



Thank You, Sausage!

*EDEN Engagement: Aalborg
Seed City Curriculum
Lea Burrows &
Karen Zenia Hal Hermansen*
JUNE 2022



International Teaching Artists Collaborative (ITAC)
and
Joyce DiDonato's

EDEN ENGAGEMENT

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: Lea Burrows & Karen Zenia Hal Hermansen

Time: Approximately 3 hours

Students: Designed for 9-12 year olds

Environmental focus: Food Choices

Art forms: Performance + Visual Art

Impact measurements: We start and end the workshop with the question; How many of you like to eat sausages? It gives us an insight into the students thoughts and feelings about the sausage (and meat in general) as a food choice before and after the workshop. Have they changed their attitude/mind?



WORKSHOP

Opening:

- The students will be given a sausage each, and asked to keep it throughout the whole workshop. They will be guided through a sensory journey with music and a soft voice – a kind of meditation – which revolves around the sausage. How does it feel, smell, sound? It will take them on a reflection journey to the pig farms, the production of the sausage and all the additives it contains.

Welcome:

- We will very shortly introduce the key question and the subject.

Key question:

- How important is eating meat to you?

Warm-up activity:

- Music is playing and the students are guided through a physical activity. They have to move around the floor and stop in different poses with particular guidelines and create pictures with their bodies – and the sausages!

Main activity(ies):

There are 2 main activities, that uses bodywork, reflecting conversations and rituals, to put together simple, both humorous and solemn performances with the students.

1. The 40 students are divided into 5 groups. The artists hand out some inspirational text to each group, concerning different issues around meat (and sausage) production. Each group is given a step by step task to create a small performance, pronouncing the text (in a microphone) and creating physical pictures with their bodies and the sausages. The 5 performances will be shown one by one, without breaks in between. It will culminate in a simple “forgiving-dance”, guided by the artists. The performance is a manifestation of their reflections on the key question.
2. The students will be given a small “paper coffin”, that needs to be cut out and glued together. They will be asked to do this without further explanation. During the lunchbreak, the artists will change the atmosphere in the workshop-space. It will be solemn, with dimmed lights and the EDENmusic playing. The students will be asked to write or draw their last message to the sausage on a piece of paper, and one by one place it in the middle of the circle. If they feel for it, they can use the microphone to say the words out loud. A goodbye speech to the sausage is pronounced.

Culminating presentation:

- The “funeral” (described above) will act as an ending of the workshop. After that, there will be a short reflection, and a version of the EDEN call+response is acted out.

Reflection:

