

THE LIFE OF A DROP OF WATER

HERNAN PAGANINI

STORMWATER X LATINX ARTIST IN RESIDENCE OCT 2018 TO NOV 2019 KING COUNTY STORMWATER SERVICES SECTION + 4 CULTURE

A personal exploration of the Pacific Northwest landscape and condition of water in all its forms.



HERNAN PAGANINI

www.paganinihernan.com viajeenbarco@gmail.com Instagram: @hernanpaganini

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STORMWATER X LATINX ARTIST IN RESIDENCE OCT 2018 TO NOV 2019 KING COUNTY STORMWATER SERVICES SECTION + 4CULTURE

The gestures inside my work reveal three simple facts; nothing lasts, nothing is finished and nothing is perfect.

I took as a starting point the relationship between nature and culture, awakening primitive behavior, developing artistic constructions with a particular and wild type of understanding, where it is possible to transmit tools that are also a means of knowledge. Presenting the possibility of sharing; transmuting the concept of supposed cultural differences in a new symbolic and aesthetic sense.

The art program that I created is called *The Life Of A Drop Of Water* and this PUBLICATION presents the research, observations, diagnostics, different methodological solutions and diverse tools to engage the King County Stormwater Services Section with the community.

GOALS

CREATE A GRAPHIC IDENTITY FOR KING COUNTY STORMWATER DEPARTMENT ENGAGE THE PEOPLE WITH THE CITY AND WATERS WHERE THEY LIVE INTEGRATE STORMWATER CAMPAIGNS IN THE PUBLIC SPACE BRING VISUAL PRESENCE TO THE STORMWATER DEPARTMENT IN THE PUBLIC SPACE EXPAND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PEOPLE AND THE LANDSCAPE BRING NEW RESOURCES AND INFORMATION TO THE COMMUNITY INVITE THE COMMUNITY TO BE PART OF THE CHANGE EXTEND THE WALLS OF THEIR HOUSES

CREATE INDIVIDUAL COLLECTIVE GESTURE TO PROMOTE WATER QUALITY GIVE VISIBILITY TO THE INVISIBLE

Opposite: Dew forming on a blade of grass, starting its journey to the moss and soil below.

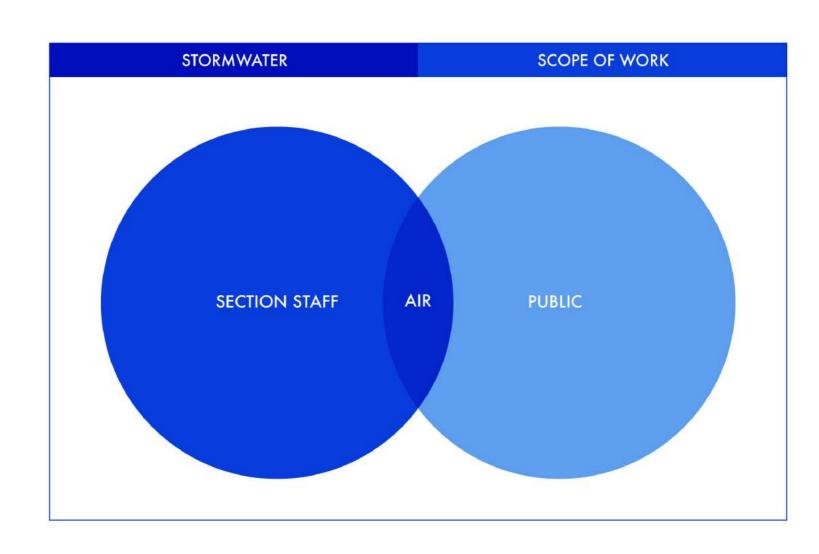
RESIDENCY

SCOPE OF WORK

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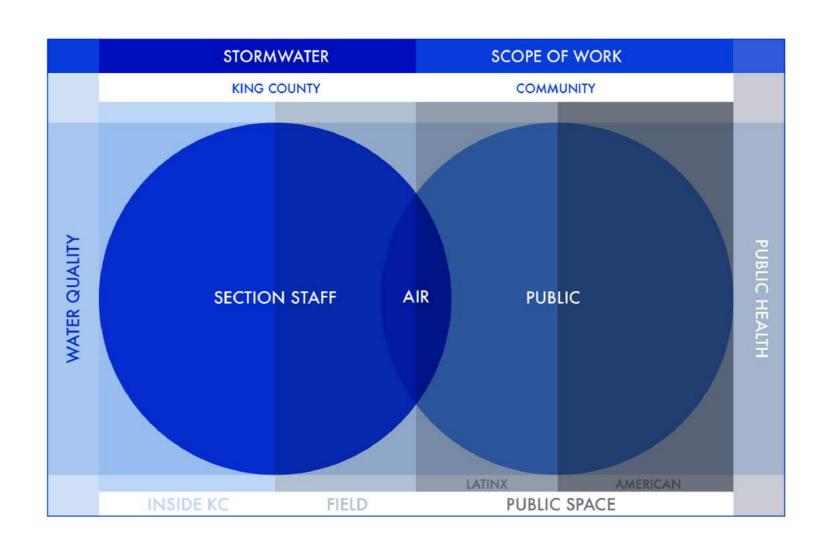
The following two graphics are visual representations that I created to fragment and approach the multiple layers of information in a more simple and organized way.

The graphic to the right is the first general approach of the scope of the residency.



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This second graphic to the right is a complex expansion and further deeper division from the multiple layers of the scope of work.



STORMWATER SECTION

field study observations





The Pacific Northwest is a unique environment. As a new transplant to this land I was fascinated by the weather patterns, the vastness and strength of the nature.

As part of the Stormwater residency I started to explore the journey of water, how it's formed, its fall from the sky, the process that it goes through dropping on leaves, filtering through moss, seeping into the soil, and I learned about all of the interesting fauna that grows because of this process.

LOCATION

Cougar Mountain, WA



Looking up into the sky, through the leaves of autumn colored leaves.









I was struck by the quantity and diversity of mushrooms that grow from this cold and water soaked land.









I was equally inspired by the numerous varieties of moss and lichen textures.







One day walking down to Lake Washington to explore the shore, I saw in the distance storm clouds forming. I started imagining the future journey of all of these little drops of water.

Where will they fall?
What path will they take?
What will they meet along the way?
Where will they end up?

LOCATION

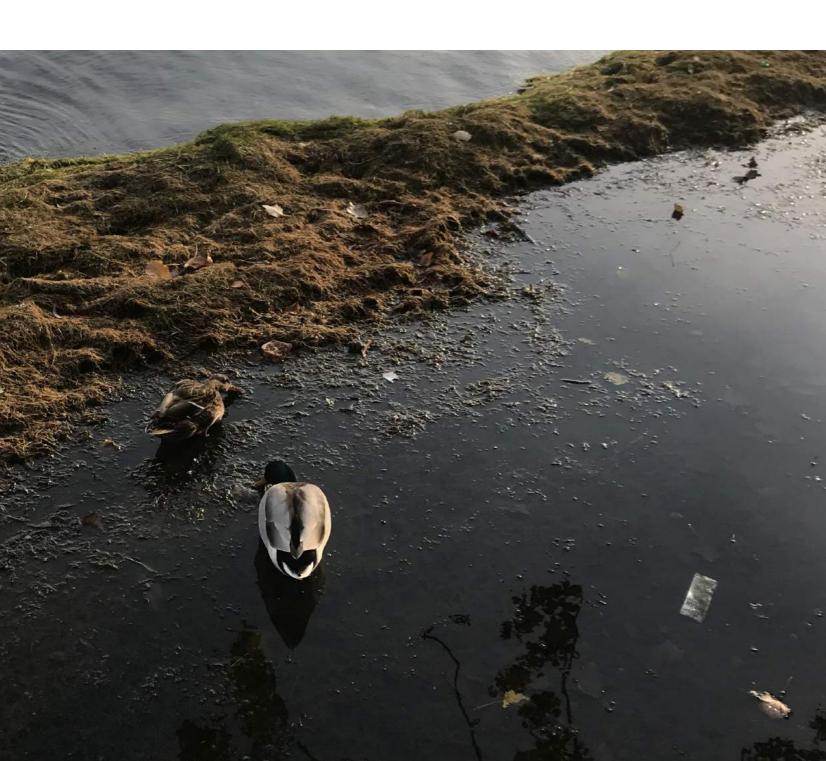
Magnuson Park, WA



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Upon closer examination of the waters edge there are many signs of human generated pollution, cigarette butts, plastic wrappers and other garbage.

