

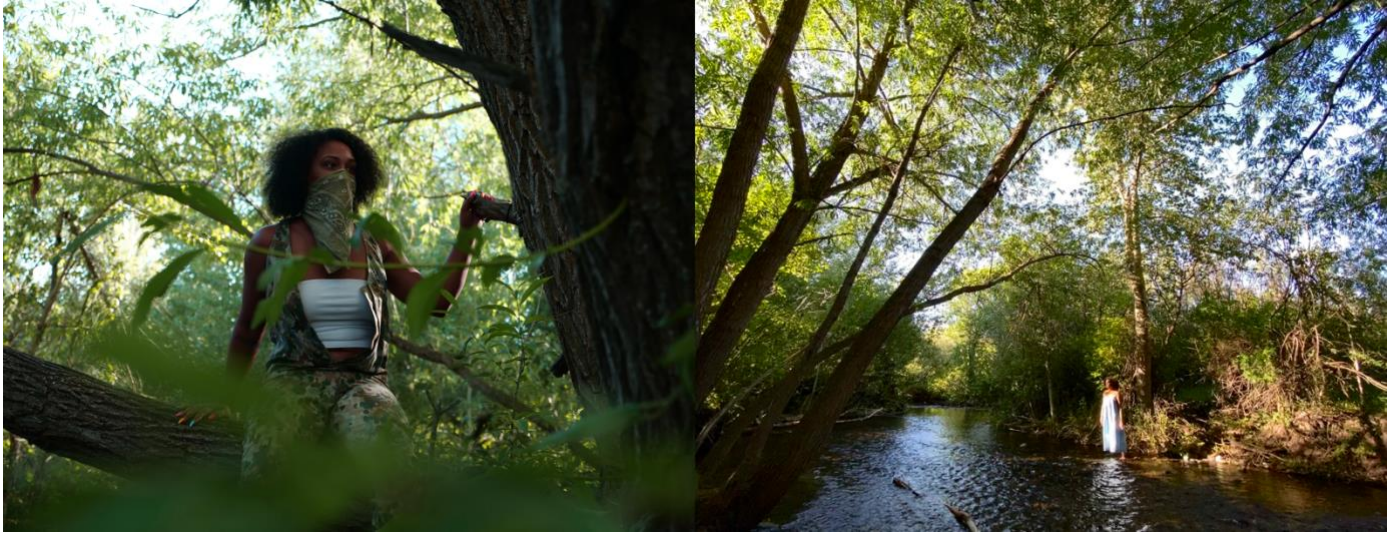
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: AUGUST 18, 2020

the creek between us

August 26th and 27th, 2020
Tuckerman Park
7979 Goldenstein Lane
Bozeman, MT

Please sign up for one half-hour block on [Wednesday, August 26th](#) or [Thursday, August 27th](#) at [OpenTable.com](#).

This experience is designed for groups of 8 and under (physically-distanced). Masks are required.



“What form does love of nature take in particular historical contexts?
For whom and at what cost?”

Donna Haraway, *Primate Vision, Gender, Race and Nature in the World of Modern Science*

Mountain Time Arts (MTA) is pleased to present **the creek between us**, a new place-based project premiering at Tuckerman Park in Bozeman, Montana in the early evenings of August 26 and 27, 2020. During the 30-minute immersive experience, audiences will listen to an audio score along the trail and see three installations sited along Bozeman Creek.

the creek between us will create an opportunity to interact with this riparian setting and new artworks through a series of 3-minute walks between installations and 5-minute performative experiences at each resting point. **the creek between us** will allow audiences to bear witness to personal relationships with the Creek, while deepening understanding of what it means to recreate outdoors.

the creek between us is in production with residents from the region and with local organizations including Earthtone Outside, Eagle Mount, and Queer Climbers Coalition. The project will propose creative expressions along Bozeman Creek of having fun, getting serious, negotiating survival, establishing reciprocal relationships with nature, and securing identity/ies.

By placing city parks and public outdoor spaces in historic contexts and examining their implicit and explicit biases and histories, **the creek between us** will explore how different groups have experienced these spaces and will rethink and imagine new ways for the present and future. **the creek between us** will explore how ideas of “the environment” in Southwestern Montana have been constructed, disseminated, understood, and commodified over time.

This project raises questions to examine, including:

- Have we created landscapes of exclusion, and, if yes, how can we change this narrative?
- Who feels safe to enjoy our public recreational spaces? Who doesn't?
- Can we foreground narratives that are alternative ways of knowing recreational spaces and offer frameworks of experience outside the heteronormative, white experience?
- How has meaning been attributed to the environment based on different perspectives including ideologies, beliefs, myths, and experiences?

[the creek between us](#) is a pilot project of an ongoing, multi-year effort to revitalize Bozeman Creek. [the creek between us](#) functions as a way to build relationships with our diverse communities to ensure that environmental efforts include cultural concerns. This project provides an opportunity to galvanize our diverse communities around Bozeman Creek, a significant body of running water that is in critical need of stewardship.

Mountain Time Arts produces inventive public art projects that enliven our relationships to the history, culture, and environment of the Rocky Mountain West. Our public artworks about social and environmental justice in Southwest Montana are led, authored, and designed by our diverse communities. Mountain Time Arts' projects propose new ideas about who is an artist and what art can accomplish. Our projects propose solutions for an equitable community and a renewed environment. To learn more about Mountain Time Arts, visit: mountaintimearts.org.

[the creek between us](#) has been conceived and produced through a collective process with Shane Doyle, Ben Lloyd, Laine Rettmer, Mary Ellen Strom, and Rachel Tang. MTA is grateful for the support of [the creek between us](#) from The MAP Fund.

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NOTE: The title references Lucille Clifton's poem, "the river between us".

the river between us

in the river that your father fished
my father was baptized. it was
their hunger that defined them,

one, a man who knew he could feed himself if it all came down,
the other a man who knew he needed help.

this is about more than color. it is
about how we learn to see ourselves.
it is about geography and memory.

it is about being poor people
in america. it is about my father
and yours and you and me and
the river that is between us.

—Lucille Clifton