

PROGRAMMING

ExAIR JMKAC, 2002

John Michael Kohler Arts Center
Lee Hunter: Cosmogenesis
Exhibition Artist in Residence
SocialSTUDIO
Sheboygan, WI
January-August 2022

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DESCRIPTION

During Cosmogenesis at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center (JMKAC) I was invited to create a series of programming events for students and museum visitors.

The programming started online in January 2022, with students in the Sheboygan School District. This was followed by in-person workshops and gallery walk-through's in March 2022.

The theme of the first segment of the project, was a Future Fair, where students made "future artifacts." The artifacts were displayed in a pop-up exhibition in the Matrix space at the Art Center.

The second segment was the Time Capsule. Participants were invited to make ceramic tiles with messages for the year 2222.

Later in August 2022, when the tiles were all fired, we gathered to bury the time capsule.

This is the documentation of the process.

Images courtesy of artist unless noted.

Special Thanks to:

Xoe Fiss for organizing the workshops & events and for sharing a wealth of knowledge about museum and child education.

Kate Kaminski for producing & firing the tiles.

Mary Burkey and Dr. Cherri Lynn Price for making the archeology video.

Hanna Jankus for support in the socialSTUDIO

And the rest of the Education and Public Engagement Staff at JMKAC.

FUTURE FAIR

The Future Fair project started in January 2022 over zoom. Xoe Fiss, Education Program Director, and I visited classrooms in six Sheboygan County, 5th grade-High School. We did fourteen classroom visits.

Students were given workbooks to keep track of exercises and notes.

After the presentations, the classroom teachers worked with students to make artifacts for the Future Fair.



WORKSHOP

Future Fair Prompt

For these workshops, I wanted to talk about three themes connected to the exhibition: Time, Artifacts, and Speculative Futures.

The workshop started with a short discussion of time and timelines, then students were asked to make a timeline of their day.

The Future Fair

- In March 2022, we will have the Future Fair at JMKAC.
- For the Fair:
 - Take notes today in class to brainstorm about what future artifacts will look like and what they will be used for.
 - Decide what kind of artifact you want to make for the Fair.
 - Pick an object from one of the five categories that we discussed and make some sketches of your object.
 - Then make a well made prototype of the object for the fair.
 - Write a short description of why you chose the object and what it does.

Time

- Time is the ongoing sequence of events taking place. The past, present and future.
- The basic unit of time is the second. There are also minutes, hours, days, weeks, months and years.
- We can measure time using clocks.



Time/Past

All of the events that happened before today.

This is a map made by NASA of the history of the planet.

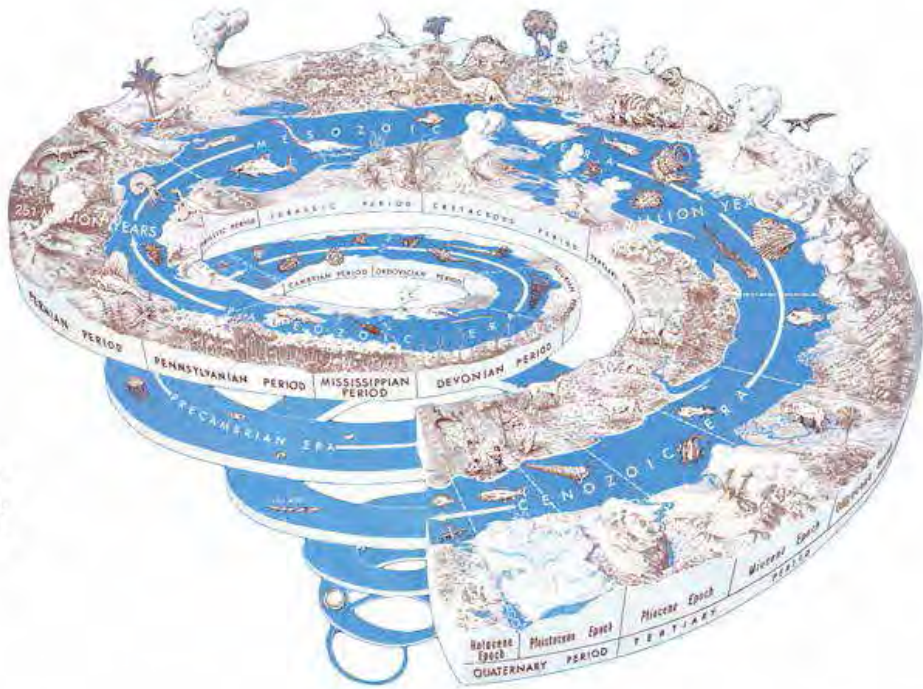


Image Courtesy of National Science Foundation

Time/Present

The present is now existing or in progress.

Today we are in class together!