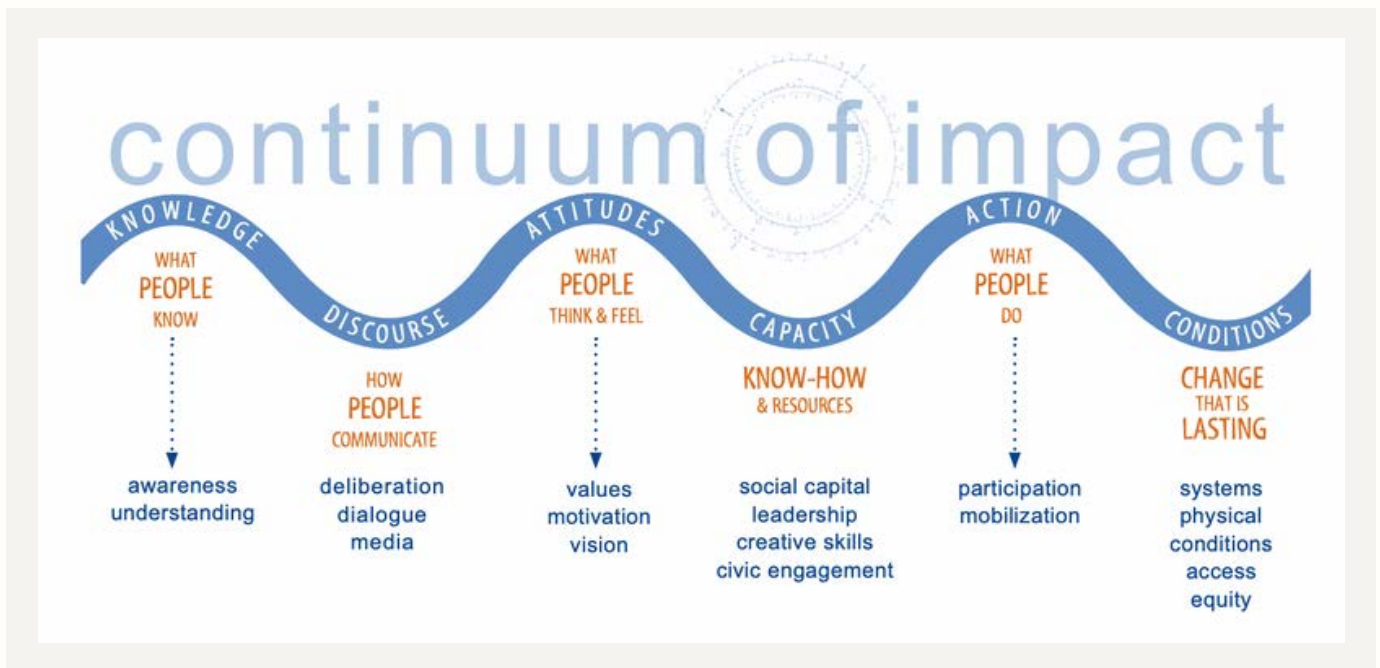
- The reflection on the workshop materializes in the activity where the students are told to write a farewell letter to the sausage and thus to their meat habits. This activity will make them reflect on the key question; How important is eating meat to me?



IMPACT & EVALUATION

The goal of this effort is to learn about the impact that the activities have on participants. 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.

During the EDEN project, teaching artists were encouraged to use the Continuum of Impact Guide as a model when thinking about impact and assessment in their workshops.







*"I will never eat a
sausage again!"*

REFLECTIONS FROM THE TEACHING ARTISTS

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

"The subject of the workshop was food choices. Each participant were asked to carefully carry a sausage throughout the whole workshop – culminating in the creation of a performative "sausage-funeral" – and hereby "provoked" to relate to their meat-consumption. This resulted in reactions and outbursts, like; "I will never eat a sausage again!" and "my hand smells" etc. These statements were grasped by the teachers, and reflected on. Reports from the schools teachers let us know, that food choices were a talking-subject the following days – and not only between the participants, but in the school in general."

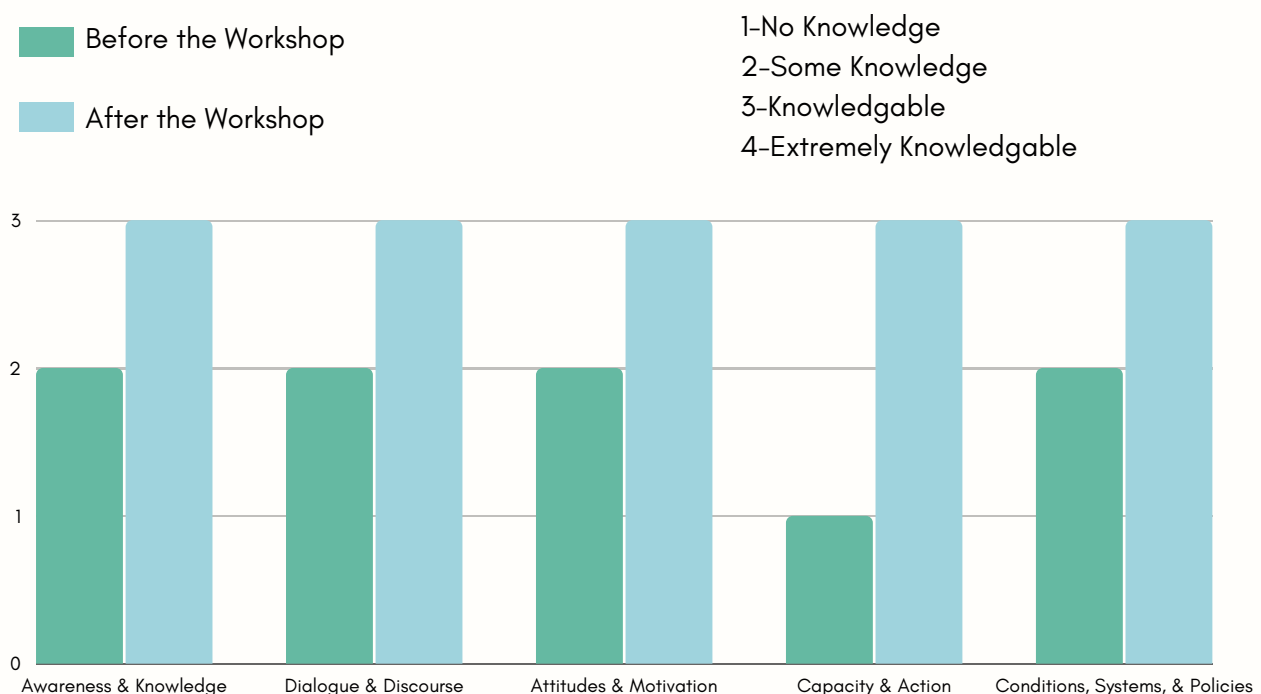
What challenges did you face in creating and facilitating your workshop?

