



NYC Parks



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Ecological Artists Begin Year-Long Residency with Scientists and Environmental Practitioners to Explore New Imagination for Sustainable, Resilient, and Inclusive Cities

As part of the Urban Field Station Collaborative Arts Program, eleven artists have been selected to collaborate with the USDA Forest Service, The Nature of Cities, and local agency teams to explore innovation and new imagination for more sustainable and green cities. The core questions of the program include: how are artists changed when they collaborate with scientists? How are scientists changed when they collaborate with artists? How can collaboration create new ideas and new directions that can inform sustainable, resilient, and inclusive cities?

The Urban Field Station Collaborative Arts Program was founded in 2016 to explore the intersection and interdisciplinary nature of the study of cities and urban planning, artistic expression, and scientific ideas through collaborations with artists and urban ecology practitioners. This year, the Urban Field Station Collaborative Arts Program has expanded this year to support artists across the United States and internationally. This year's partnerships include:

- USDA Forest Service:
 - Northern Research Station - NYC Urban Field Station, Baltimore Field Station, Philadelphia Field Station, Springfield, MA Urban Field Station
 - Rocky Mountain Research Station - Denver Urban Field Station
 - USFS International Programs in the West Bank
 - International Institute of Tropical Forestry in Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic
- New York City Department of Parks and Recreation's Forestry, Horticulture and Natural Resources Division and Arts in Parks Program
- State of Hawaii: Kaulunani, Hawaii's Urban & Community Forestry Program

"The opportunity for us to learn from Nalu Andrade's intimate knowledge of trees through carving, and the opportunities to learn from his ways of cultivating

relationships with community members to enhance the health of our forests is huge. I am thrilled!" - Heather McMillen, Hawai'i Urban and Community Forester.

This year's artists were selected from a pool of competitive applications which represent the diversity and creativity of their respective cities. **Nalu Andrade** is an Oahu born Native Hawaiian cultural practitioner who specializes in **kālai lā'au** (traditional wood carving). He is working closely with Kaulunani, Hawaii's Urban and Community Forestry Program, with the goal of establishing a reforestation program founded on Hawaiian values, encouraging the proliferation of the proper cultural use of the native woods of Hawaii, and the holistic nurturing of the kēiki (children) of Hawaii.

His program will focus on **mālama 'āina**, which is the Hawaiian understanding of the proper care, growth and stewardship of the 'āina (the land). The program will foster **mālama 'āina** through the traditional Hawaiian values of **kūleana** (responsibility), **'ike kūpuna** (knowledge and wisdom of our ancestors), and **laulima** (working together). These values will not only fortify the practice of **mālama 'āina** but will simultaneously foster the proper growth of our kēiki (children) since all of those values are essential to becoming a compassionate, diligent, responsible, cooperative, and productive member of society.

The program begins with the planting of a native tree at the birth of each child in Hawaii while concurrently working with others on the removal of invasive non-native trees to make room for more indigenous trees and using the non-native trees for other wood carving projects. This will lead to instilling essential Hawaiian values to promote the importance of family, cultural education, and the proper use and care of the land through wood carving workshops. Nalu's hope is to show the people of Hawai'i that it is possible to work with these government programs to **mālama 'āina** and also to pass on our **'ike kūpuna** (knowledge and wisdom of our ancestors)

*"I am honored to have been chosen to represent Hawai'i and am very excited to **holomua** (progress forward) with everyone." - Nalu Andrade*

Kaulunani is Hawaii's Urban and Community Forestry Program housed within the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife. Kaulunani's mission is to support all of Hawaii's communities to cultivate wellbeing and resilience through planting, caring for and growing relationships with the trees and forests that we live with and that are crucial to the ecosystems on which we rely. Kaulunani has a large network of non-profit and community partners. Through the Residency Kaulunani will connect Nalu Andrade with a forest reserve in Honolulu where he will engage with a Kaulunani partner organization and with families in learning the traditional art of kālai (carving) and in building relationships with forests, trees, and each other.