TODAY
is the
DAY

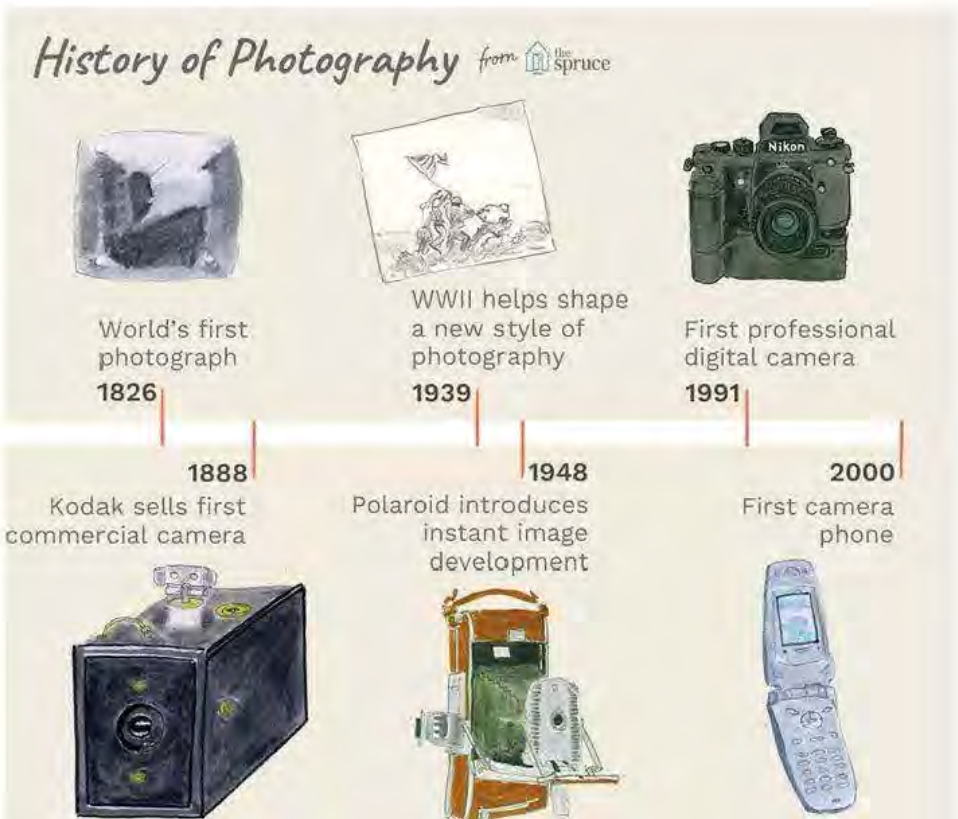
Time/Future

- The future is tomorrow, the next day, or hundreds of years from now. We don't know what will happen in the future, but we can guess!
- Science Fiction and the creation imaginary worlds is a great way to explore possible futures.



Timelines

- This is a timeline of the history of photography and the changing technology of the camera.
- This timeline starts with the camera obscura which was a drawing tool and ends with the cell phone camera.



WORKSHOP

After the timeline exercise, I introduced the field of Archaeology.

In the shorter 5th-6th classrooms the archeology video was sent to teachers in advance. In the High School classes we watched the video together.

Then we discussed artifacts and did an exercise identifying Artifacts.

Students were shown a series of Artifacts, they made guesses about who made the artifact, how old it was, and what it was used for.

Studying The Past

What is Archaeology?



What is Archaeology?

It is the study of the human past through, material remains or anything thing that been made modified or used by humans.

- Types of Material Remains
- Artifacts
 - Ecofacts
 - Features

Definitions from Cheri Lynn Price video, *What is Archeology*, 2022



Example of a Feature: Machu Picchu, Incan citadel, Peru
This is very high in the Andes Mountains

What is an Artifact?

- An artifact is something that was made, modified or used by humans and is portable.

Definition from Cheri Lynn Price video, *What is Archeology*, 2022



Gold earring with glass head pendant, 3rd-1st century B.C., Phoenician, Greece



Jar (Olla), "Tuxedo" Design, A.D. 950-1400, Ancestral Pueblo, New Mexico, USA



Snoopy' telephone, 1981-1989, MADE: 1981-1989 in United Kingdom



Stela of Salahqa. 825-712 B.C. Third Intermediate Period, Egypt

Guess that Artifact

I am going to show you photographs of five artifacts.

For each artifact make notes in your workbook.

First: Observe its parts: Write a short description of the object

Notes about the following question:

- How old do you think it is?
- Who used it? List your reasons why.
- What was it used for? List your reasons why.
- How do you think it was made? What kind of technology did the maker use?

Artifact #1

Observe its parts: Write a short description of the object

- What do you think the artifact is made from?
- How old do you think it is?
- Who used it?
- What was it used for?



FUTURE FAIR

To talk about the future, I went back to examples of the future from the 20th Century.

These examples of Modernity have continued to haunt our visions of the future.

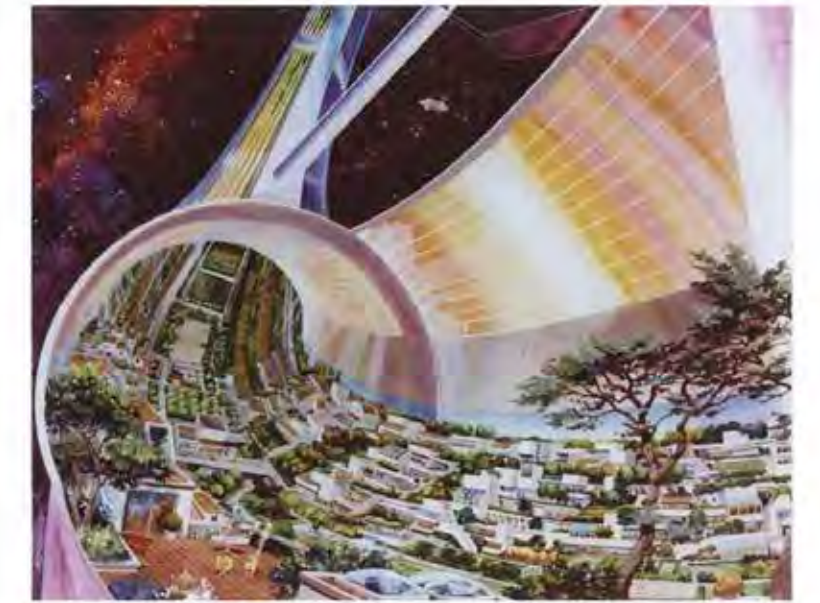
The 1964 World's fair had an excellent exhibition about the future funded by GM, Futurama. This exhibition was a visionary dream of the future, where there was life on the Moon and hotels underground.

I also chose the Osaka World Expo in 1970 as well, because of the experimental architecture that was so prominent in this Expo. The Expo70 was designed by Kenzo Tange and a team of 12 Japanese architects. This Expo had lasting influence on late Modern architecture.

Forecasting The Future

What is a Futurist?

- People who think into the future and make guesses about what the future might bring.



Space Colony Art from the 1970s, NASA & Gerard O'Neill

Visions of the Future: 1964 World's Fair--Futurama



Transportation on the Moon



Undersea hotel model

Visions of the Future: Osaka World Expo 1970

- Aerial photograph of the World Expo in Osaka, Japan.
- The theme was "Progress and Harmony for Mankind."



Visions of the Future: Osaka World Expo 1970

- Detail of geodesic dome and other experimental architectural pavilions.
- Geodesic domes are inspired by Buckminster Fuller.



We are going to think about the year 2222.

- What will it be like to live on Earth in two hundred years?
- What are some things that will change in the future?
- What are some things you would like to see?

Quick Brainstorm: In your workbook, discuss these questions with a partner, make notes about what the world might be like.

WORKSHOP

After we looked at the past and the future, we moved to the prompt for making Future Artifacts.