I started thinking about how these materials arrived here, and what other types of contaminants may be present.





Field trip to the Brightwater Treatment Plant.







LOCATION

East King County



One afternoon I accompanied a team of engineers from the King County
Stormwater Services Section, and watched while they installed an overflow filter for a beaver pond.
This system helps keep escaping water free from debris.

I learned how water from saturated soil runs along the ground following the path of least resistance, becoming streams and rivers, running into ponds, lakes and other bodies of water. As this water flows it picks up particles along the way, both natural and man-made.

During this process stormwater can become polluted picking up fertilizers and pesticides from agriculture, and urban runoff including, pet waste, chemicals, oil and sewage seepage from the groundwater.

The landscape is not only a thing to contemplate, it is knowledge about ourselves of who we were, we are and we wish to be.

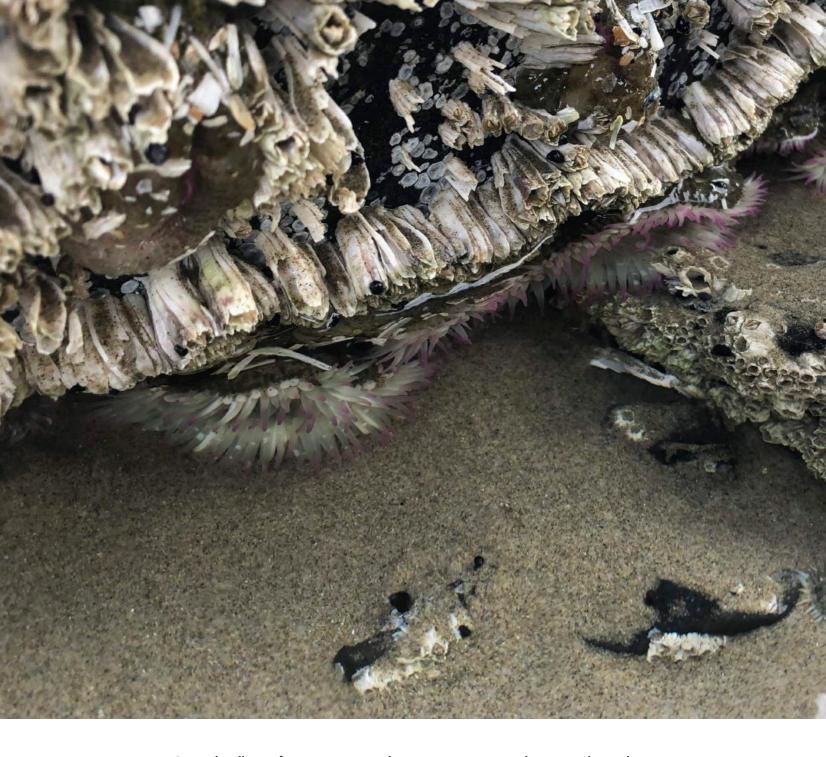
Stormwater eventually flows into our rivers and streams. Excess water can potentially overwhelm local infrastructure causing overflows, and may introduce materials into the Puget Sound and surrounding bodies of water that are harmful to both aquatic and human health.







Connecting my body with the landscape.



Coastal pollution from our cities and towns poses a great threat to tide pool animals and plants. Discarded trash, oil spills, sewage spills, and toxic chemical runoff can all impact intertidal marine life.











It is vital to begin to visualize a present future where professional practices are not simply functioning in isolation, but rather interconnected in a more organic way...

providing new opportunities for expansion and building individuals with greater capacity to adapt to different contexts. I feel that artists can provide a sensitive look in this aspect and function as a connector between these gears.

I believe that in these contemporary times disciplines are juxtaposed, staggered, scraped, enraged, approached, denied, affirmed, constructed and reconstructed in new possible interpretations; a new lexicon of misunderstandings, actions that try to produce new questions, unlearn what has been learned and think again about how we interact with others and the system we inhabit.

Art ceases to be a purpose and becomes a medium.



STORMWATER SECTION

GRAPHIC IDENTITY (RESEARCH AND OBSERVATIONS

STORMWATER DEFINITION

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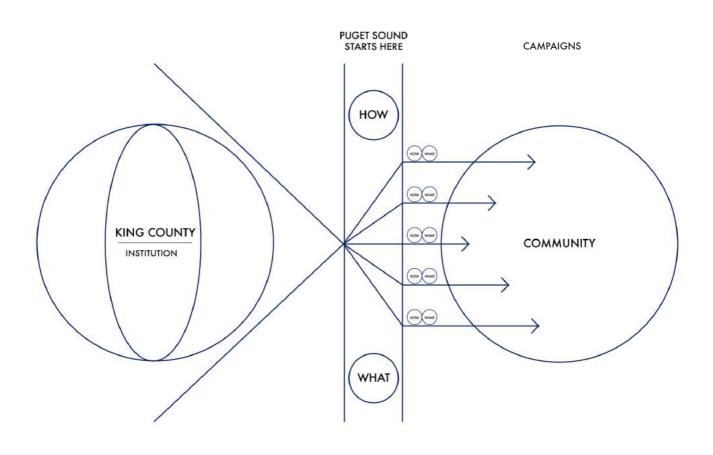
Rain washes pollution from car leaks, car wash soaps, pesticides, fertilizers, and pet waste into storm drains, straight to local streams, lakes, rivers, and Puget Sound.

