

An underwater photograph of a clear plastic bottle floating in blue water. The bottle is partially submerged, with its top and neck visible above the water surface. The water is slightly rippled, and there are some small bubbles or particles visible. The overall tone is blue and serene.

CREATE NATURE

*EDEN Engagement: Athens
Seed City Curriculum
Chrysa Karageorgiou
& Alexandros Karageorgiou*

MAY 2023



ABOUT

Three-time Grammy Award winning opera superstar Joyce DiDonato has created the global tour of EDEN, her major concert hall performance about environmentalism. Her personal commitment and partnership with ITAC has launched a re-imagining of the impact of a concert experience through teaching artist-led workshops in every city. The International Teaching Artists Collaborative (ITAC) is the world-wide network of artists who work in community and educational settings, who have the skills to bring change to communities. Together ITAC and EDEN Engagement will pilot a new approach to prove that touring can be a legitimate and powerful tool for change in communities.

Cities on the tour are designated either "Root Cities" or "Seed Cities". Seed Cities are a 1-4 day(s) event that engages the youth with one of three specific environmental issues; Urban Gardens, Urban Trees, Food Choices:

- Urban Gardens: They are youth-friendly. Among many social benefits, they bring these environmental benefits: reduce carbon use (reduced food transport); reduce water runoff; help pollinators; plants absorb CO₂ and pollutants and produce oxygen; health benefits in the food and the community building (reduced stress and blood pressure).
- Urban Trees: Trees are omnipresent and overlooked in cities—kid friendly. They can plant them, and the EDEN performance encourages that. Trees are powerful answers to heat mitigation (reduce temperatures by 8 to 10 degrees and need for air conditioning), carbon and pollution sequestration and oxygen production, water flow pollution reduction, biodiversity, and food insecurity. Health benefits include healthier air, psychological benefits, lowering blood pressure and stress.
- Food Choices: Scientists have proven that small choices make a big difference. Because many foods with a high health burden, including processed meats or red meats, also have high environmental costs, switching out 10 percent of a person's daily caloric intake can cut a person's food-based environmental footprint by over 30 percent. Between growing it, packaging it, moving it around, cooking it, and often wasting it, food production makes up about one-fifth to one-third of all annual greenhouse gas emissions globally. Eat less red and processed meats, eat more veggies and fruits, reduce food waste, and if you have a way...compost.

Teaching Artists: Chrysa Karageorgiou & Alexandros Karageorgiou

Time: May 6th, 2023

Students: 70 Students, Ages 8-16

Choir: Choir of El Sistema Greece

About: This curriculum is aimed at children whose environment has not allowed them to be aware of the climate emergency. Our workshop will support young people to be able to take action. How can the arts help young people respond to climate emergencies?

Theme : ReUse



WORKSHOP

12h30 Preparation

Teaching artists preparing the space for the workshop

13h00 Welcome

Let's meet – 10min.

Kids, adults and teaching artists gather and meet in big group. Everybody, one after the other will say their name. Teaching artists present themselves and the goal of the workshop in connection with the Eden Tour. We show Joyce's Video message to the kids.

13h15 Sing!

Kids are singing their song accompanied by their choir chief.

13h30 Break

A small break to eat and drink

14h00 Awareness

Let's talk about environmental emergencies! 45min.

The big group of 75 kids will divide into 7 smaller groups. Each small group will receive a picture related to the subject of over consumption and waste . Each small group will have a moment of discussion in order to analyse the picture (10min). We will all gather and each group will present their image to the big group. What do the images show ? What is Overconsumption and what are the effects ? Where does waste go ? What does Reduce ReUse Recycling mean ? Organic waste ? Compost ?



Over consumption is consuming in excess. A prolonged pattern of over consumption leads to environmental degradation and the eventual loss of resource bases. A landfill composed of old computers, cell phones, clothing, plastic bottles, cans, glass bottles, plastic bags etc..

Waste landfills are the endpoint for municipal solid waste that is not recycled or burned. Landfills are specially engineered facilities designed to accept waste. Waste is increasing too quickly and needs to be detached from economic growth and rising living standards. The global waste crisis is a major issue but may be easier to solve than other environmental problems.

In order for these frightening predictions to change, people will need to throw away less and reuse more, turning "make, use, dispose" into "reduce, reuse, recycle", and thus make economies more "circular". Local action to clean up and recycle will lead to immediate local benefits which, in turn, may transform into a cycle of change. People are more likely to take action if they can physically witness the issue and quickly see the results of their change in behaviour.