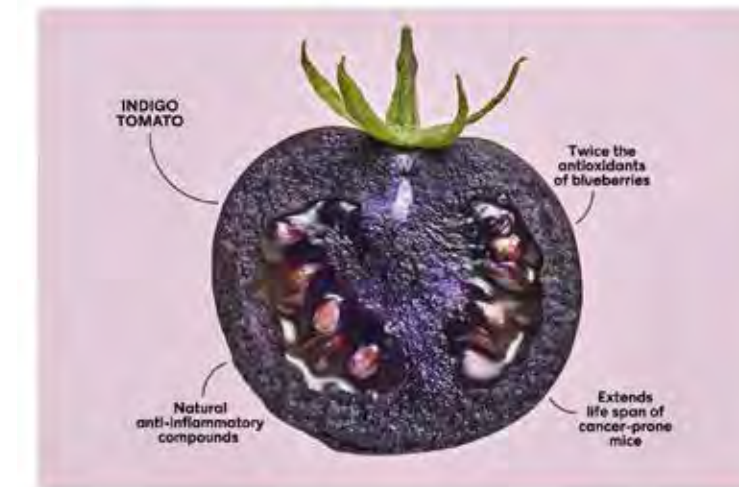
The categories of artifacts were broken into five groups: Food & Water, Shelter, Clothing, Communication, and Transportation.

Students chose a category of artifacts and then worked with their classroom teachers to produce artifacts for the Future Fair.

For our future fair, we will look at five different categories.

- Food & Water
- Shelter
- Clothing
- Communication
- Transportation

The Future of Food & Water



Indigo Tomato from New York Times and John Innes Centre, a research center in Norwich, England.



Ooho packaging, plastic free drinks. The edible packaging is currently being used in marathons to give runners drinks.

The Future of Shelter



Museum of the Future, Dubai, Concept Drawings



vertical 'eco-neighbourhood' outside New Delhi, 2016

The Future of Clothing



Manesh Arora Spring/Summer 2019



Uv-Zhu, em>Exploration – Anthropomorphism, 2020

The Future of Communication



Futuristic table from the TV show The Expanse, 2015-2022



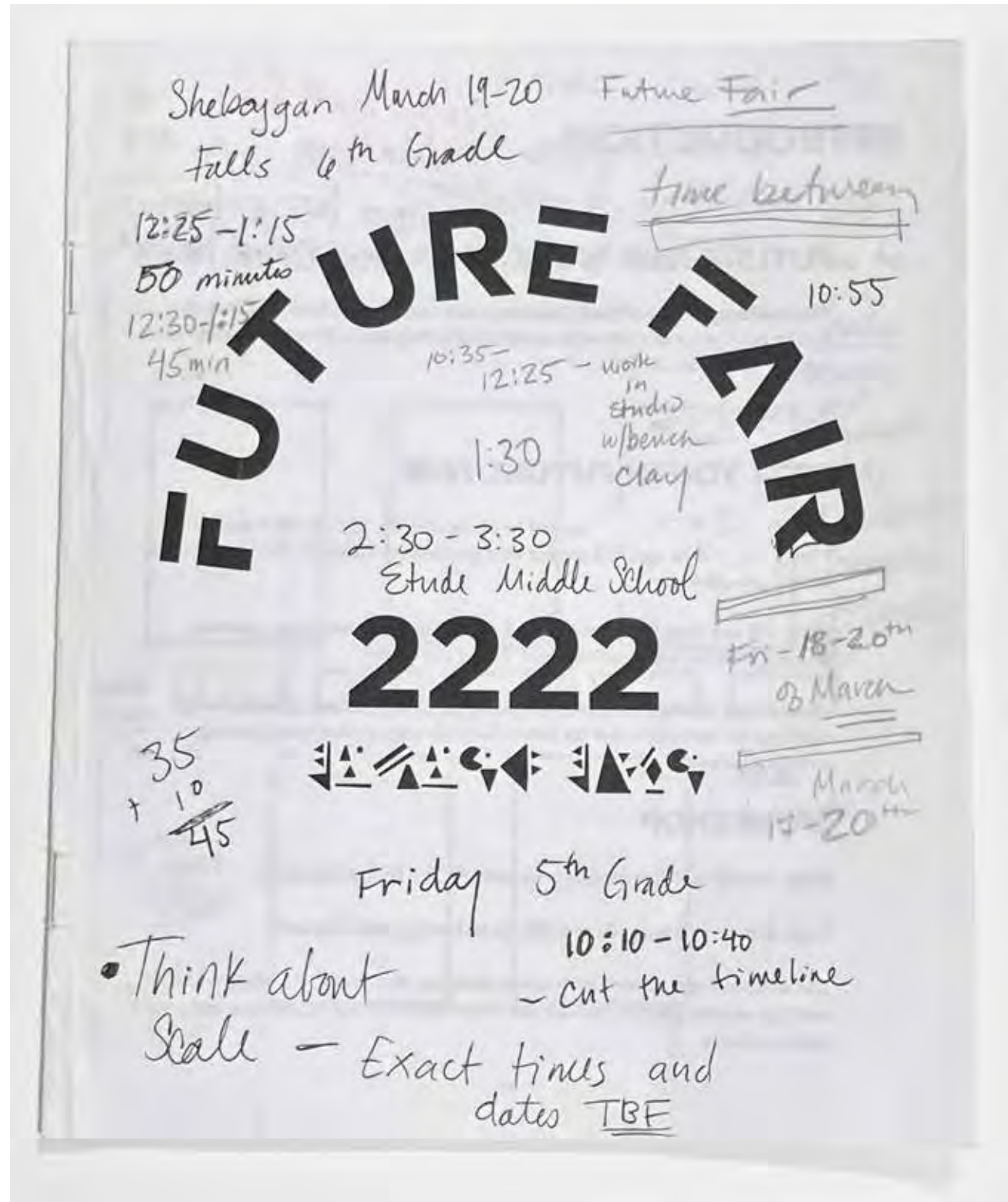
Holographic Computer, Ironman Movies, 2008=2013

Next Steps: Making Artifacts

- Decide what kind of artifact you want to make for the Fair.
- Pick an object from one of the five categories that we discussed and make some sketches of your object.
- Then make an object for the fair.
- Write a short description of why you chose the object and what it does.

WORKBOOK

Handout for students to use in the classroom during the online visit. Series of short excercises and a place to keep notes for making future artifacts.



INTRODUCTION

FUTURE FAIR WORKSHOP

This workshop is part of the Exhibition Artist Residence at the John Michael Kohler Art Cetner in conjunction with the Exhibition Lee Hunter: Cosmogensis, January 23-August 27, 2022.

