

The University of Maine

DigitalCommons@UMaine

Division of Marketing & Communications

University of Maine Departmental Records

9-21-2020

COVID-19_UMaine News_University of Maine Project Tells Story of COVID-19 Pandemic through Arts

University of Maine Division of Marketing and Communications

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/c19_marketing



Part of the [Anthropology Commons](#), [Higher Education Commons](#), [History Commons](#), and the [Medicine and Health Sciences Commons](#)

Repository Citation

University of Maine Division of Marketing and Communications, "COVID-19_UMaine News_University of Maine Project Tells Story of COVID-19 Pandemic through Arts" (2020). *Division of Marketing & Communications*. 44.

https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/c19_marketing/44

This Webpage is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Division of Marketing & Communications by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.

UMaine News

Home UMaine Today Magazine Submit news Subscribe Podcast Contact  

Want weekly UMaine news updates in your inbox?

[SUBSCRIBE NOW](#)

Recent Posts

New data science project to model range shifts of hundreds of plant and animal species in New England

Published: September 21, 2020

Morning Ag Clips promotes food insecurity discussion with Schattman, Yerxa

Published: September 21, 2020

Calderwood talks with AP about challenges to Maine blueberry industry

Published: September 21, 2020

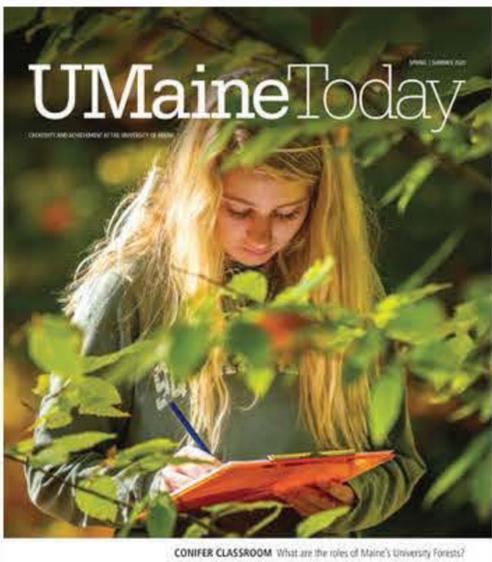
Phys.org highlights Leslie collaboration study

Published: September 21, 2020

WAGM interviews Mann about HOPE program

Published: September 21, 2020

UMaine Today



University of Maine project tells story of COVID-19 pandemic through arts

September 15, 2020

Editor's note: story updated Sept. 21.

Maine residents are invited to participate in a new project at the University of Maine that is using the arts to tell the story of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Jack Pine Project, a collaboration of the Maine Folklife Center, Maine Studies Program and the Hutchinson Center, connects professional artists, including UMaine faculty, with residents statewide, including vulnerable groups such as incarcerated people and cancer patients. The free workshops are underway; [registration is online](#).

The Jack Pine Project uses the creative arts to help residents tell their stories of the pandemic and its impacts on their lives, according to Kreg Ettenger, director of Maine Studies and the Maine Folklife Center, and associate professor of anthropology. It takes its name from the tree that releases its seeds in times of stress, such as after a wildfire.

“Art is something that everyone can relate to, and that touches us in powerful ways,” Ettenger says. “One goal of the project is to bring people together who share a common experience, such as health care workers or teachers, and have them work with an artist to present this shared experience to others.”

Art can also help people begin the process of healing from the shock and grief of a pandemic that has killed over 100 people in the state, sickened thousands, and touched the lives of many more. Several of the workshop instructors are trained as art or music therapists, Ettenger says, and will use their skills to help participants deal with their emotions while creating art.

The project involves a number of workshops in various genres, from visual arts to songwriting and the dramatic arts. Instructors include printmakers, theater producers, songwriters, fiber artists and others. Each will work with a small group to teach them a craft, then help them produce projects that reveal different facets of Maine’s coronavirus experience.

Among the project’s dozen or so workshops: music therapist Carla Tanguay is working with cancer patients in the Ellsworth region to create a group songwriting project. Stephen Legawiec, artistic director of the Camden Shakespeare Festival, is meeting via Zoom with other theater producers, directors and actors statewide to put their coronavirus experiences into dramatic monologues. Another instructor is working with veterans in the Maine prison system as they explore the impacts of COVID-19 on their lives, which have become even more isolated and dangerous as a result of the pandemic.

A full list of workshops with registration information is on the project’s website. All Jack Pine Project workshops are free for participants, although space is limited, and some workshops are restricted to certain groups. A live event next year and the project website will share the art with the wider community.

“The Hutchinson Center is proud to be a part of this important project, supporting our community as (people) explore their COVID-19 experiences and begin the process of healing through the arts,” says interim director Kim Wilson-Raymond. “The project aligns with the goals of the Hutchinson Center to provide education, arts and cultural opportunities for our community.”

Contact: Kreg Ettenger, kreg.ettenger@maine.edu

Share this:     

Division of Marketing and Communications
5703 Alumni Hall
Orono, ME 04469-5703

Tel: 207.581.3743
Fax: 207.581.3776

Home
Submit news
Podcast

UMaine Today Magazine
Subscribe
Contact