Entrepreneurs and innovators are looking for ways to manage and reuse waste, as well as trying to remove waste that already litters the environment. While others are removing plastic from their packaging and trialling resource-light business models. Consumers around the world are also reducing their plastic consumption and looking for more opportunities to recycle.

Composting is the natural process of recycling organic matter, such as leaves and food scraps, into a valuable fertiliser that can enrich soil and plants.

According to research carried out in 2018, the recycling levels of European countries were examined. Greece ranks among the four worst performers among European Union countries along with Malta, Romania and Cyprus. 83% of waste ends up in landfills, while 13% in recycling.

After the theoretical part and if we still have time we will try to sort a pile of waste.

We will empty a bag of waste in the middle of the circle and we will try to sort the objects in three categories. Reduce- ReUse - Recycle.

This moment of our awareness is the one that connects with the art workshop in which we will ReUse the waste in order to create a piece of art, a piece of street art. How can young people change their behaviour and respond to climate emergencies through art ?

14h45 Break

A small break

15h00 Action

Let's Create Nature ! 60min

How can young people change their behaviour and respond to climate emergencies through art ? Looking for ways to reduce, reuse and recycle. It will be a long journey, but with everyone on board, the world can resurface and break free from the garbage that it's drowning in. Let's ReUse waste and Create Art ! The result of this art workshop will be a huge street art canvas ideally hung by the wall of the Megaron at the end of the workshop.

- The big group of 75 kids will divide into 2 smaller groups. Each group will "write" a word from the phrase "Create Nature". The message seems weird because we cannot create nature but street art is challenging and stimulant.



The word CREATE will be written with waste. We will ReUse waste to create art. 5 kids will work for every letter that will be 1m x 70cm big (5kids x 6letters). And 5 kids will paint the background sheet.

C→ ropes

R→ textile (old clothes)

E→ plastic bottles

A→ cans

T→ plastic packaging

E→ cardboard boxes / tubes

The word NATURE will be written with natural materials. We will use natural materials and organic waste to create art. 5 kids will work for every letter that will be 1m x 70cm big (5kids x 6letters). And 5 kids will paint the background sheet.

N→ sticks

A→ leaves

T→ flowers

U→ soil & rocks

R→ bananas

E→ peppers & carrots

16h00 Installation

The letters are all hung on the huge canvas. The big canvas message is hanging from the Megaron wall. If this cannot be done the kids will hold the canvas.

16h30 Closing

Sing seeds of hope under the hanging canvas or while holding the canvas.

17h00 Clean up

Materials

- Awareness
 - Images
 - Bags of waste
- Street Art
 - Waste
 - Organic waste
 - Wood Glue (powder)
 - Paper glue transparent
 - Paint brush
 - Spray paint chalk
 - Paint acrylique
 - Ropes
 - tie wraps
 - Hot glue - hot glue gun
 - fishing line
 - scissors
 - cutters
 - Cardboard box square