2222 YOUTH FUTURE FAIR

In 2022, Sheboygan, Wisconsin will be the host of the 2222 Youth Future Fair. Here, visitors of all ages will see our next generation's vision for the future as they answer the question:

What will our means of sourcing food and water, communicating, traveling, creating clothing, and buildings look like in 200 years?

These young futurists will present their sustainable, practical, and necessary solutions for humans to live on planet Earth through prototypes, drawings, writing, and more.

WORKSHOP

Today we will talk about making art work for the Future Fair 2222.

To do that we will learn about artifacts, archeology, and futurists.

This notebook is a place to keep notes, thoughts, and drawings. When you start working on your project, you can reference the workbook to help you make your future artifacts.

1

TIME

PAST/PRESENT/FUTURE

Create a personal timeline. Pick five life events and put them in chronological order. The events can be in the past/present/future.

EVENTS

DATE

2

ARCHEOLOGY*

Archeology is the study of the human past through, material remains or anything that has been made, modified, or used by humans.

Types of Material Remains

- Artifacts
- Ecofacts
- Features

ARTIFACT ID #1

MATERIALS

(check all that apply):

<input type="checkbox"/> Bone	<input type="checkbox"/> Pottery	<input type="checkbox"/> Metal	<input type="checkbox"/> Wood	<input type="checkbox"/> Stone
<input type="checkbox"/> Leather	<input type="checkbox"/> Glass	<input type="checkbox"/> Paper	<input type="checkbox"/> Fabric	<input type="checkbox"/> Cardboard
<input type="checkbox"/> Plastic	<input type="checkbox"/> Other			

OBSERVE

Write a short description of the object.

QUESTIONS

How old do you think it is?

Who used it? List your reasons why.

What was it used for? List your reasons why.

How do you think it was made? What kind of technology did the maker use?

3

ARTIFACT ID EXERCISE

For each artifact make notes in your workbook.

First: Observe the object. Then write a short description of the object.

Notes about the following questions:

- How old do you think it is?
- Who used it? List your reasons why.
- What was it used for? List your reasons why.
- How do you think it was made? What kind of technology did the maker use?

4

NEXT STEPS//

Decide what kind of artifact you want to make for the Fair.

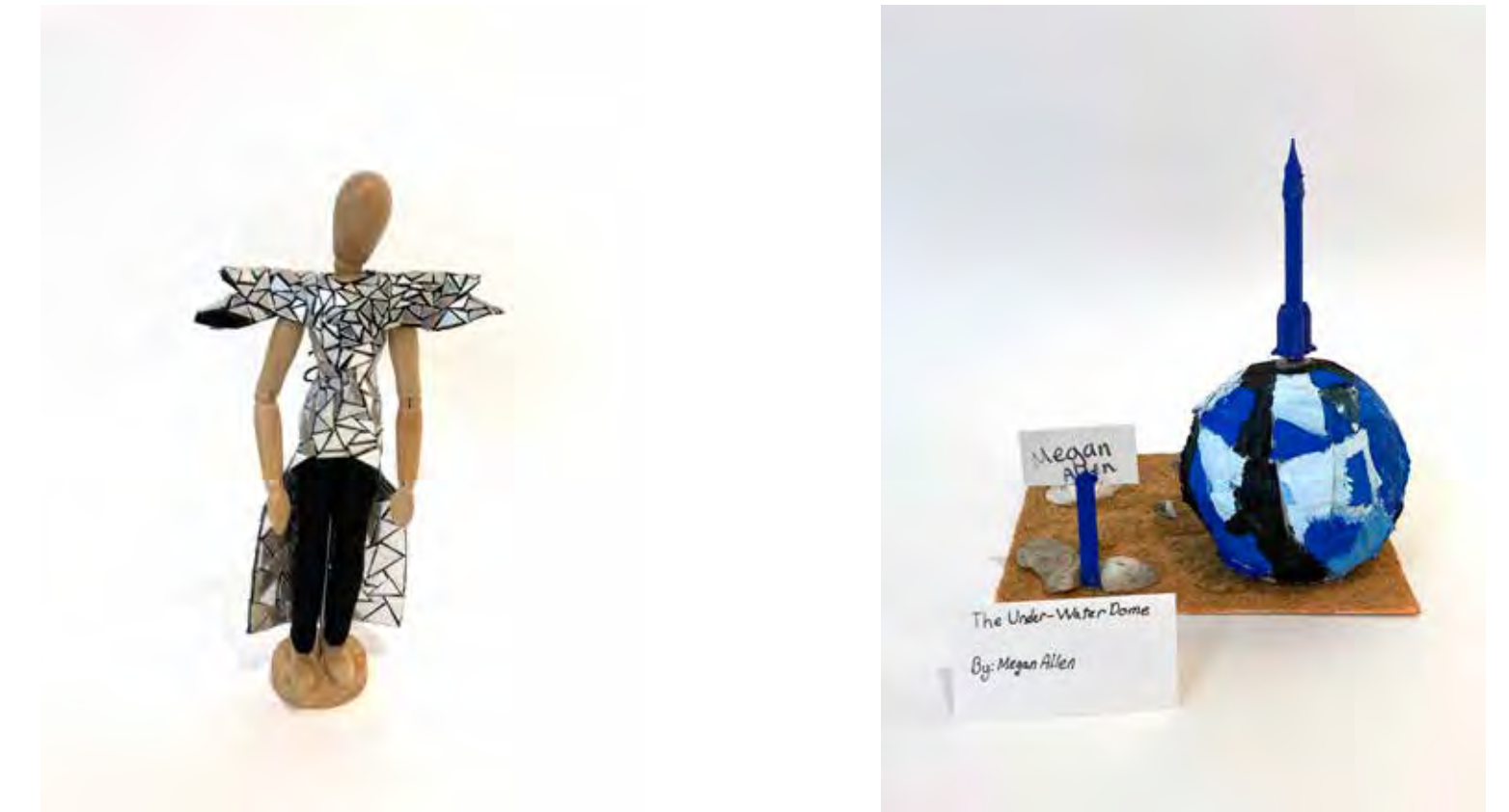
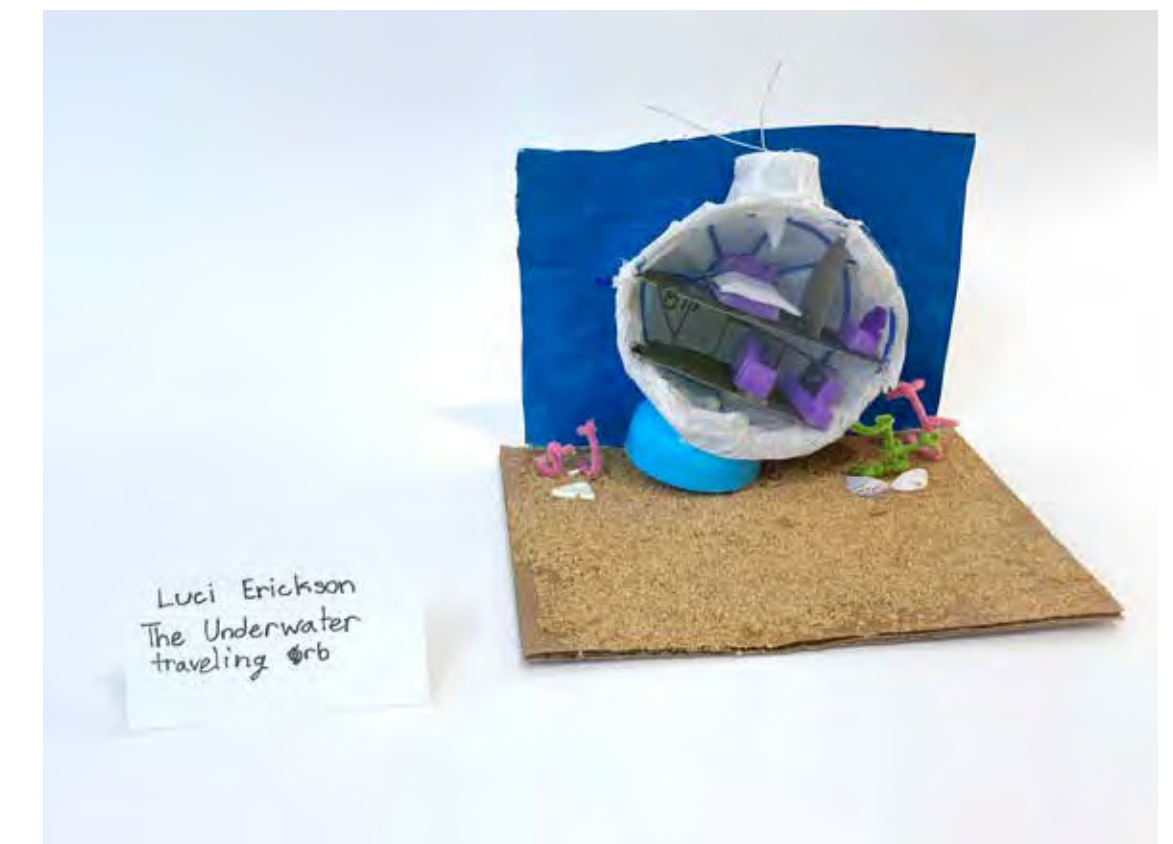
Pick an object from one of the five categories that we discussed and make a drawing of your future artifact.

