

Remarks from Land Steward Dan Cahill
Sunday September 12, 2021
Poetry Walk Launch

Thank you all for being here. It is a deep honor to be in the roll of a park professional supporting a project like this. That we are here today, celebrating the last 12 months of process is testament that we are in a community that values and believes in our collective ability to heal and adapt. Thats what this is all about. Its about working together, truly working together, to adapt and heal.

Adapting is no longer a choice. The Earth is beckoning us in to be curious and to listen. With every microburst that sweeps through our neighborhood and leaves down limbs and trees in its wake, with every 3 week drought that browns the foliage and hardens the soil, with every song bird who sings a little less, or maybe stops showing up -The Earth is beckoning us and calling us to attention. To see, to be curious, to be present with ourselves. This presence brings us to action, to plant a tree, to leash our dog, to walk or bike (instead of drive) - but first and foremost, and most prominently this presence is calling living beings to be in community with each other.

This community, woven with the fibers of honesty, must be strong enough to hold the joy and wonder of our senses as well as the deep pain and terror that is present in our lives. This terror most certainly includes the climate crisis, but more prominently it includes the inequity and violence present in our community. Inequity that has been present for as long as this very land was stolen from its original human stewards.

In this poetry walk project - it has been truly inspiring to connect with colleagues and artists to heed the call to more strongly weave the fibers of community. We did this, not just in the physical beauty of this poetry walk, but we heeded this call through producing this poetry walk experience with intention and care. We chose steps and methods that encouraged relationships and quieted urgency. Although it may seem easier at times to follow the ways laid forth in the well worn path of commercialism and profit, we offer the energy and gifts present in this project, present in the minds and bodies here today, to be an example that other ways are possible. We offer this project as a showcase of the beauty that can emerge when we allow relationships to be our currency.

Yes, we all have an obligation to become conservationists, tree planters, tree lovers, bug lovers and bug tenders, otherwise climate change is going to get the better of our beautiful world. Aaad to do this, to fully turn toward the Earth we must turn toward each other.

In closing - our efforts, more than ever must be collective, honest, and courageous. Alana, Harmony, C, Alexander, Grace - thank you for courageously offering and inviting us to slow down, reflect and find quiet through your words.