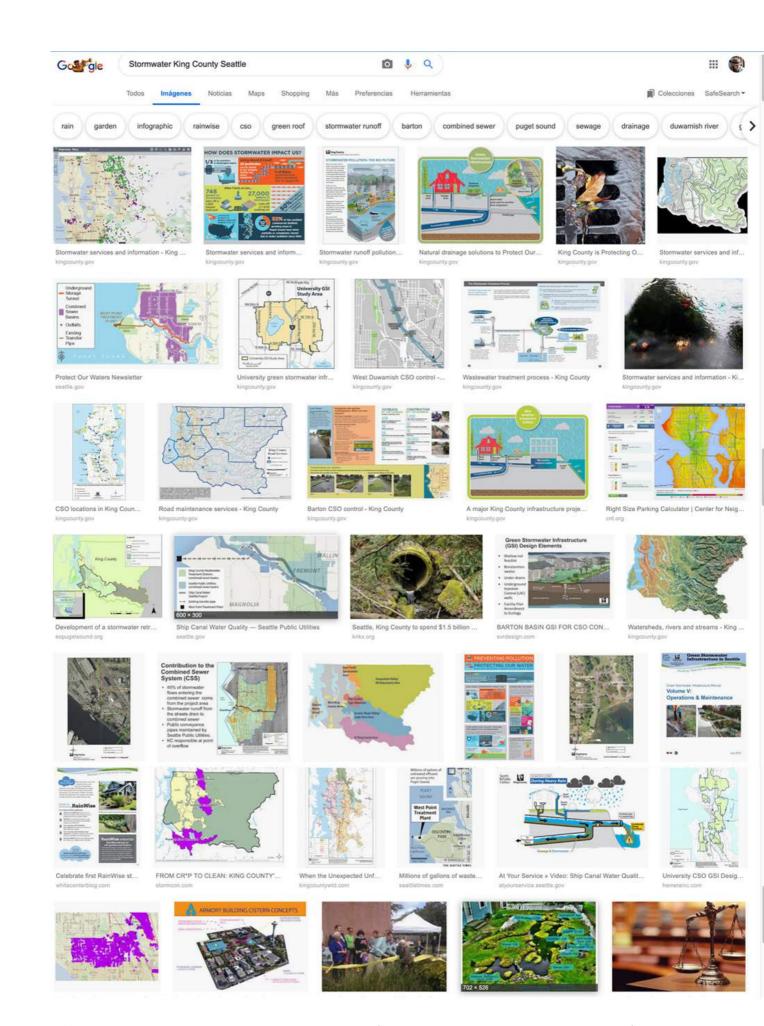
- pugetsoundstartshere.org

My first approach to the graphics inside of the office was researching past projects, campaigns, and marketing materials.

Simultaneously, the visual feedback from my first internet investigation resulted in information which felt disconnected. Each campaign, although powerful, functioned individually and had completely different graphic languages and identities. There was no visual cohesion which made these materials appear to come from the same source.

I drew this graphic to the right to represent how the information about stormwater is delivered in a linear way, thus, making it difficult for the community to understand what the real problem is and what they can do to help.







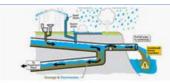
Seattle-Area Project Starts to Treat ...



Center Campus Green Stormwater Re...



King County Stormwater Map (Se., arcois.com



Ship Canal Water Quality Project ...



West Seattle Blog_ []



Incentives | 12,000 Rain Gardens 12000raingardens.org



WIFIA-financed King County, Wash ... stormwater.wef.org



Sues Insurer Over Stormwater Pipe Fix ...



RainWise helps Seattle homeowners ...



New study res kingcountywtd.



West Seattle Blog... | Another ... westseattleblog.com



King County unveils West Seattle rain ...



King County DNRP (@KCDNRP... twitter.com



Harvest your own rainwater to drink ...



What is a Green roof?



STORMWATER & GSI/LID - MIG|SVR



Challenges on the Green-Duwamish ...



raw sewage into Puget Sound ...



Seattle, King County to spend \$1.5 ... knicz.org



King County Natural Reso sustainablewestseattle.org



low-cost sidewalk plans ...



Seattle Public Schools sustainabilityambassadors.or



Combined Sewer Overflows in Seattle, WA ...



Inglewood Hill Stormwater Retrofit and ...



King County sues insu



WIFIA-financed King County, Wash ... stormwater.wef.org



Sea-Tac Stormwater and Drainage | Port ... portseattle.org



County continues legal batt... columbian.com



Hernan Paganini Selected for Stormwater ... 4culture.org



700 Million Gallons | Learn 700milliongallons.org













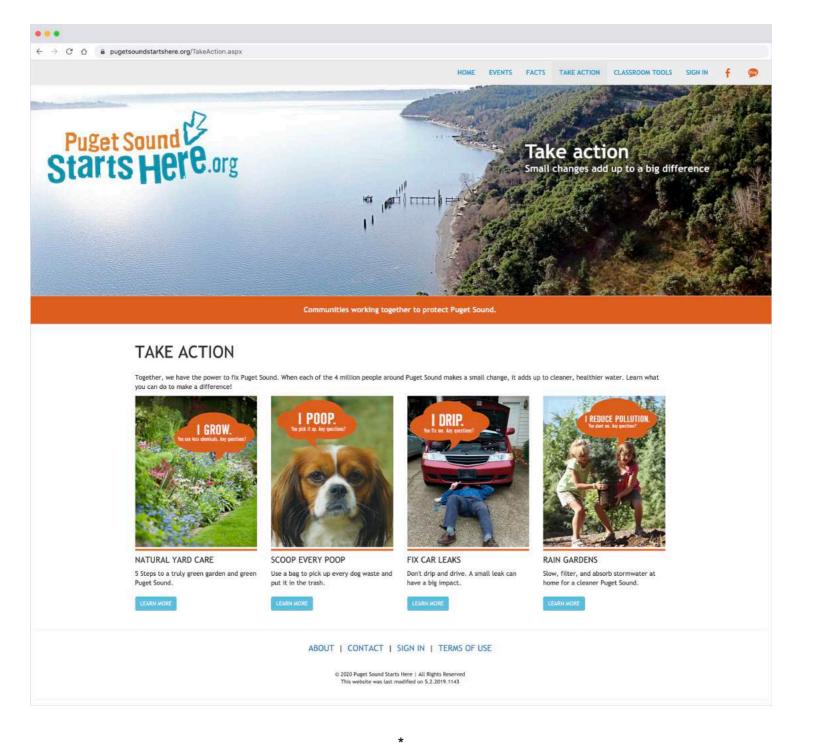






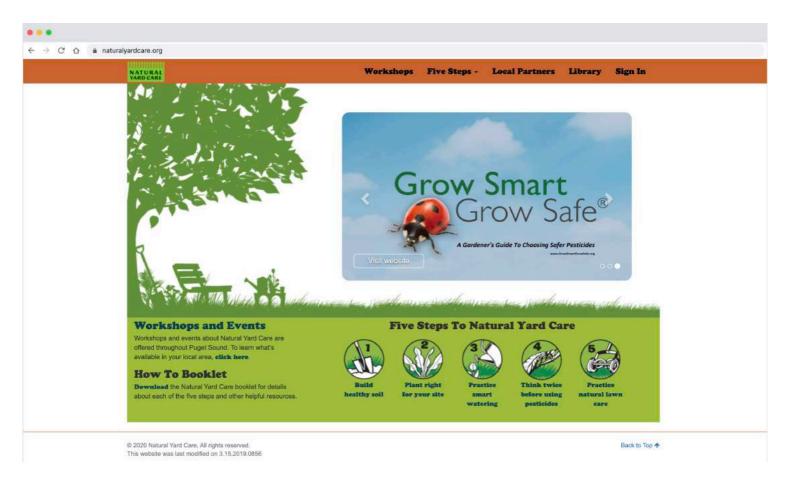






Screenshot from the Puget Sound Starts Here web page with links to four of the main stormwater clean campaigns.

You will see on the following pages screenshot from the campaign homepages. With the exception of Dog Doogity, there is a lack of branding connecting these campaigns to the King County Stormwater Services Section.



