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Nurture Nature Center engages three local artists to create murals of community resilience

As part of a four-year project funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Nurture Nature Center (NNC) will be commissioning three artists living in the Easton, Wilson and Bangor areas to produce community-specific murals that envision a more resilient future.

NNC's project, called "CREATE Resilience: Community Resilience through Education, Art, Technology and Engagement", was one of nine projects awarded nationally (2018) in a highly competitive grant process through NOAA's Office of Education. The project is a multi-discipline effort to help regional communities understand the science of hazards and strategies for resilience.

Artists were selected on the following criteria: residency and engagement in the community they represent, skillset in the arts and ability to visually communicate concepts, and an interest in learning about environmental hazards. The three artists that have been contracted are: Jackie Lima (Easton, PA) painter of large scale works and professor of art at Fairleigh Dickinson University; Don Wilson (Williams Township, PA - Wilson) muralist, educator and Master Watershed Steward; and James Gloria (Bangor, PA) muralist, arts educator, director of the Totts Gap Arts Institute and founder of the Heritage Mural Education Program, Bangor, PA.

Both Jackie Lima and Don Wilson have been participating as partnering artists with the center for several years and Jackie currently has a solo show of her works at the center. This exhibit, "Infamous Oculus," will be featured in a virtual gallery tour coming soon.

The artists have been attending community events and meeting with NNC staff to begin the process of understanding the topics that affect their community. Additionally, the artists will be working with project advisor and NNC Resident Artist Tom Maxfield who illustrated NNC's "Living Local" mural which features over 80 locally relevant environmental topics. The mural was recently replicated and installed at Moravian College's Collier Hall of Science.

The large murals will be created to be mounted indoors and will be able to be moved for display at several public locations over the coming years. They are scheduled for completion in August 2021 when they will be unveiled in their respective communities.

For more information: <https://nurturenaturecenter.org/create-resilience/>

