PATHWAYS 2021: Blazing Trails to a Sustainable Future
May 5 – October 21

A creative placemaking project that fosters collaboration between regional and community arts groups and the Town of Chatham with the goals of sustaining cultural life and strengthening communities, PS21/Chatham Pathways is a program of performances, arts and environmental education workshops, participatory events, and installations, mostly free, for the whole family, embedded in and responsive to the PS21 landscape. A newly built trail system links PS21’s 100 acres to Chatham’s Crellin Community Park’s 40 acres, and beyond to the Village of Chatham.
Pathways 2021
Community Partners Include:

The Town of Chatham Recreation Committee
Columbia Land Conservancy
Hawthorne Valley Farmscape Ecology Program
The Wooster Group Summer Institute for Columbia County Public School students
Art OMI
Perfect Ten!, in Hudson
Operation Unite
Bindlestiff Family Circus
Roz School of Dance
Chatham High School and Columbia County Public Schools
James Casebere, Solo Pavilion for Two or Three
Fine Arts Booster Club, Chatham

In 2022 additional partners will include:
The Shaker Museum and Bennington College
PATHWAYS 21

EVENTS

Aug 7 Circus Arts Workshop and community engagement programs during Crellin Park Day, performance by Cirque Barcode, Montreal

Aug 9–15 Wooster Group Summer Institute

Aug 12–14 SHE/HER: Theater monologues with local actors directed by Nicole Ansari

Aug 15 Farmer’s Daughter Gravel Grinder, a non-competitive 65-mile bike ride in Columbia County, hosted by PS21

August 17–18 Circus Arts
Instable: Performance and movement workshop presented by Les Hommes Penchés

ONGOING PROGRAMS

Movement Without Borders: classes in dance, yoga and pilates on our trails and property

Storywalks presented by Columbia Land Conservancy

Ecology Walks, Bat & Moth Night, and Trail Guide led by the Hawthorne Valley Farmscape Ecology Program

Solo Pavilion for Two or Three: Architectural Installation by James Casebere on Pathways trails

PS21 PATHWAYS

A collaboration with regional and community arts groups and the Town of Chatham, Pathways 21 is a program of free performances, international circus, arts and environmental education workshops, participatory events, and installations for the whole family embedded in and responsive to the PS21 landscape.

PS21/Chatham
Pathways 2021:
Blazing Trails to a Sustainable Future
PS21 hosted a boisterous group from the Morris Memorial After school Program, our local partner on educational initiatives. After working with the Bindlestiff Family Cirkus for 8 weeks, participants aged 8 - 18 paraded their progress in acrobatics, plate spinning, stilt walking, and diabolo juggling on stage at PS21’s Pavilion Theater before a socially-distanced audience.
James Casebere: *Solo Pavilion for Two or Three*
Unveiled on May 30, 2021 and open to the public from dawn to dusk.

James Casebere’s *Solo Pavilion for Two or Three*, an imposing new work by the photographer and installation artist, was unveiled at PS21 on Memorial Day Weekend in conjunction with *Upstate Diary’s* Art Trek ’21, the magazine’s annual curated tour of noteworthy art happenings in the region. *Solo Pavilion for Two or Three* is PS21’s second outdoor installation and marked the start of this year’s *Pathways: Blazing Trails to a Sustainable Future*. The first installation, Alison McNulty’s “Hudson Valley Ghost Column 7” from 2020, is still on display to the fore of PS21’s Pavilion Theater.
Heartbeat Opera members, who featured for their production of *The Extinctionist*, pose with Casebère’s *Solo Pavilion for Two or Three*.
PS21 once again teamed up with the Columbia Land Conservancy to present *StoryWalk: an Outdoor Reading Adventure for Families*. Families explored PS21’s beautiful landscape and read along as a picture book unfolded along PS21’s rambling trails, creating an innovative and inviting way for kids and families to combine their enjoyment of reading and the outdoors.
A couple of the many families that completed StoryWalk this summer

Martin Silver of the Dairy Queen in Ghent generously donated free ice cream coupons to StoryWalk completors. Wednesdays from 10am-4pm was our informal StoryWalk time this summer, and saw our trails particularly busy!
Chatham High School Arbor Day
June 11

Congratulations, Chatham High School Class of 2021! We hosted sixty-five graduating seniors from a class of eighty-one at PS21’s Pavilion Theater to celebrate Arbor Day. The group came to explore our grounds, visit our architectural installation Solo Pavilion for Two or Three by James Casebere, enjoy a lunch provided by “The Chuck Wagon” food truck, and reminisce as they signed each other’s yearbooks.
The second installment of PS21’s Modern Opera Fest, *Pan* is a piece for flute, live electronics, and an ensemble of community performers directed by Doug Fitch. It tells the story of the mythological goat-god Pan, one of only two Greek deities said to have been put to death, in a series of staged episodes exploring the contradictions and betrayals in Pan’s relationships. Members of the community in which it’s performed are collaborators alongside flutist Claire Chase.
Doug Fitch in his studio

Claire Chase in her costume designed by Doug Fitch
CALL FOR STUDENTS

to participate in a unique performance opportunity and appear on stage at PS21!