Then make an object for the fair.

Write a short description of why you chose the object and what it does.

ARTIFACTS

"Future artifacts" made by students in different classes that participated in the online engagement in January.



FUTURE FAIR

The Future Fair took place in the Matrix space at the Art Center on the weekend of March 18-20, 2022.

Photos courtesy of JMKAC, 2022.



WALK-THROUGH

During the second part of the ExAIR, I was in person at the Art Center for tile workshops and gallery walk-throughs.

This K-12 student group has vision disabilities, so when we did the walk through, they were allowed to touch the alabaster sculptures.

They enjoyed getting to touch the art and it was a fun conversation!



Photo courtesy of JMKAC, 2022.

WALK-THROUGH

For the gallery walk-throughs, used a similar technique to a studio critique.

First the visitors to take a few minutes to walk through the exhibition.

After they looked around, we would gather in a group to discuss thoughts and questions.



Photo courtesy of JMKAC, 2022.

PROMPT

After the gallery walk-through, I gave participants a short prompt.

The first “time capsule,” or collection of objects buried for the purposed of leaving messages to the future, was the Westinghouse Time Capsule that buried in Queens, NY during the 1939 World’s Fair.

Then we looked at a font that I made for the project, which was inspired by cuneiform and science fiction.

Followed by a prompt to make a tile for the time capsule.

Participants were given a scratch paper and a clay tablet. I gave them a short demonstration and they spent the rest of their time working on tiles.

As they worked, I walked around and talked to each person about what their message was.

𐎶𐎵𐎺𐎠𐎧𐎶𐎵𐎺𐎠𐎧𐎶
Time Capsule 2222

World of Tomorrow:
1939 World’s Fair

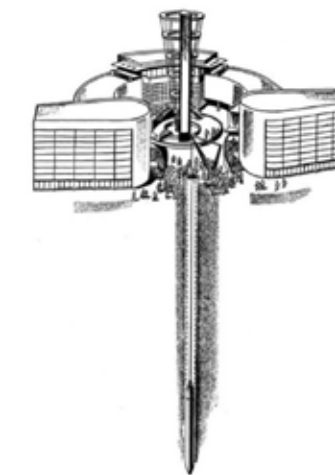


The 1939 World's Fair at night.



Color Postcard from the Fair

Westinghouse Time Capsule 1939 & 1964



Multiverse Font

For Cosmogenesis

2015



Cuneiform



Cuneiform tablet case impressed with stamp seal, for cuneiform tablet 54.117.27b: loan of silverca. 7th century B.C.
[Assyrian](#)

Time Capsule 2222
A note to the future

- Draft a message
- Inscribe on clay tablet

TILE-MAKING



TILE-MAKING



Photo courtesy of JMKAC, 2022.

NOTES

The notes to future were added to the walk in the studio. If a workshop participant didn't know what to write, they could look at the variety of responses other participants shared.

