

COPY & ERROR

**(Collective Cinema):
A Creative Approach to the
Environmental Issue**

*EDEN Engagement: Madrid
Seed City Curriculum
Rubén H. Bermúdez*

JUNE 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 Artist: Rubén H. Bermúdez

Time: June 3rd, 2023

Students: 40 Students, Ages 9-14

Choir: Pequeños Cantores de la JORCAM

About: This workshop is on filmmaking and the importance of telling our own stories. The idea is to have the boys and girls record and film themselves, put together a collective film, and watch it all together.



WORKSHOP

First stage of presentation of the workshop:

- A first part in which we all introduced ourselves and in which I gave them a short presentation about creativity, creative processes and the importance of telling our own stories.

Second stage of filming/recording:

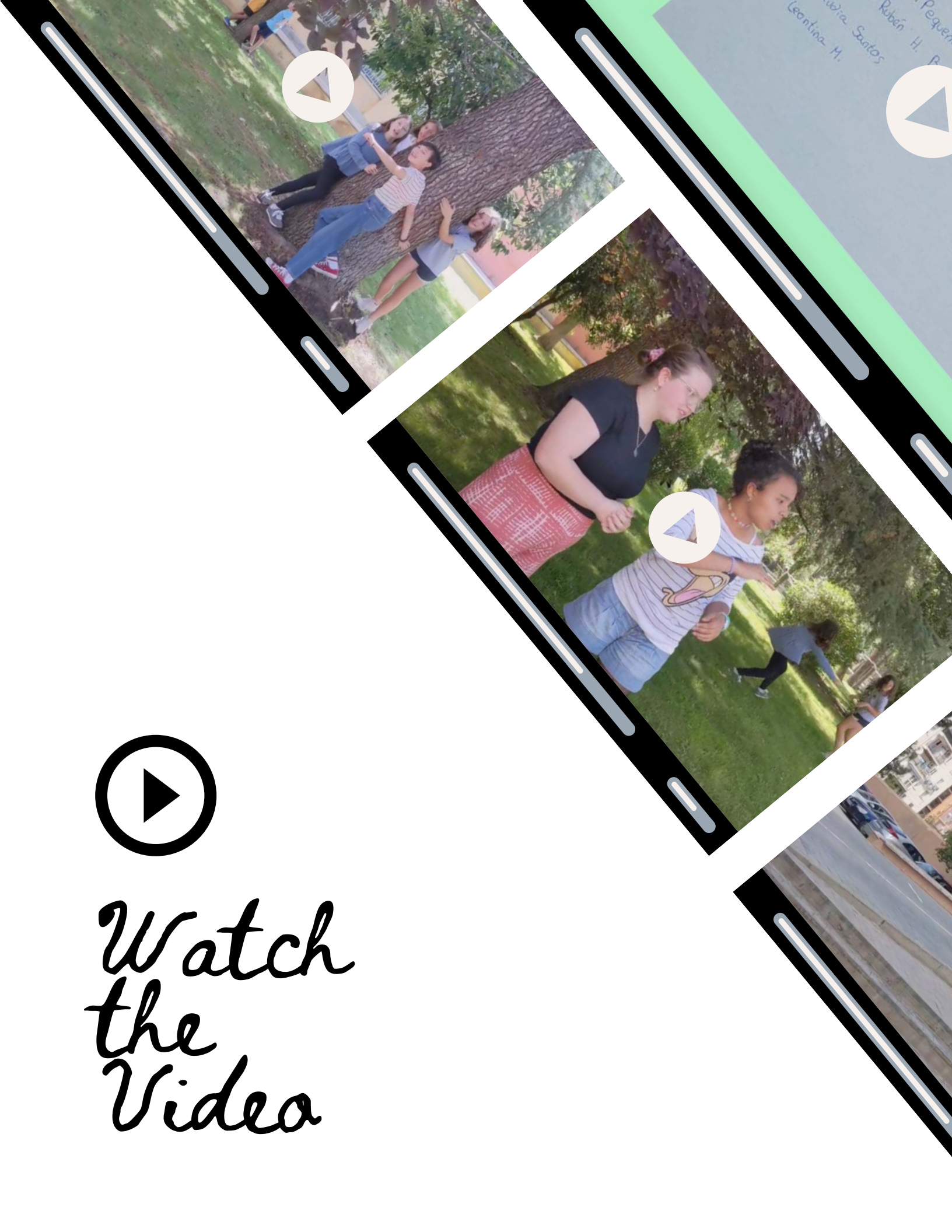
- We talked about making a film about the importance of the environment, climate change and what we could do as human beings.
- The group was divided into 2 groups. Half worked on the image and half on the sound. Then they swapped.
- They prepared a script, filmed themselves acting, filmed themselves singing and made a short song.

A third stage of editing and viewing of the film.

- We had no time, no means (there was no internet) and we were preparing the name of the film, the credits and how they imagined the final editing.
- We hugged each other and said goodbye.







Watch
the
Video

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?