Please contact Kate Jarrard with interest or questions!
jarrardk@chatham.k12.ny.us

PS21 programs comply with all CDC and SDOH recommendations and guidelines.

Supported in part by Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation

__PAN__, directed by Doug Fitch, is a participatory opera presented by PS21 as part of our Modern Opera Fest. We’re looking for 15-25 community participants, particularly Chatham students, to appear onstage alongside renowned flutist Claire Chase this summer.

__PAN__ explores the life of the god Pan, one of only two Greek deities said to have been put to death. It marshals myth to explore the tensions of our contemporary lives. The community performers will make up the chorus and engage in collective music-making using tuned wine glasses, ocarinas, triangles, bamboo chimes, and other handheld instruments which will be provided.

No experience necessary! All ages (8 and up) and abilities are welcome.

All that is required are open ears, a desire to have a musical and theatrical adventure with new friends, and attendance at rehearsals on July 14, 15, and 16 and the performance on July 16.
Claire Chase rehearsing with Chatham-area youth for *Pan*, July 14
July 14 rehearsal of *Pan* with Claire Chase and Doug Fitch
Bat and Moth Night
July 30, 2021

Participants joined Conrad Vispo and Dylan Cipkowski of the Hawthorne Valley Farmscape Ecology Program to learn about PS21’s secretive nocturnal wildlife at Bat & Moth Night. Before the sun set, Conrad and Dylan discussed local bat and moth diversity, ecology, and conservation with a slide show, showcasing various moth species captured the night before the event. At sunset, participants ventured out into the trails to listen for the ultrasonic calls of bats flying around the landscape using hand-held bat detectors.
The Paul Taylor Dance Company Community Dance Classes
July & August

Crelin Park campers eagerly walked the trails connecting the Town’s Crellin Park and PS21, for the annual Free Family Friday series, a weekly exploration of performance arts through workshops and master classes. One such event was members of the Paul Taylor Dance Company Christina Lynch Markham and Madelyn Ho teaching a dance workshop. These young campers got moving in our Dance barn and had a glimpse into the moves and techniques behind the Paul Taylor style.
In celebration of Crellin Community Park Day, Acting for Climate Montréal and Cirque Barcode performed the U.S. premiere of *Branché* to an audience of over 500. A theatrical circus arts performance that builds a collaborative network of artists and activists for a sustainable future, *Branché* celebrates nature, community, and optimism in the face of the climate crisis as performers inspire artists and activists to get outside and work together.

Cirque Barcode’s acrobat-dancers offered free movement workshops for kids on August 9 and August 10. The performers demonstrated and taught the movements, techniques, and exercises that underpin *Branché* and their other works. Participants included Chatham area and Crellin Park Summer Camp youth.
The Wooster Group Summer Institute
August 9 – August 15, 2021

A week of sessions with guest artists teaching movement, writing, voice training, and video techniques open to Columbia County public school students. The programming focused on developing these skills and concluded with public performances on August 14 and 15, presented at the PS21 Dance Barn.

Participants for the intensive were recruited based on the recommendation of their principals and teachers, with priority being given to those who qualify for government assistance.

Kate Valk, founding member of the Wooster Group, performing with the participants in their public showcase, August 15
The U.S. premiere of *Instable* by French circus troupe Les Hommes Penché’s saw PS21’s Pavilion Theater transformed, with audience members of all ages sitting in the round and watching as Nicolas Fraiseau, acrobatic everyman, attempted to surmount the 16 foot pole. He tried, failed, and tried again, his struggle hovering between comedy and tragedy. Tickets were free for kids under 16.
Nicolas Fraiseau also offered two circus and movement workshops free of charge to members of the Chatham community and beyond, held at PS21’s Dance Barn.
Farmer’s Daughter Gravel Grinder
August 15, 2021

We were pleased to welcome the Farmer’s Daughter Gravel Grinder, now in its 7th year, to PS21 for the first time. The event followed a 65-mile-long bike course with 6,400 feet of climbing that takes riders through some of the most scenic and challenging terrain in the Northeast. The beginning and ending stages of the ride, hosted at PS21, traversed some of the new trail network that crisscrosses our 100 acres of meadows, orchards, and woodlands and links to Chatham’s Crellin Community Park.
PS21 Press and Media