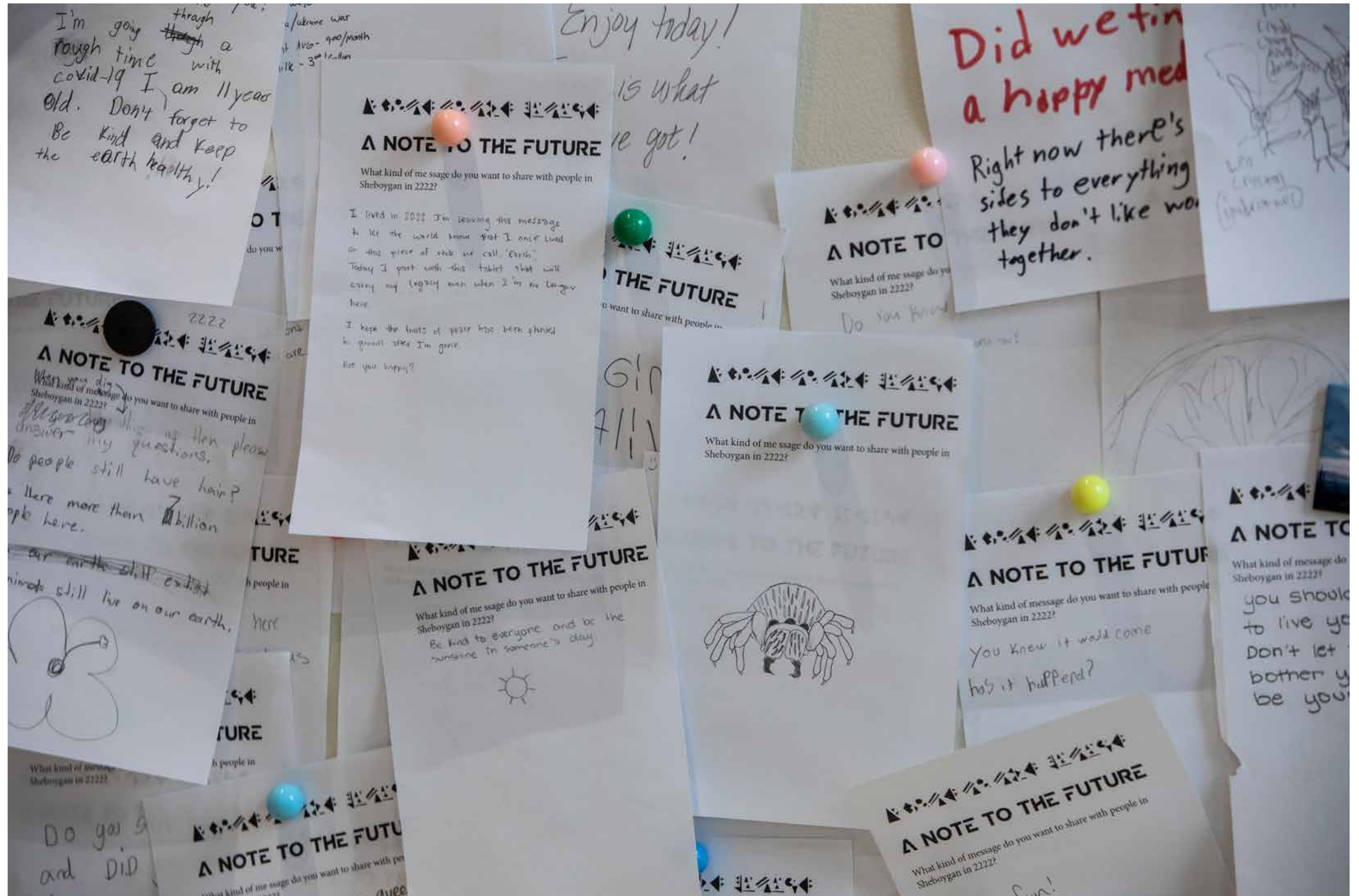
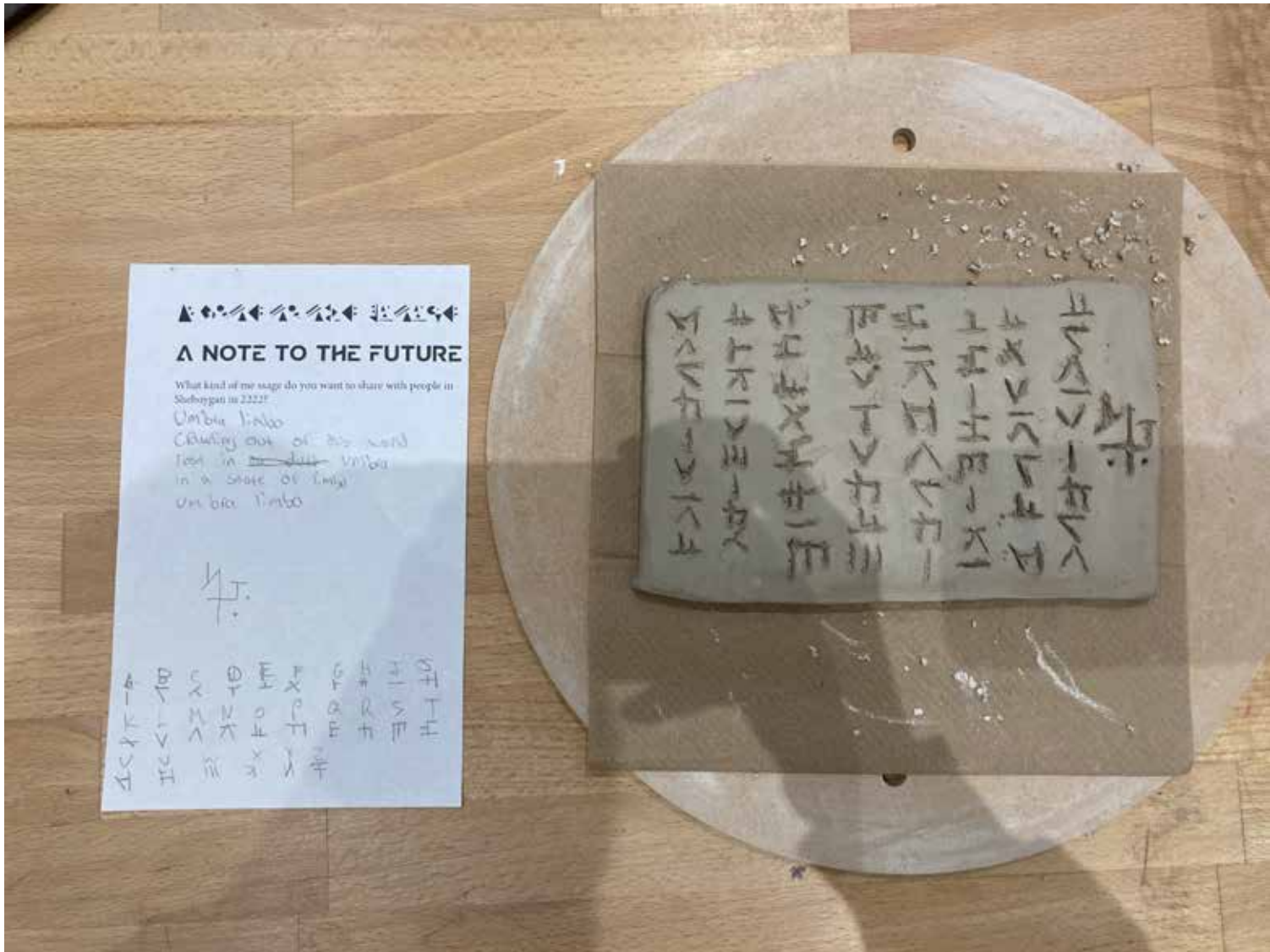


Photo courtesy of JMKAC, 2022.

