and cultural resources.



AAW Artist Mary Barnett has had a productive period of research and in person opportunities immersing herself in the food systems sector of climate action and has been getting to know and understand local farmers and the systems at this important intersection. That included learnings from attending events like the Cover Crops & Soil Health Conference hosted by USC's Center for Regenerative Agriculture; The Tennessee Local Food Summit; Agrarian Trust workshops, and call to actions by the National Young Farmers Coalition in support of their One Million Acres For The Future campaign to lobby the Farm Bill 2023 and increase access to farmland for young farmers. She ends her AAW term with the intention to co-create a farmer-informed Creative Ecosystem in the cohort's footprint of social impact and climate action. Beginning with the "So We Won't Forget" zine series which will feature Mary's printworks created and stories gathered at select farm and community garden sites in the greater East Tennessee bio region through the 2023 growing season. Individual collections of farm-specific hand made paper tiles will be created using place-based experimental gelli-plate printmaking, upcycled kraft paper, and hand picked flora from each site. "So We Won't Forget" will be a food and land justice Zine that documents and amplifies farmers' voices and future focused social impact issues including land access, seed farming, soil carbon sequestration and cooperative economies. After the art is documented for the zine, the mono-printed paper tiles will become seed swap pockets ready to be filled with seeds and circulated along with the newly published zine in December 2023.



ROBERT WINSLOW

ARTSBUILD | GREEN|SPACES



Robert Winslow is a filmmaker and journalist from Chattanooga, Tennessee. Since 2014 his Southern Dialogues series has explored the big questions for American democracy through changing the Southern landscape. Through Artist At Work, Rob brought Southern Dialogues into Appalachian coal country for the first time to trace the roots of the climate crisis, and developed a new format for public history. Throughout the year Robert has worked in partnership with his Social Impact Initiative, green|spaces.

Robert aims to tell the story of Chattanooga's industrial history and how it has affected the city's relationship to its land and its inhabitants. He hopes to recenter the south in the greater narrative on climate, policy, and the quality of citizen life. He is starting by resharing his early work Southern Dialogues and Dialogues Chattanooga. Next, Robert intends to capture contemporary discourse through interviews and direct engagement with local environmental leaders in policy, infrastructure, and activism via podcast. Later, he would like to consolidate all of this information into a feature documentary whose intent is to inform us about our past, notice how it's not much different from our present, and help us to better understand the history of Eastern Tennessee and recenter the region's impact to industrial change.



MONICA ALICIA ELLISON

ARTSBUILD | THRIVE REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP (THRIVE)



Monica Alicia Ellison was born and raised in Baltimore, MD. She earned a BFA in Dance Performance from Southern Methodist University. Her professional credits include ensemble work with Dayton Contemporary Dance Company 2 (Dayton, OH), principal work with Balance Dance Theatre (Brooklyn, NY), and guest work with Sudden Enlightenment Theatre (Queens, NY), including a performance in Seoul, Korea. Ellison's teaching career began in Chattanooga, TN, and has included ballet, pointe, modern and jazz for beginner-through-advanced levels, at various dance studios.

Over the last year with Artists At Work, Monica researched the larger topic of climate resiliency to distill problem areas serviced by the Thrive Regional Partnership within the southeast region. Monica attended meetings with Thrive Regional Partnership to lend her creative perspective to their structured methods of problem solving. Monica also participated in the planning of Thrive Regional Partnership's Resilient Communities program, which supports community engagement through the unifying power of movement and breath. Emma Wheeler Homes is one of Thrive's Resilient Communities based in Chattanooga and is at high risk of flooding. Monica taught dance classes to kids at Emma Wheeler that, through movement, encouraged self expression and autonomy. The intention of her engagement was to allow for residential participation in finding new ways to discuss and address the climate issues they are experiencing.



JUNO (AKA TANQUERAY HARPER)

ARTSBUILD | CREATIVE ARTS GUILD



Juno (aka Tanqueray Harper) is a Wolf Trap Teaching Artist, fire performer, and multi-passionate artist whose engagement with the community now spans across creative and educational pursuits. Juno is also a photographer and founder of True Capture Studios, a mission-based documentation company that aims to capture community engagement projects and creative collaborations through photography and videography. Their work celebrates neurodiversity and encourages an interdisciplinary approach to learning and self expression.

Juno engaged with the Dalton community by attending local events organized by her Social Impact Initiative Creative Arts Guild. She interviewed community members and took photographs that captured the beauty of the region, the spirit of its people, and the history of Dalton. Juno's AAW term culminated in an immersive mixed media exhibit featuring photos and video documenting her experiences on the Conasauga River. Exploring themes of conservation, community, and legacy through the lens of joy and stewardship, Juno aims to connect people with their natural resources and celebrate the efforts of the community to secure its sustainability for generations to come.



BRIANNA JONES

ADMINISTRATIVE FELLOW



Brianna Jones (AAW Administrative Fellow) is a Chattanooga Native and UTC Graduate with a dual degree in Theatre and Public Administration/Nonprofit Management. As the Administrative Fellow for the Artists at Work program in the Thrive Region, Brianna worked closely with 5 local artists in their process of developing community engaged projects centered around the topic of climate resiliency. She is thrilled to continue this work through the management of the Chattanooga Art + Climate Project. Which is an 18-month public art project to hire a nationally recognized artist and three local emerging artists from the Rossville Blvd. Corridor.

