## 7 CREATIVE CLIMATE TRENDS | N°4 DESIGN AND INNOVATION

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Arts and culture are not only responding to environmental challenges but are trailblazing the way forward: creating new narratives, testing ideas, developing interdisciplinary collaborations and reimagining what's possible. Environmental sustainability is being ingrained within the whole cultural economy - from investment, strategy and operations, to creative programming, partnerships and public engagement.

For over 11 years, Julie's Bicycle has been tracking this movement of change within arts and culture. Drawing from this experience, we have identified Seven Creative Climate Trends - key communities of environment centered practice that are leveraging significant cultural value. They are: Artwork, Activism, Organisational Leadership, Design and Innovation, Collaboration, Path-finding, and Policy Changing. This configuration of trends aims to demonstrate the full breadth and diversity of creative responses to the environment, contextualizing them as a whole movement, networked and moving in concert. Julie's Bicycle is inviting all artists and cultural practitioners inspired by - and working in alignment with - our natural environment to situate themselves within these seven trends and tell their stories of leadership on our new interactive map. This map is open to all and has been designed to make visible this growing movement of change.

A spotlight on: Design and Innovation

Creativity is intangible expression, and it is also tangible skill. Through design, we make and shape the world around us: we decide which things should exist, what they should be made of, how they are assembled, and how they are (intended to be) used. All of these design decisions also determine what is most likely to happen to something at the end of its life.

Designers working in the arts and culture are rethinking their principles of working with a focus on the circular economy, whether it's Tony-Award winning set designer Donyale Werle (*Peter and the Starcatcher*) with her sets made from upcycled, recycled, and second-hand materials; fashion designer Christopher Raeburn with his explorations of Remade, Reduced and Recycled; or Zimbabwe's thriving scene of arts and crafts artifacts made from salvaged waste, showcased at events like the Harare International Festival of the Arts.

We are seeing designers and artists push the boundaries of our imagination and technology, like the Land Art Generator Initiative rethinking renewable energy as public art; Atelier21's La Paléo Energétique timeline tracing renewable energy innovation throughout history and reviving patents like the RegenBox single-use alkaline battery charger; or



Studio Swine's Gyrecraft – a nautical journey collecting ocean plastics with the Solar Extruder, a machine built to melt sea plastic using the sun to be turned into art objects.

Creative spaces are turning into laboratories for the possible. In London, Arcola Theatre's Arcola Energy spin-off focuses on the development of hydrogen and fuel cells, while in the Netherlands, Open House is a start-up incubator for sustainable event technologies, most recently bringing together music festivals and the Red Cross to come up with new energy solutions for humanitarian aid contexts.

In Berlin, 18,566 m2 arts complex ufaFabrik has been taking this approach to pioneering environmental research since 1976. The whole space is an experimental ground for ecological building methods, and ufaFabrik works with external partners to undertake research and amplify learning beyond the arts sector. For example, 4,000 m2 of green roofs planted with native grasses, herbs, and shrubs are the subject of research projects at the Technische Universitaet Berlin and Fachhochschule the Neubrandenburg, to better understand the biodiversity and physics of the vegetation. ufaFabrik is also involved in another research project exploring different modules, cells, circuit technologies and tracking systems for solar energy. A wetland has been constructed on-site for water sequestration and filtering, and the venue has engineered its own Combined Heat and Power energy installations. The 'Verticope' (vertical biotope) is a 50 meter long and 5 meter high green soundproof wall that provides a habitat for insects and birds, developed to protect residents from noise from summer open air events held at ufaFabrik. Combining a DIY approach, a dedication to sustainable development, and tapping into the research community, ufaFabrik has been pushing forward ecological construction design for 40 years.