TILE-MAKING

In-Process tiles.



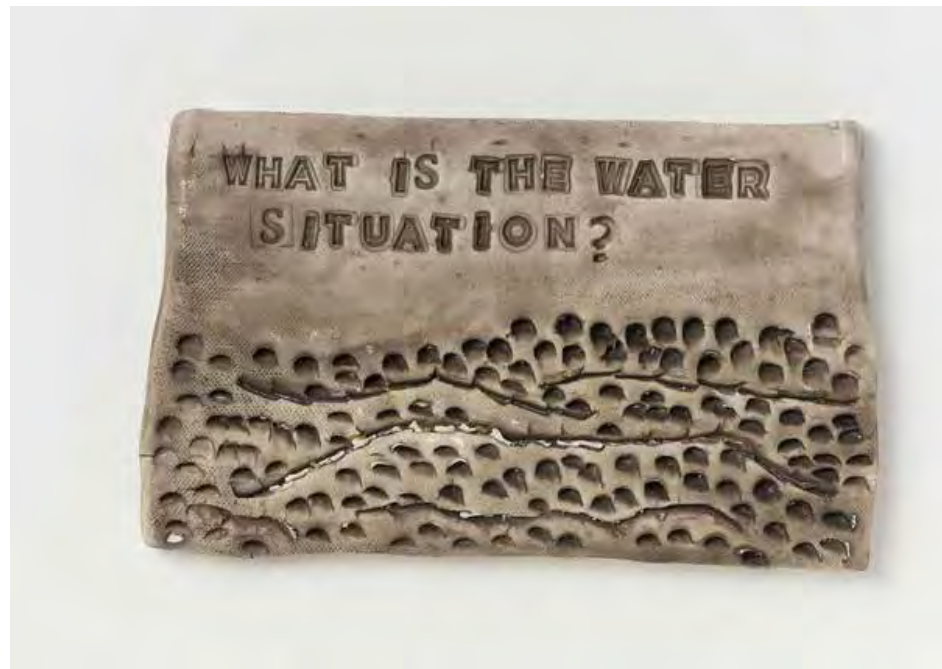
TILE PRODUCTION

Downstairs in the Ceramic Space at the Art Center.