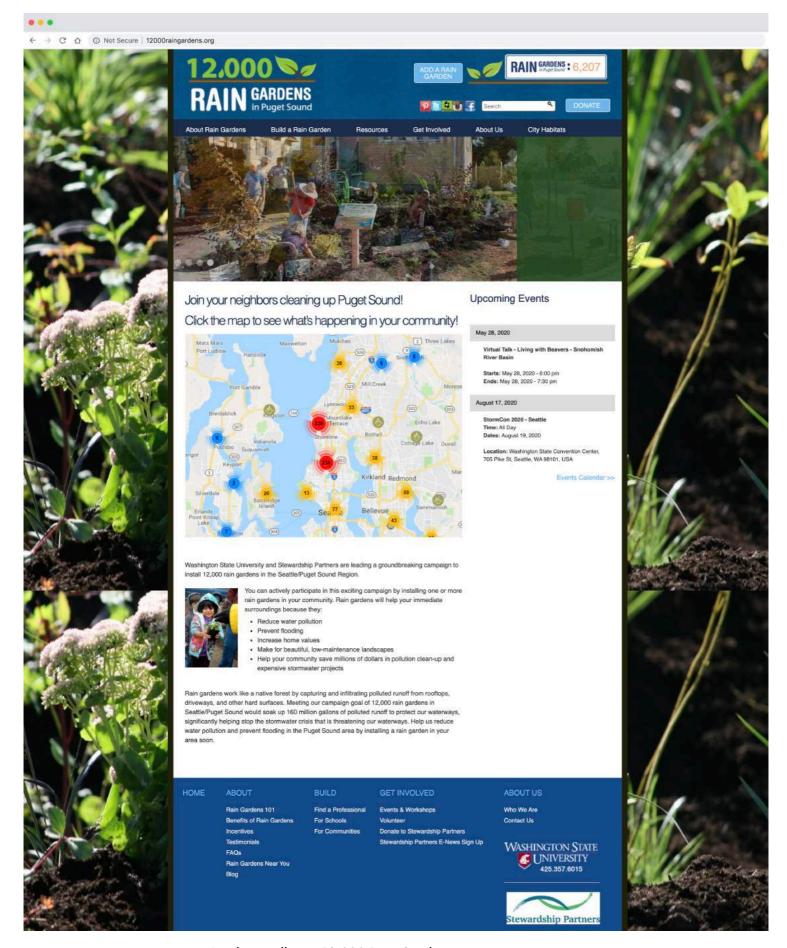
I grow Natural Yard Care campaign.



I poop Dog Doogity campaign.



I drip Fix Car Leaks campaign.



I reduce pollution 12,000 Rain Gardens campaign.

As I mentioned before, my first approach to the graphics inside of the office was researching past projects, campaigns, and marketing materials.

The visual feedback from my first internet investigation resulted in information which felt disconnected. To reiterate, each campaign, although powerful, functioned individually and had completely different graphic languages and identities. There was no visual cohesion which made these materials appear to come from the same source.



STORMWATER POLLUTION: THE BIG PICTURE

When rain washes over the Puget Sound region, the water that runs off the land is called stormwater. This runoff goes untreated through storm drains to the nearest water body and can overload sewage treatment systems. This creates two big issues: polluted water and too much water.

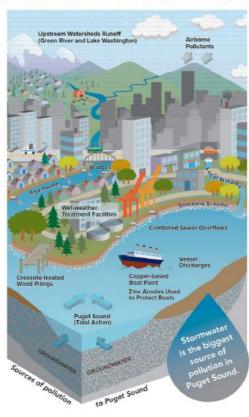
Polluted water

Stormwater runoff carries dirt, vehicle oils, and toxic chemicals like fertilizers, bacteria and waste from pets, livestock, and failing septic systems into our local waters.

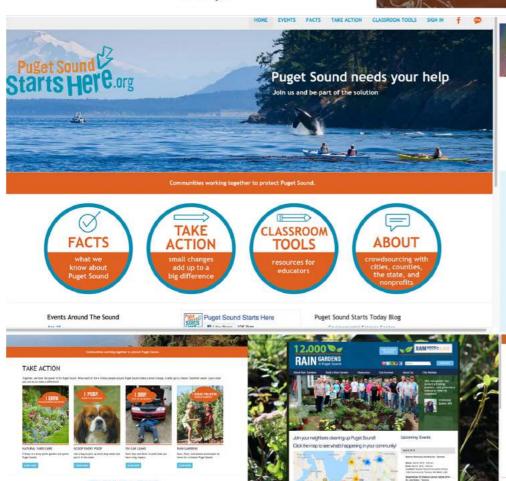
This pollution threatens clean drinking water and harms wildlife, salmon, Orcas, clams and shellfish. It can be a public health problem and close swimming and shellfishing

Too much water

When lands are developed, hard surfaces like pavement increase stormwater flows as less rain soaks into the ground. Our region is growing, and more stormwater will flow directly into our local waters.











PROPOSAL

GRAPHIC IDENTITY

When I arrived at this point, I was feeling the inner call to create some kind of graphic language system that can integrate all the different information and resources that the Stormwater Services Section could share with the community under this code.

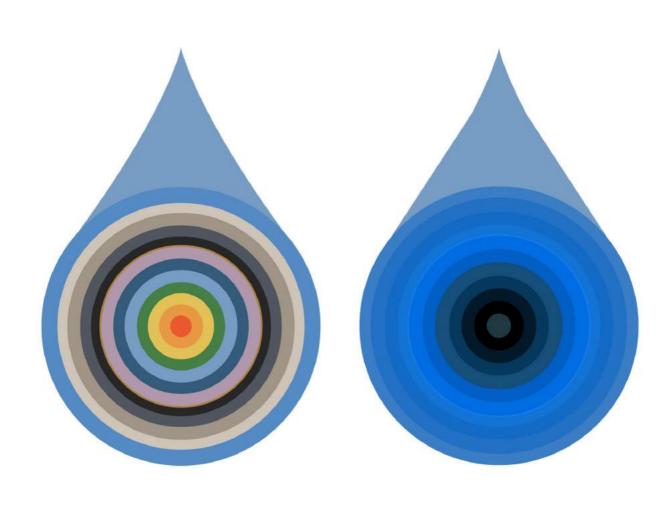
I was so focused on the stormwater problem that I needed to open the subject to have a more transversal approach. To expand this possibility I went back to the root and I began researching about water in a more abstract way, trying to study the subject as if I didn't know anything about it.

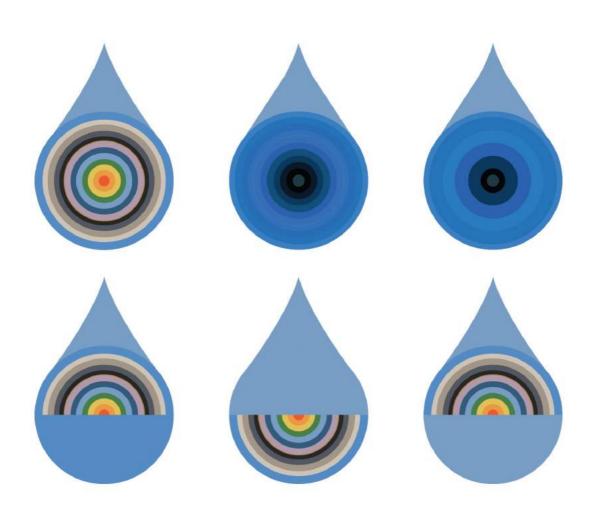
In this deep dive I came across a paper that grabbed my attention completely. It was from Dr. Emoto, a Japanese scientist who makes investigations about the different qualities of water. In several studies he discovered that water has memory, and is a living subject. This was a point of reflection for me and completely changed my perspective.

With this idea of water as a living thing, I came back to the office and I started to play with different drawings until I arrived to some preliminary designs.



Microscopic view of frozen water molecules exposed to different words, emotions and sounds. From the research of Dr. Emoto.