IMPACT & EVALUATION

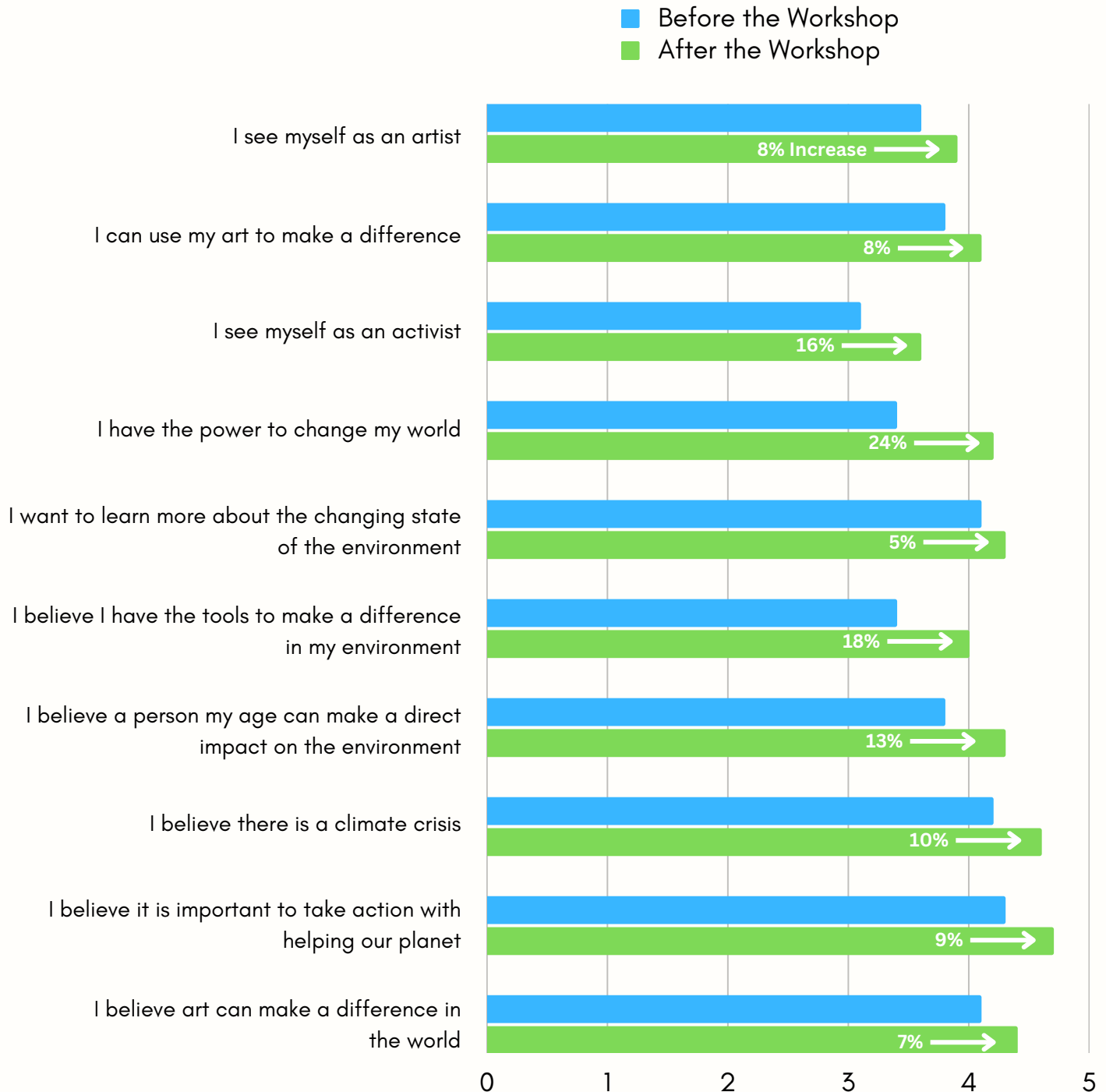


The goal of this effort is to learn about the impact that the activities have on participants. It is not gathered to impress funders, but to advance our own effectiveness in generating objective information about the power of our work. We are especially curious to learn if there is any evidence that they have the impulse to take action and/or feel they can make a difference—this is the high goal of the arts-for-climate field, and we believe teaching artists have a particularly strong contribution to the field. Teaching artists were encouraged to use the Continuum of Impact Guide as a model when thinking about impact and assessment in their workshops. We asked: Did participants demonstrate greater personal connection to this environmental issue and deepen their understanding of it? Did participants demonstrate a personal motivation to do something about this issue and show a sense that they could make a difference if they did? Did they actually take some action?



STUDENT EVALUATIONS

During this round of EDEN, students were given a survey before and after the workshops. These surveys were designed according to the outcomes provided in the Continuum of Impact Guide. Students were asked if they 1-Strongly Disagree, 2-Disagree, 3-Neither Agree or Disagree, 4-Agree, or 5-Strongly Agree with the following statements.



REFLECTIONS FROM THE TEACHING ARTISTS

In what ways did you observe change in your participants understanding and engagement of the environmental issue you chose?