• Albany Times Union: Mini Review, Cirque Barcode at PS21 (August 9, 2021)
• Albany Times Union: Film Actor Nicole Ansari Takes on Theater, Women’s Lives With She/Her (August 6, 2021)
• Berkshire Eagle Arts and Culture: At PS21, Women Speak Their Truth in She/Her (August 6, 2021)
• AIR MAIL – Arts Intel Report: Fancy Footwork (July 24, 2021)
• Hudson-Housatonic Arts: Springtime and Jazz Provide the Caffeine – an Evening of Modern and Contemporary Music at PS21, Chatham (July 19, 2021)
• AIR MAIL – Arts Intel Report: Orpheus with Caleb Teicher & Company (July 12, 2021)
• WMHT Radio: Summer at PS21, PS21 Executive Director Elena Siyanko on WMHT (July 7, 2021)
• Side of Culture: Dance Emerges in the Hudson Valley….Brilliant and Mindful of Community (July 7, 2021)
• WAMC Northeast Public Radio: PS21 Executive Director Elena Siyanko on WAMC Rountable with Joe Donahue (July 1, 2021)
• The New York Times: Theater Heads North, and in Every Direction at Once (June 22, 2021)
• Chronogram: Theater Round-Up (June 1, 2021)
• Opera News: The Extinctionist (May 29, 2021)
• The New York Times: After Transforming Classics, an Opera Company Tries a Premiere (May 27, 2021)
• The Lakeville Journal: A Full Menu of Offerings at PS21 (May 26, 2021)
• Times Union: Classical Notes: New opera mirrors childbirth-rate debate (May 23, 2021)
• The Boston Globe: 10 delightful dance highlights
• Rural Intelligence: Ten (And a Few More) Tix Not to Miss – Dance (May 10, 2021)
• Chronogram: Mixed Media – 5 Cultural Tidbits You Need To Know (May 1, 2021)
• AIR MAIL – Arts Intel Report: The Extinctionist (April 28, 2021)
• The Berkshire Eagle: Camille A. Brown & Dancers kick off 2021 programming at PS21 (February 2, 2021)
“Was a highlight experience of my year.”

“The variety and quality of the performances was fantastic.”

“Live performance is an amplified experience in the PS21 space, both expansive and intimate at once. (...) The level of artistic curation is excellent.”

“The programming was really interesting and the presentation felt novel in part due to the space. [PS21 is] made for creative performances.”

“The interaction between setting and music [in Follow Me Into the Field!], and between environment and performers, and the sense of discovery was really inspiring.”

“Fabulous connection to outdoor landscape (particularly 10,000 Birds performance); variety of performances; proximity to performers.”

“Saw John Luther Adams birdsongs with Alarm Will Sound. Loved exploring an outdoor musical landscape – a brilliant reimagining of live performance, yet totally safe and compliant with COVID precautions. Gives one hope that the arts can evolve in response to new and challenging parameters. Our daughter (7) was enthralled and engaged throughout the piece, which had an all-ages appeal without sacrificing complexity or depth. The performers blended musical intensity with delight and humor, creating an ethos of playfulness that I could have bathed in for hours. Best work I have seen, heard, or felt in 2020.”

“[...] I had not been to a live theatrical event since February and knew I missed it but last night filled me with such emotion and gratitude. Live cultural performances sustain me and fortify my soul. I had almost forgotten how healing the visceral feel of art conjured in front of you can have. More than my soul needed it, I realized. My body did too. My body missed bearing witness. Thank you.”
Audience Responses 2021

“Local folk--there's a fine looking series at PS21 in Chatham beginning July 5th. Executive director Elena Siyanko has been leading a valiant effort with regard to that ancient quandary: how to present adventurous, contemporary music while still attracting an audience, an all but impossible task, but she's done quite well. We attended two superb piano performances last summer and will be going to the August 26th event. If you're in the area, check out the program below and do yourselves a favor, buy a ticket. The incredible, open-sided theater itself is worth the price of admission.” - Brian, on the House Blend chamber music series

“This was an amazing performance. I feel so fortunate that we got to see it.” - Jill, on the premiere of Branché by Cirque Barcode and Acting for Climate Montreal

“Thank you so much for this awe inspiring performance!” - Wendy, on the performance on the performance of Branché by Cirque Barcode and Acting for Climate Montreal

“Thank you Conrad Vispo and Dylan Cipkowski for the fun and informative talk.” - Linda, on Bat & Moth Night

“As good an example of PS21 unique programming vision as I might ever imagine. And as wonderful an introduction to what "circus" is becoming - no longer virtuosity for its own sake but with subtext that in this case aligns with the precarious struggles of our ground shaking times”- Anonymous, on the premiere of Branché by Cirque Barcode and Acting for Climate Montreal

“The performance was wonderful! Such joy and exuberance. Thank you, PS21, for bringing such wonderful programming to us.” - Mary, on the Paul Taylor Dance Company performance and PS21’s programming

“Thank you PS21 for the opportunity. The kids all had a wonderful time.” - Tracy, on the senior class Arbor Day visit.