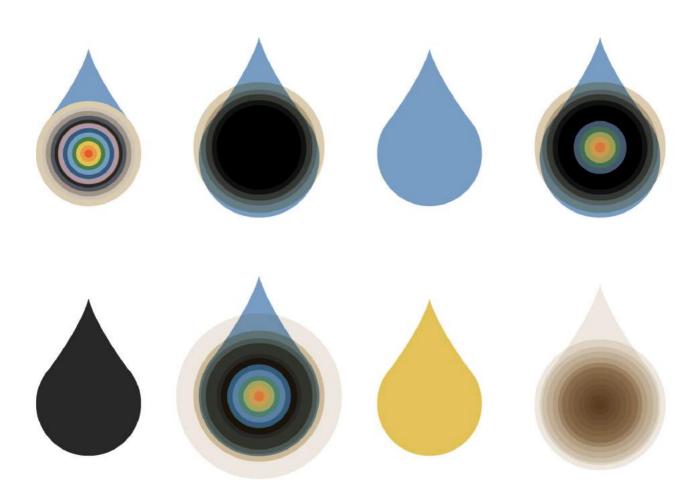




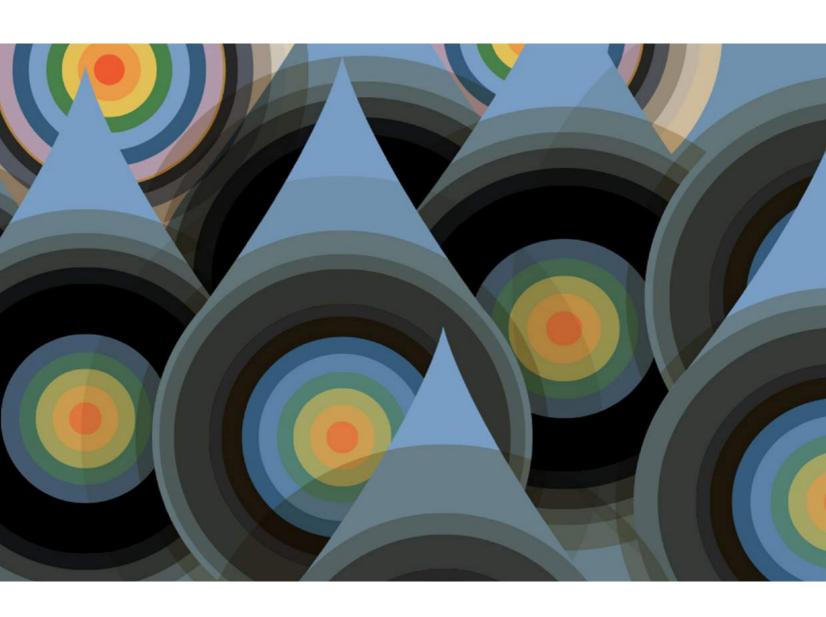




STORMWATER KC
SERVICES SECTION
WATER AND LAND RESOURCES DIVISION



Variations for the graphic above can be used to signify the level of contamination, such as, pet waste, pesticides, car oil leaks, fertilizer/pesticides, etc.

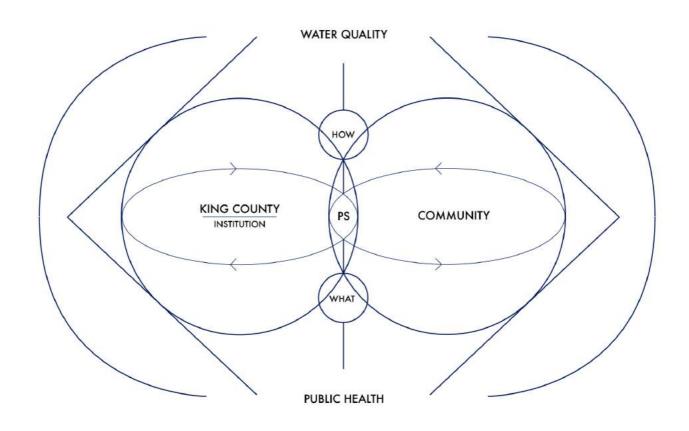


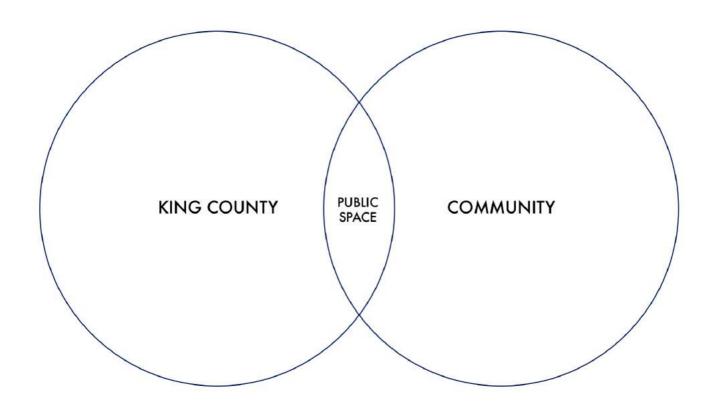
PROPOSAL

PUBLIC ART ACTIVATION

The following diagram is an evolution of the one presented previously on page 51, and shows a more circular unified possibility to engage the Stormwater Services Section with the community in a more organic and cyclical way.

When I started to bring these two huge fields together, I realized that the point of inflection and bridge between them was the Public Space.





PUBLIC SPACE AS

*

PUBLIC SPACE AS HOME
PUBLIC SPACE AS CANVAS
PUBLIC SPACE AS PUBLIC ART
PUBLIC SPACE AS SCHOOL
PUBLIC SPACE AS BOOK
PUBLIC SPACE AS WORK IN PROGRESS
PUBLIC SPACE AS KNOWLEDGE

I arrived to the point where I understood that the Public Space was the main key to engage the community and the King County Stormwater Services Section.

So I approached this situation with two simple actions. The first one was working in the office in a macro scale with the King County maps, and the second was in a micro scale going out and walking though the city.

As I was working through these two different perspectives I kept the following important questions in mind.

HOW CAN I INTEGRATE ALL THE CITIES OF KING COUNTY	
WHAT DO THEY HAVE IN COMMON	
BRING VISUAL PRESENCE TO THE STORMWATER DEPARTMENT IN THE PUBLIC SPACE	
CONNECT THE LAND WITH THE WATER	
HELP PEOPLE SEE HOW THEIR DAILY ACTIONS AFFECT THE PUGET SOUND	
MAKE THE INVISIBLE VISIBLE	

As I was walking with these thoughts in mind, the only place where I found some shy Stormwater presence in the city were on the rain drains. I realized that I can make some kind of activations in this same space and use the city as a place to bring and hold information about this subject.

Making a deep research I realized that a lot of people in the community know very little, if anything about the real function of these rain drains, and that the only moment of the year that they have any contact with them is during the autumn when the leaves cover these places. Not much else is known about them beyond this detail.

