USING ART TO SPARK CLIMATE CONVERSATIONS

Implementing Dover’s Climate Adaptation Master Plan Chapter

Artistic rendering of the mural titled "The City in the Sea" designed by Sofia Self in its planned location.
Having already been confronted with a variety of coastal hazards associated with climate change, Dover is acting to reduce its risk and vulnerability. In 2018, the Planning Board adopted a Climate Adaptation Master Plan Chapter that provides the necessary framework and guidance to begin addressing the long term impacts of climate change. Many of the action items in the chapter call for the City to use creative and innovative methods to reach out and engage the community on this important issue.

**HOW IS THE GROUP ENGAGING DOVER?**

The Dover Rising Waters initiative is led by a group of citizen volunteers working to implement the climate actions in the City’s Master Plan. For its first undertaking, Dover Rising Waters launched the High Water Mark Youth Art Contest in May 2018. The contest encouraged young people up to age 18 to enter their artwork and creative designs to convey future flood risks as sea levels rise and storms grow in frequency and intensity. The goal of the project is to visualize the anticipated changes in an effort to spark community conversations about the impacts of floods and rising sea levels.

After promoting the contest for several months, Dover Rising Waters chose, in late July, the design concept submitted by artist Sofia Self. The image above depicts the winning design at its planned location in Henry Law Park adjacent to the indoor pool and Children’s Museum of New Hampshire. The project team is now seeking funds to implement Sofia’s design and planning community conversations about climate change impacts and actions to address them.

This public art piece would stop people and make them think about what it is trying to convey... This image can be interpreted in many ways, such as whether our future is beautiful or terrifying, or if people are still there or not. I think this image could tell a different story for each person.

- Sofia Self

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**JOIN THE CONVERSATION**

#DoverRisingWaters

**ABOUT THE ARTIST - Sofia Self**

Thirteen-year-old Dover resident Sofia Self has long been interested in the arts. She has been studying them for almost five years at her arts-integrated Seacoast Charter School, at Artstream Studios, and at other places. Sofia plays on a Cocheaco Lacrosse team and is a member of her school’s dance team. Last year, she joined some friends and fellow students in holding a “Tree Festival” in Henry Law Park to raise money and awareness to stop deforestation. In addition to making art, Sofia enjoys spending time with her friends, baking, and playing lacrosse.

**Interested in sponsoring this project?**

Sponsorship levels are:

- Sponsor - $200
- Co-sponsor - $100
- Supporter - $50
- Friend - $10

Checks can be made out to the City of Dover Arts Commission—specify the High Water Project in the notes section—and mailed to this address:

Dover Rising Waters Art Contest  
Dover Arts Commission, c/o City Finance Department  
288 Central Avenue, Dover NH 03820-4169