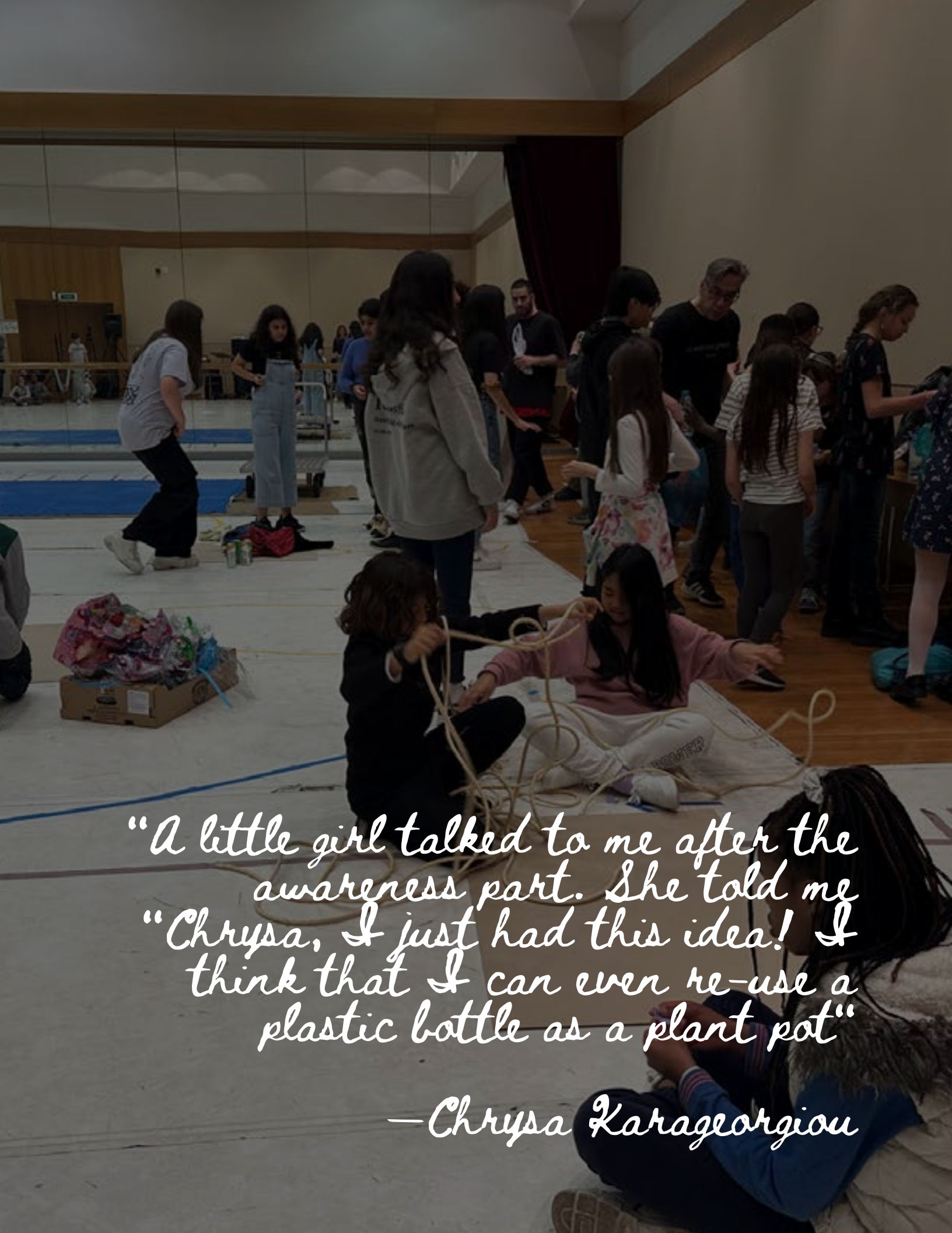
"They were asking questions, proposing solutions and creative ways in which we can improve our environmental everyday habits."—Chrysa

Did your EDEN experience expand your work or skills as a teaching artist in any specific ways?

"Yes! Another workshop another experience The theme expanded my knowledge and the organisation expanded working skills"—Chrysa

"It gave me the opportunity to interact with children from different cultures and listen to their radical opinions about recycling and environmental change"—Alex