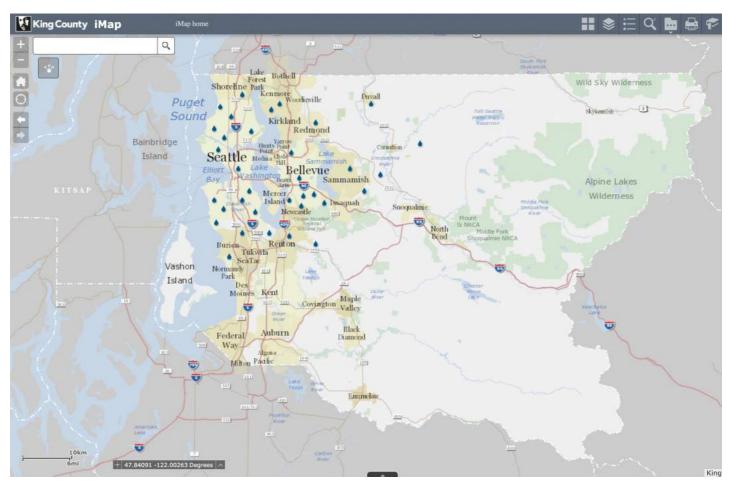


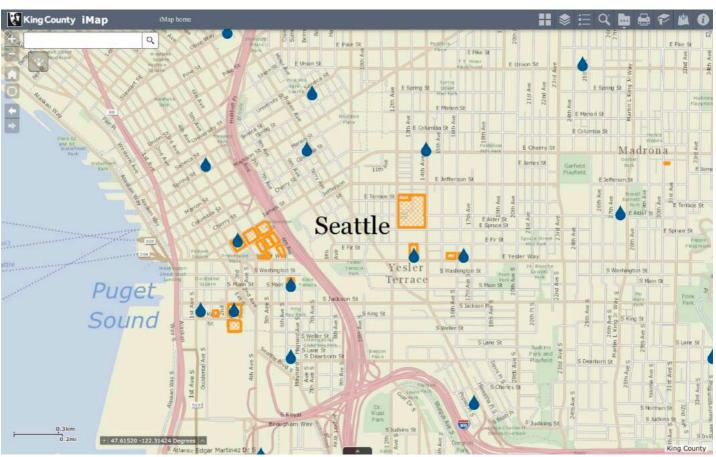


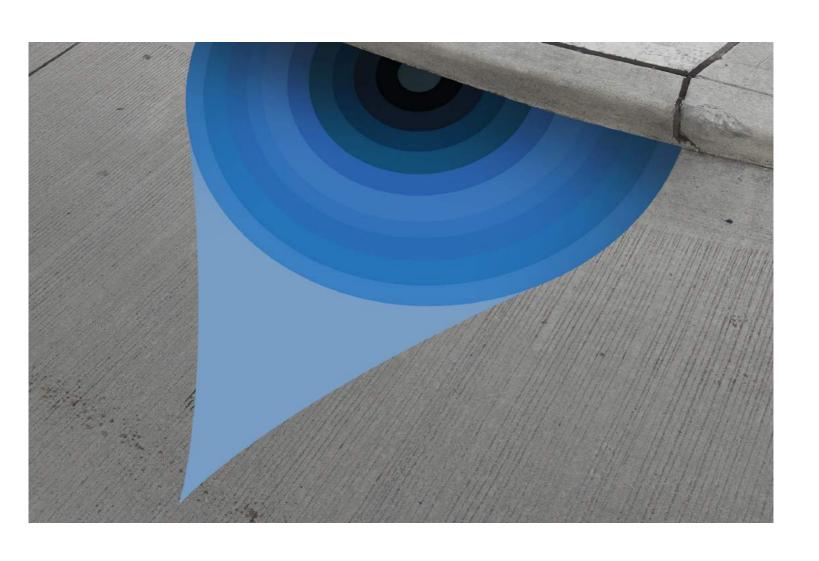


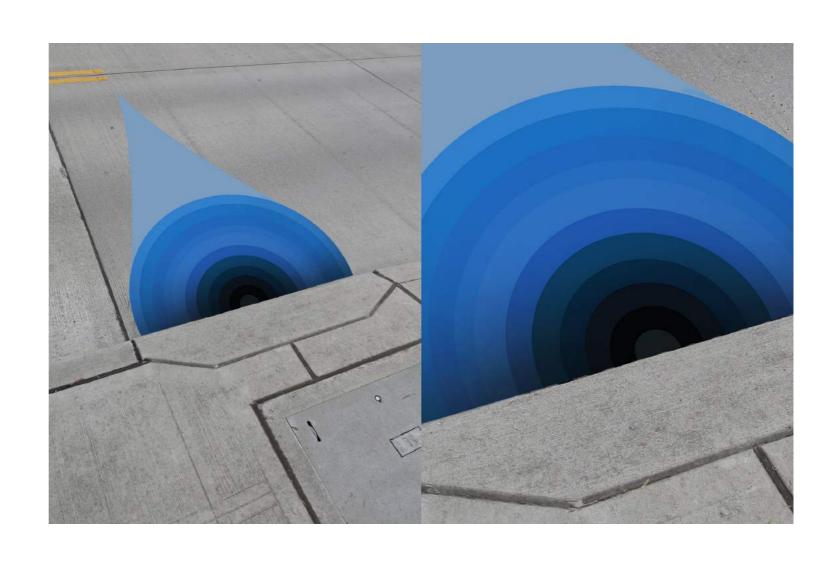
Remembering the previous graphics identity I had designed, I looked to integrate this work into an activation of the rain drains, first in Seattle, with the possibility to expand this project into greater King County.

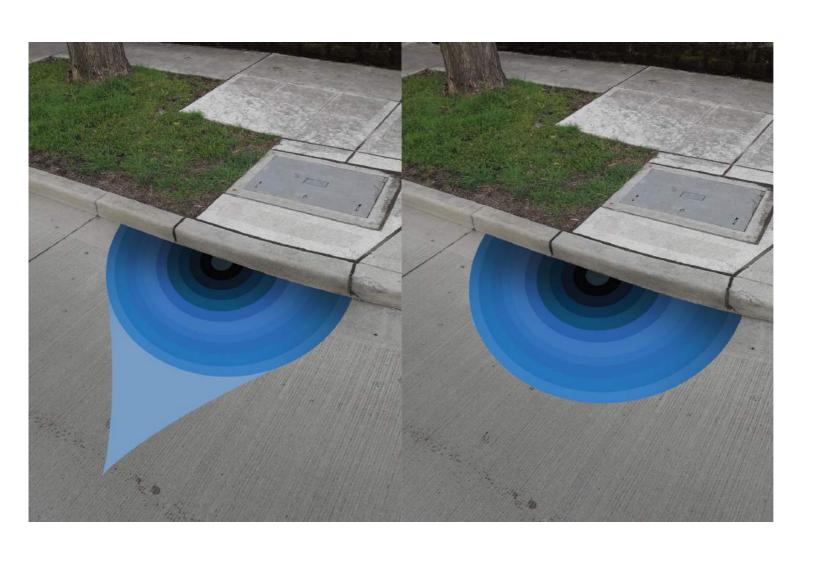
The following maps show this potential first stage of planting and expanding these drops of water creating a net through all the area.