"It was difficult to get hold of essential information about the date of the workshop, the age and amount of participants etc. This made it difficult to prepare it. When it finally happened, it went really well – good interaction with both teachers and participants."

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

"Yes. The given subject "forced" us, to create a new workshop-design, which turned out well, but also has given us ideas for improvements."

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 Dee & Joanna's observations of their students.





"During the "sausage-funeral" each participant was asked to write a goodbye-letter and read it loud. These were actually touching and creative minutes (summing up how difficult changing habits can be). After the goodbyes, the group sang to the sausages - a beautiful song from their choir rehearsals. A nice moment of aesthetic learning."

ABOUT THE TEACHING ARTISTS

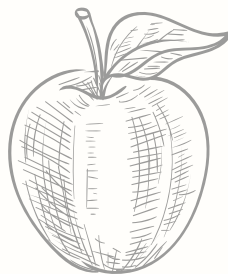


LEA BURROWS

Lea Burrows is educated as stage designer from the Danish National School of Performing Arts. Over the past 17 years, she has created stage and costume designs for a large number of stage performances of diverse nature, from classical theater to dance, experimental performances, staged talks, exhibitions etc.

Since 2018 Lea Burrows has functioned as artistic director of Sir Grand Lear, a producing theater company with a social commitment. Sir Grand Lear creates performances that materialize as ceremonial social gatherings, in which current affairs are thrown dramatically into the air, landing in the form of spirited dialogues.

Sir Grand Lear provides workshops for both children and adults, using the tools of stageart to engage an open space for creativity.





KAREN ZENIA HAL HERMANSEN

www.sirgrandlear.com

www.kaleidoscopevision.org

Born 1989.

Education: Master of arts at theater and performance studies 2011-2017 at Copenhagen University.

Since 2017 Karen Zenia Hal Hermansen has been working as a freelance production manager, fundraiser and drama teacher at several different theaters in Copenhagen such as Teatergrad, MÆRKVÆRK, danskdansk, Det Flydende Teater, Cantabile 2, Scene N og +grad.

In 2018 Karen Zenia Hal Hermansen founded the art school +grad in cooperation with the theater Teatergrad. Karen functioned as a drama teacher and artistic leader at the art school and created several workshops and plays performed throughout Denmark.

In 2020 Karen Zenia Hal Hermansen became the artistic producer of the sociospecific theater company Sir Grand Lear, with the responsible for administration and creative development. In Sir Grand Lear's interactive plays, Karen contributes with her knowledge and experience in creating interactive assignments integrating the concept of gamification.



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Choir
A collaborative youth choir with children from Kærbyskolen and Nørholm Skole.

Education Partners
Tecwyn Evans, Andreas Mathew

Concert Venue
Musikkens Hus