REFLECTIONS FROM THE TEACHING ARTIST

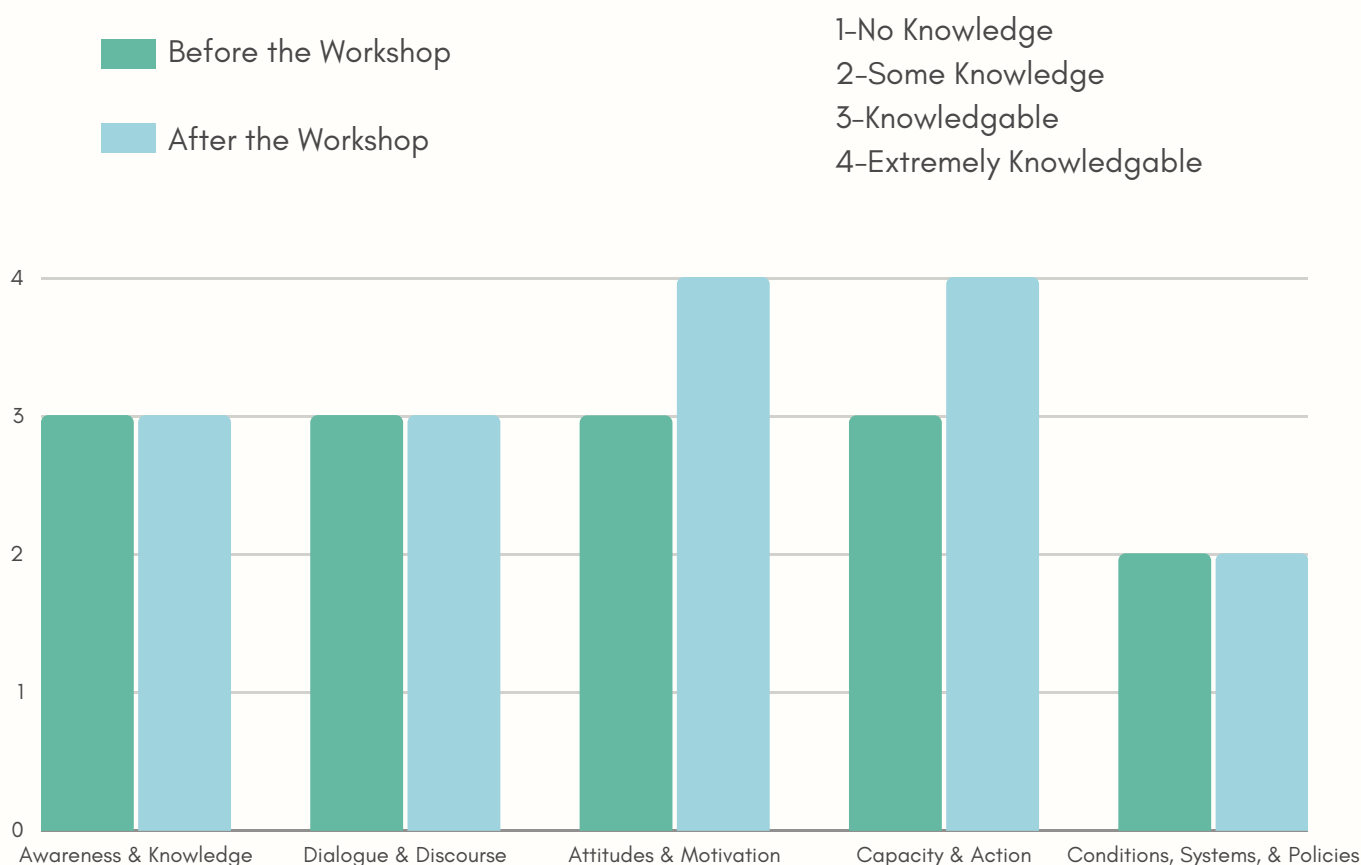
In what ways did you observe change in your participants understanding and engagement of the environmental issue you chose?

"The people who participated in my workshop were very young and had a high level of environmental awareness. We focused on the importance of telling our own stories and the first-person voice. From there they worked on a short film where they thought of themselves as environmental activists."

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

"Yes, working with young people and children is always a mind-opening experience and teaches you many things."

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.



"When we went out into the field to record there was a very special moment. In the fiction they were filming, some villains wanted to cut down some trees and the young people hugged them to save them while shouting "SAVE THE TREES!"

It was a magical moment."

—Rubén H. Bermúdez

ABOUT THE TEACHING ARTIST



RUBÉN H. BERMÚDEZ

In 2014, Rubén started the project 'And you, why are you black?' Since then, he has published a photobook with the same name (2017) and directed a film (*We all like plantain*, 2021). Thanks to this, Rubén has done incredible things like being a speaker at the Bamako Encounters, winning all the prizes at a film festival, exhibiting a photo of Donato at the Reina Sofia Museum or being a jury member at the National Photography Award. Rubén gets invited to give workshops, lectures and classes. Rubén is also co-founder of Espacio AfroConciencia, in 2022, they opened a cultural center.



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