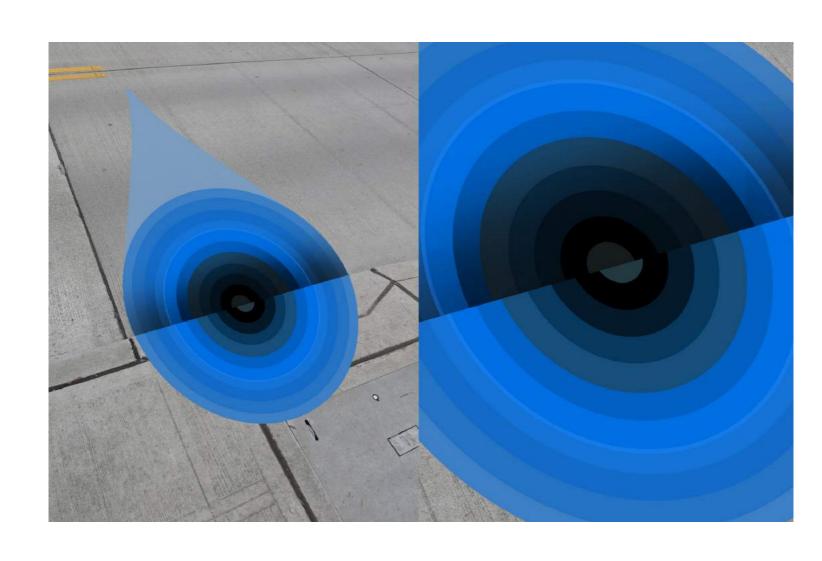


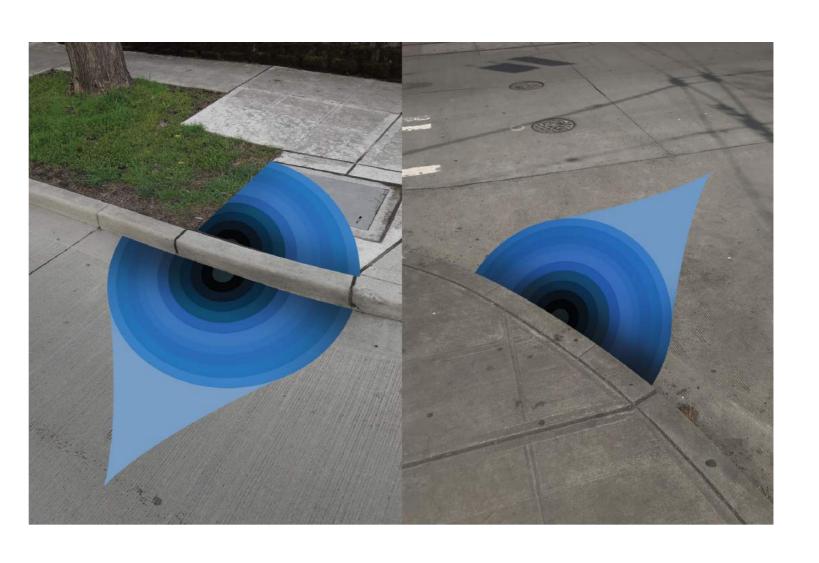


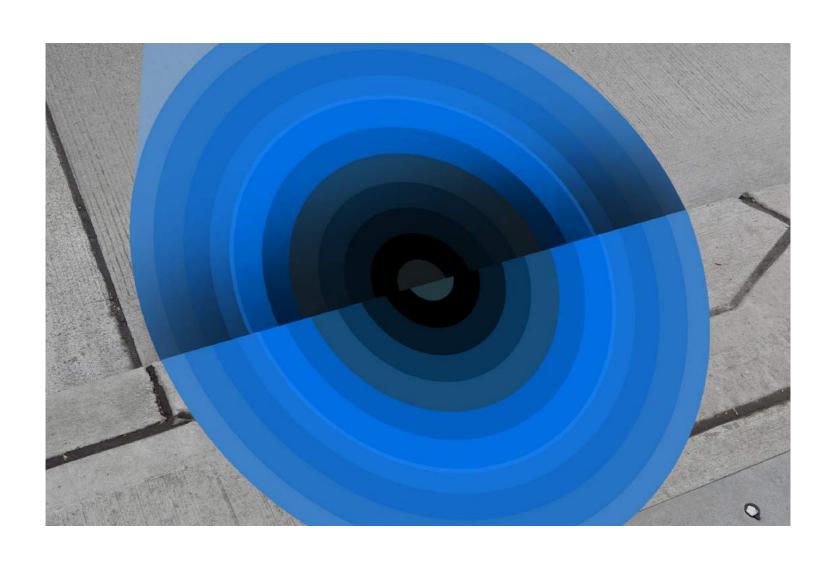






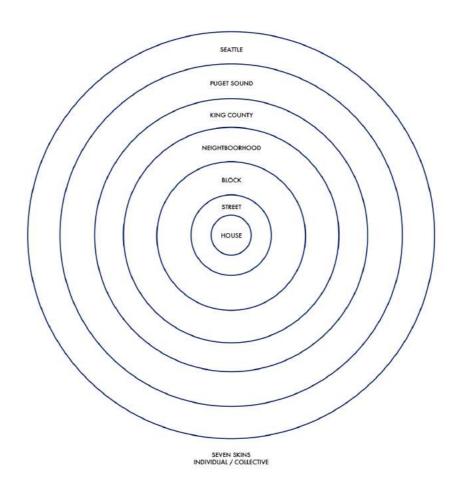






This graphic shows the inner relation that is created between an individual person and the dialogue they have with the surrounding landscape, and all the respective intervening layers.

Allowing reflection on which way the action that each person makes affects the greater environment in which they live.



PROPOSAL

WORKSHOP: MESSAGE TO THE PUGET SOUND
(South Park Neighborhood Center with Duwamish Valley Youth Corps)

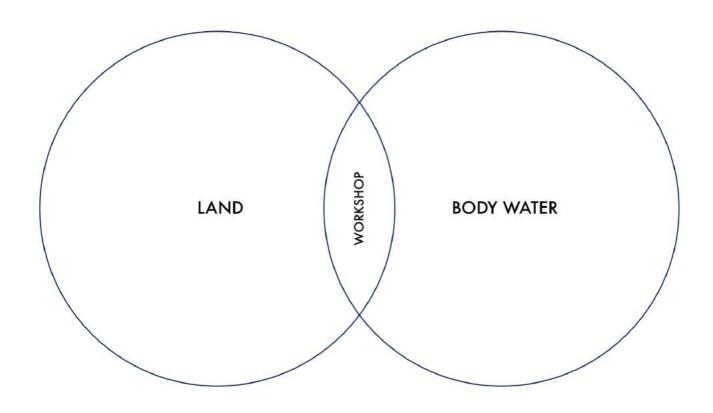
I created this workshop with the general idea explaining in which way everything that we make over the land eventually affects the body of water of the Puget Sound.

The other premise that I brought to the Duwamish Valley Youth Corps was a sensorial experience and exploration of the water's deepness in first view sharing simultaneously information about the flora and fauna that lives in the Puget Sound.

MESSAGE TO THE PUGET SOUND



BY HERNAN PAGANINI



GOING OUTSIDE TO FIND YOURSELF INSIDE

The Landscape is more than a thing to contemplate, it is knowledge about ourselves, of who we were, we are and we wish to be.

Little dialogues with nature inside the city that we live in. Do you know which animals and plants live near your house? Under the water in the Puget Sound? In which way are they affected by our daily actions? MESSAGE TO THE PUGET SOUND brings the possibility to meet ourselves in front of the mirror through the landscape where we live in as a bridge. To investigate and read the life under the water and all the universe hiding inside of it, providing information to the community and creating an individual collective gesture for a better quality life.

The activity proposes expanding the wall of our house, offering the possibility of returning to a primitive and spontaneous, playful state. Expressing through the senses using the body in a creative action opening and expansively developing the inner world. Sensitize the observation towards our surroundings, generate dialogues with this environment, becoming an explorer of life finding treasures within our daily lives, interact with the world through our senses and understanding the vastness of the universe in which we exist and live together.

Bringing new possible tools of interpretations; actions that attempt to generate news questions, unlearn what was learned, and think again about how we relate to the others, to ourselves and the environments that we belong.







First connection and introduction of the following activities with the kids from the workshop's English speaking group.

A workshop was given to a Spanish speaking group as well.

LOCATION

White Center, WA





















Second stage, individual imaginative drawing experience.

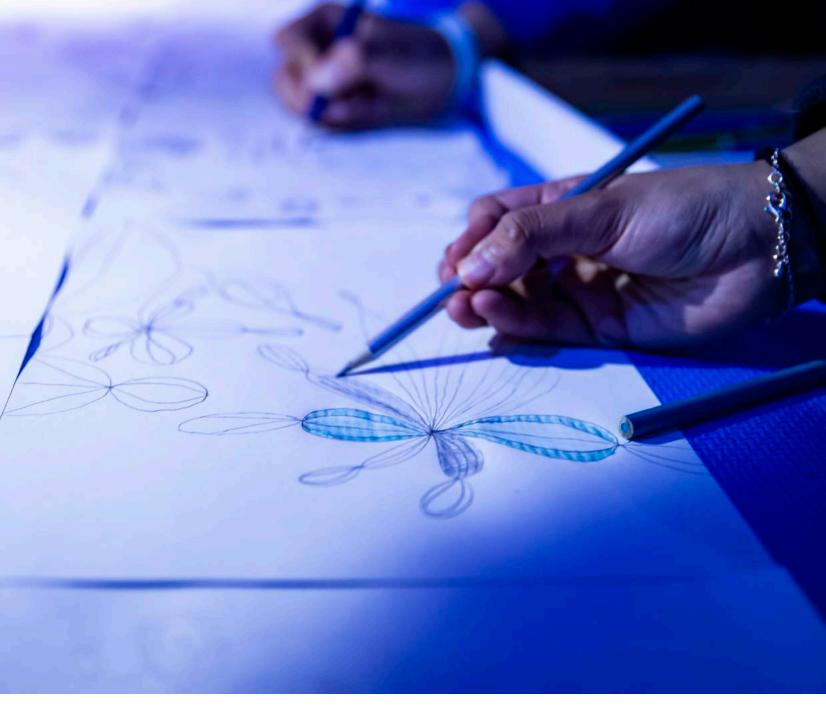












At this point of the workshop we brought the individual drawings together forming a large underwater landscape, coloring all together as a group.