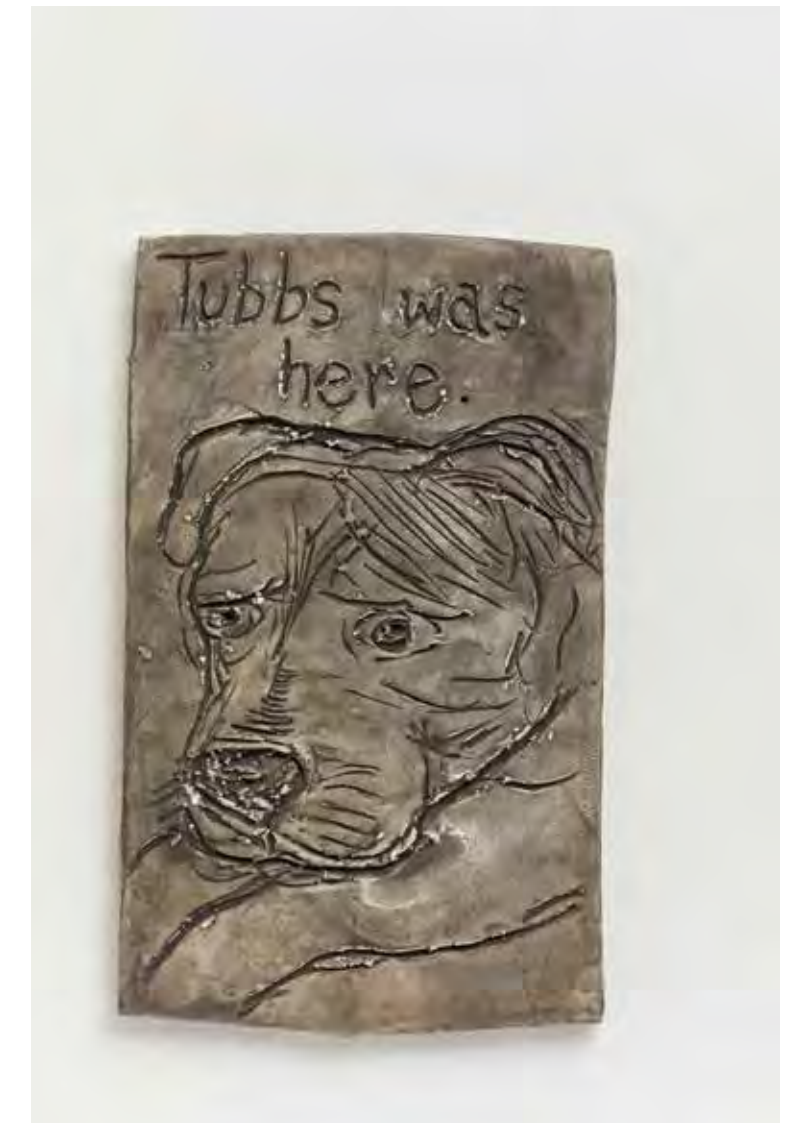
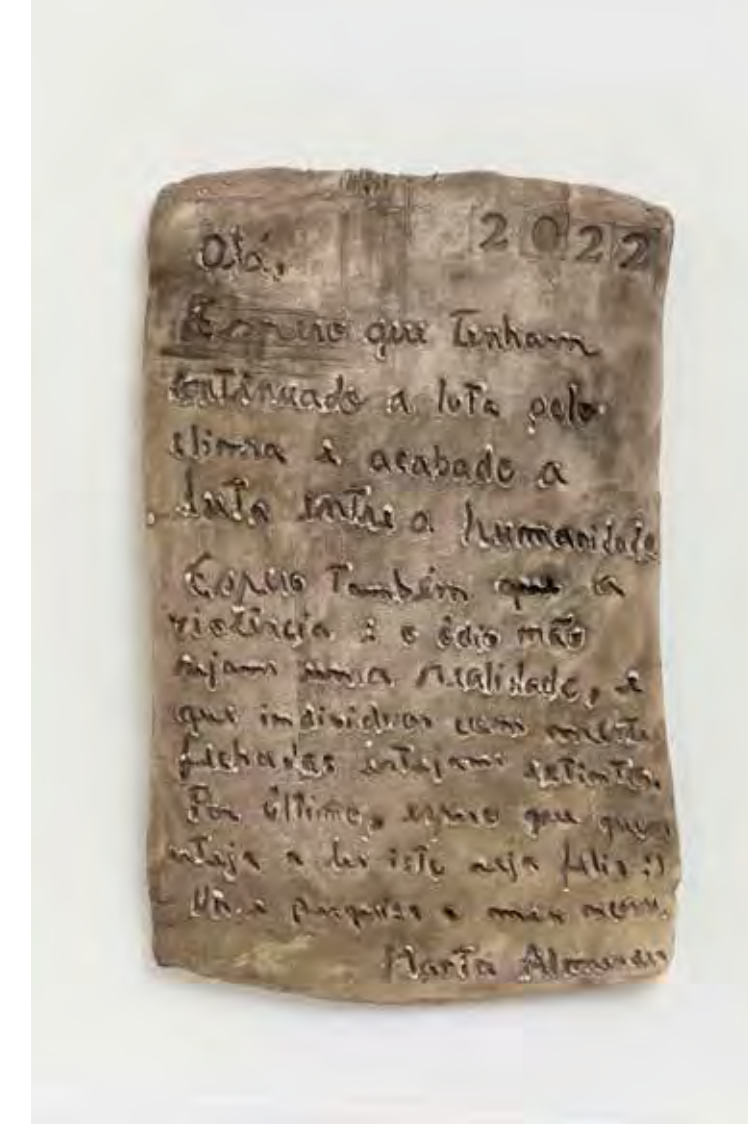
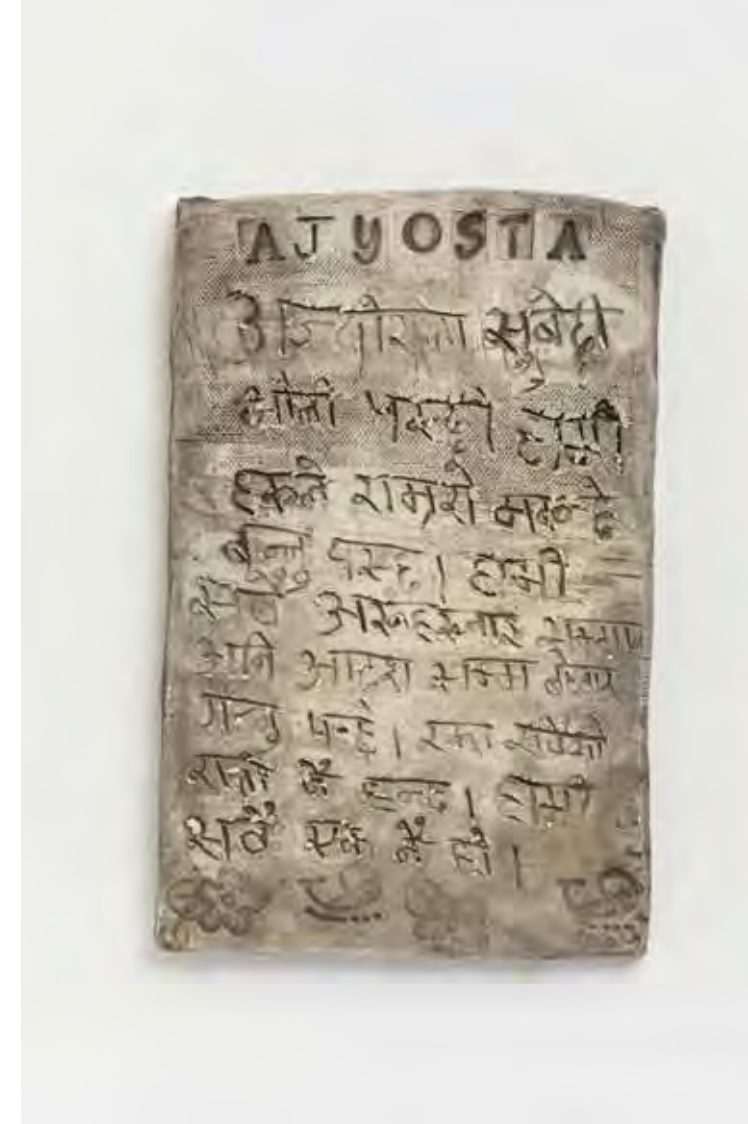


FINISHED TILES

Photos courtesy of JMKAC, 2022.



FINISHED TILES



BURIAL

On a hot day in August, the Tiles were placed into their time capsule.

Tiles were stacked into crates in the ground, then backfilled by a backhoe.

The tiles will be there for the next two hundred years.

Taylor W. Rushing played fiddle music for the event, celebrating the end of the project.



BURIAL

Last shots of the Time Capsule.



OTHER WORKSHOP

Free workshop for teens in Sheboygan.

Three hour workshop included:

- Gallery Walk Through
- Brief demonstration
- Work time

Teens had the option to come back and glaze bisqued sculptures. Based on a prompt from the exhibitions.



OUTCOMES

500+ Finished Ceramic Tiles

14 zoom workshops

35 in person workshops

Pop-Up Exhibition with Students Art Works

Developed multiple workshops and activities.

- Future Fair 2222—Zoom workshops, workbook, pop-up exhibition
- Time Capsule 2222—In person workshops, ceramic tiles, celebration event
- Teen sculpture workshop—13 teens made small ceramic busts based on sculptures from the exhibition. They did not all get glazed, should have been a two-part workshop.

Engaged with pre-k through high school students, elders with memory conditions, student club groups, students with vision disabilities, and many other members of the Sheboygan community.

The tile project turned out to be an accessible activity for all audiences engaged with.