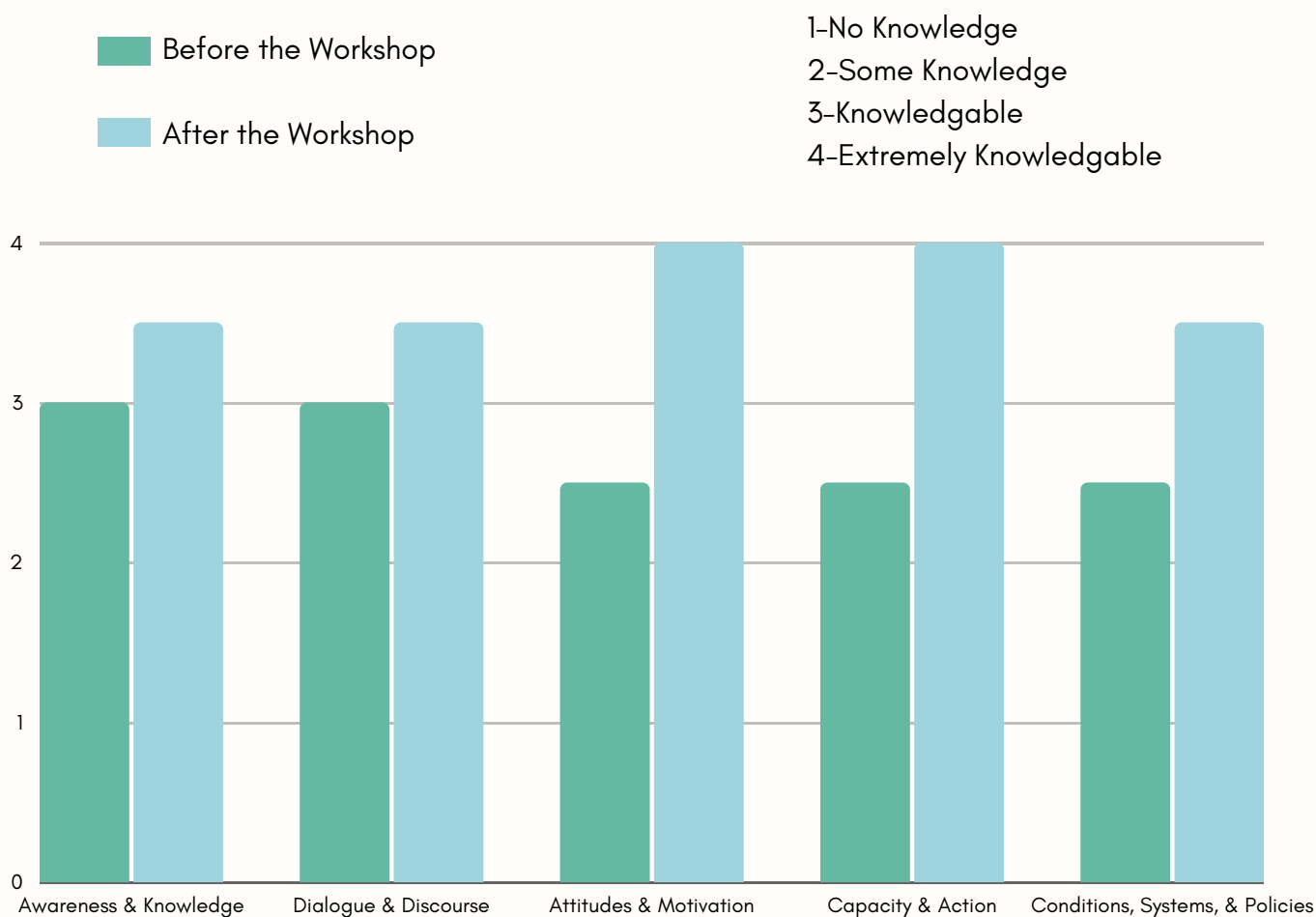


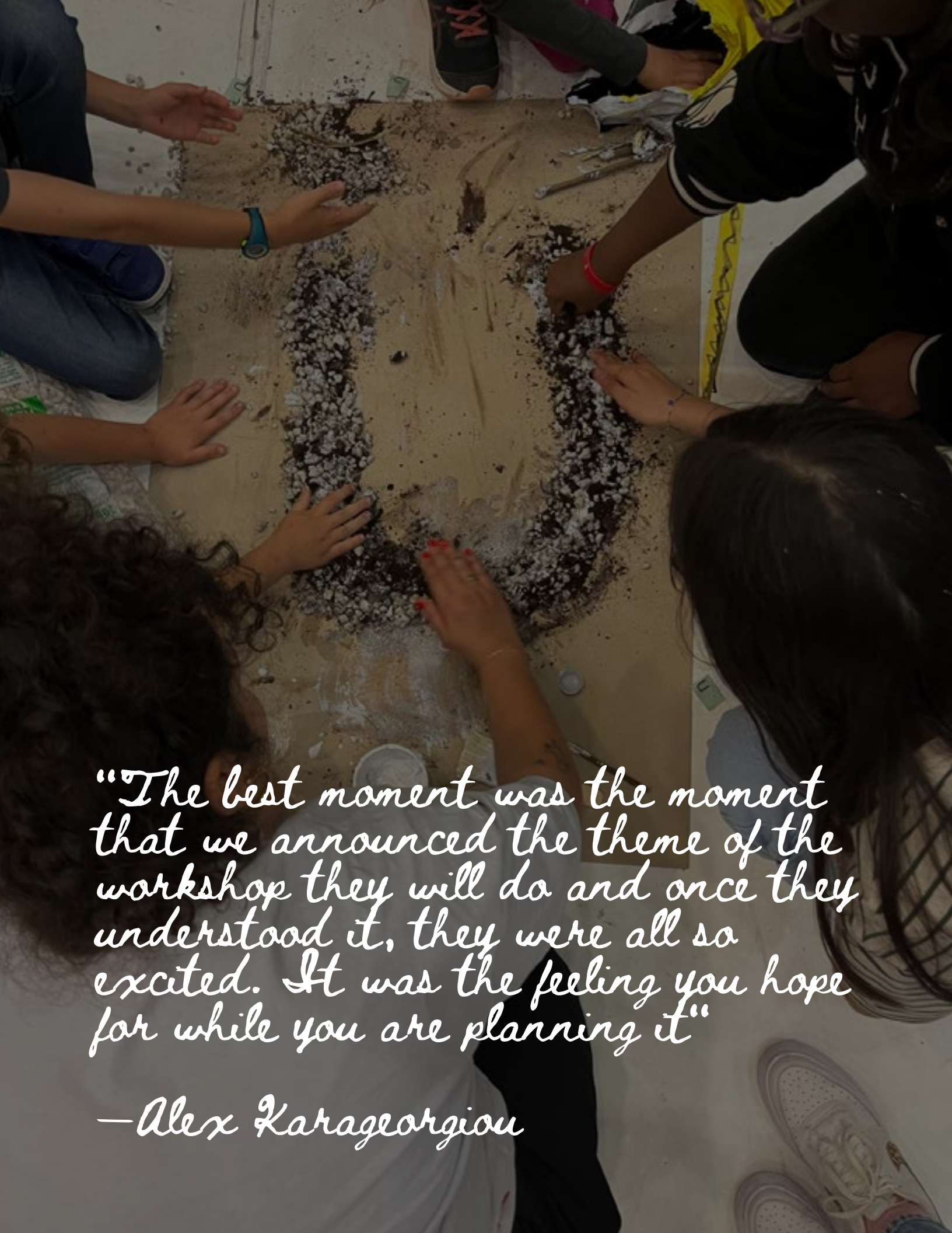
*"A little girl talked to me after the awareness part. She told me
"Chrysa, I just had this idea! I
think that I can even re-use a
plastic bottle as a plant pot"*

—Chrysa Karageorgiou



We tasked each teaching artist with evaluating their students based on the Continuum of Impact Guide. They rated their students on a scale from 1 (no knowledge of the subject) to 4 (extremely knowledgeable about the subject). The following graph reflects the teaching artists' observations of their students.





"The best moment was the moment that we announced the theme of the workshop they will do and once they understood it, they were all so excited. It was the feeling you hope for while you are planning it"

—Alex Karageorgiou

ABOUT THE TEACHING ARTISTS

Chrysa Karageorgiou is a Teaching Artist passionate about education and culture. She is committed to defending the environment and women's issues. She loves to experiment with different kinds of art like music and photography. She believes that we, adults, should be empowering children to create positive change in their communities.

You can find Chrysa on social media here:

- Instagram: [@curiouschild_be](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)



***CHRYSA
KARAGEORGIOU***



***ALEX
KARAGEORGIOU***

Alexandros graduated from the Fine and Applied Arts Department of University of Western Macedonia. A popular freehand drawing teacher, Alexandros is equipped with a hard-to-find hand-eye coordinator design skill. Basically, he can create art from anything. Mixing various colors, shapes and typography fonts combined with developing prototypes and models, he achieves to maximize aesthetic. Alexandros is a talented musician and graffiti artist, ultimately blending his art identities into unique pieces of handmade theming.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Joyce DiDonato & Askonas Holt

EDEN Engagement
Sophie Dand

International Teaching Artist Collaborative (ITAC)
Madeleine McGirk, Eric Booth

ITAC's EDEN Engagement Project Manager & Packet Design
Katie Rainey

Teaching Artists & Curriculum Design
Chrysa Karageorgiou & Alex Karageorgiou

Choir
Choir of El Sistema Greece

Education Partners
Jose Angel Salazar Marin, Artistic Director of El Sistema Greece