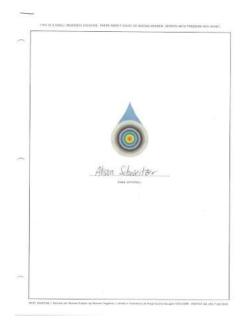
THE WHAT EXERCISE

STORMWATER SERVICES SECTION EMPLOYEE RESPONSES

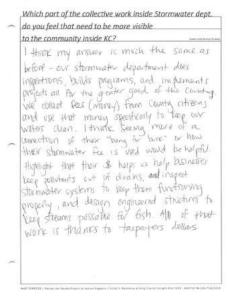
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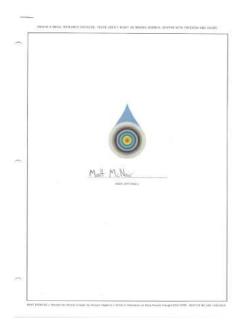
In the third month of the residency I was feeling that I didn't receive enough feedback from the engineers inside the Stormwater Services Section, and from the project manager of 4Culture. I was needing more firsthand information. To resolve this, I created a simple activity of two questions that I distributed randomly within the office. These responses provided me more with greater insight into the opinions of these individuals.

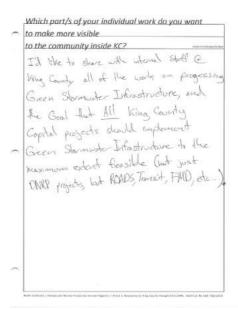
I was interested more than anything in the practice of each individual, and in which way they saw the work that they made engaged with and reflected in the community.



Which part/s of your individual work do you want to make more visible to the community inside KC? I want people in King Country to see that a lot (If not an) of King country is have to work with the for the sissue first or penethes. We are not have to issue first or penethes. We want to work with that to the leafy pollularity out of the stormwater system is surface waters. I want to hat make make that convection more visible— c

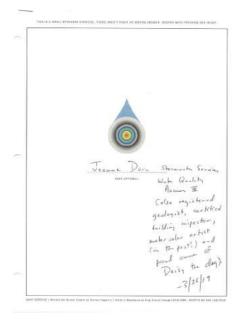


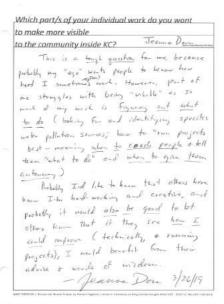


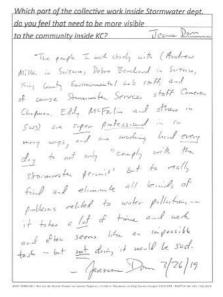


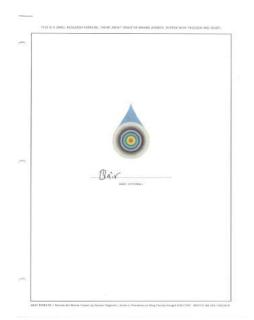
Which part of the collective work inside Stormwater dept.
do you feel that need to be more visible
to the community inside KC?

I feel that the Doportment of
Permitting, amently under the
Department of Local Services (DIS)
Should be made aware of Sommote
Design Hawal Stondoords & Loud ose
Play regarding Stormwater (Corteal Force)
The wedlands, loudsides & Rforim Zorces),
So that they are filly owner of the
Interest & value of this work (Survey)
Solmon & Oros & Bother Community Kealty
a Hat Permitting an property achieve
He existing design & lovel use codes



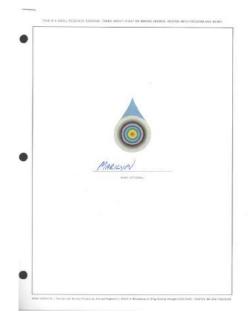


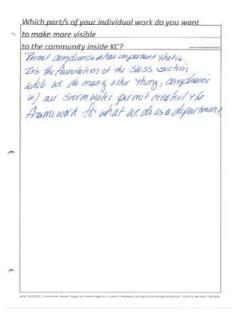


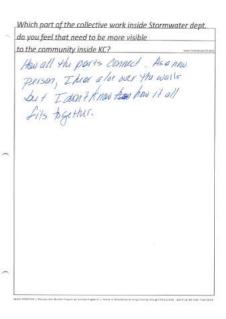


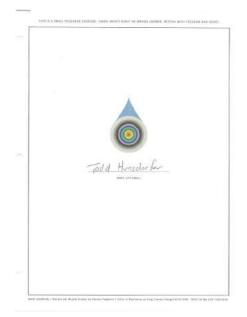


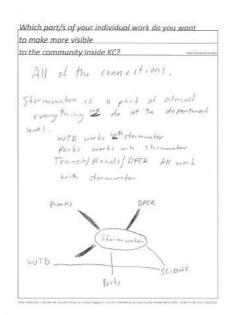












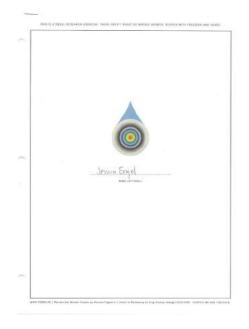
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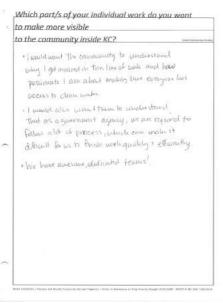
Related to the interconnectedness

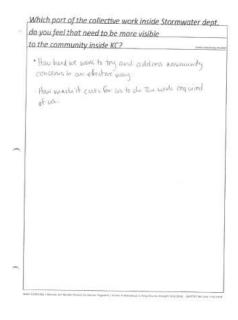
I feel it would be great ways of
to make visible how commanging

Itomwater can improve the urban
and rural lanscape like stormwates

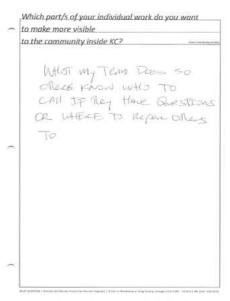
parks or art as a BMP.











Which part of the collective work inside Stormwater dept.
do you feel that need to be more visible
to the community inside KC?

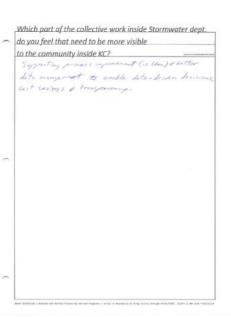
THE SERVICES WE PROUTDE
TO HELP RUSENESSES AND
FESTIVENTS PROTECT OUR
WATERS/ENDROMMENT











FINAL THOUGHTS

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THE LANDSCAPE
IS NOT ONLY A THING TO CONTEMPLATE,
IT IS KNOWLEDGE ABOUT OURSELVES
OF WHO WE WERE, WE ARE,
AND WISH TO BE.



HERNAN PAGANINI

www.paganinihernan.com viajeenbarco@gmail.com Instagram: @hernanpaganini

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