



Community Roundtable Project #5
Solarpunk: An Antidote for Gloom, Doom, and Dystopia
led by Associate Artist, Christine Hubbard

\$245 to participate (7 sessions) (supplies not included)
Open to 12 participants, age 16+

Witness - Experience - Express - Connect

A multi-faceted experience to explore and share regional history and culture, Riverworks' Community Roundtable Project (CRP) is designed to bring artists and the community together in sharing and conversation about important issues, topics and cultures through the medium of art.

In CRP #5, Solarpunk: An Antidote for Gloom, Doom, and Dystopia, creators are invited to join Christine Hubbard for excursions and learning experiences culminating in a Community Roundtable Discussion. Artists and writers will explore the Solarpunk philosophy, a hopeful and action-oriented movement that imagines sustainable, just, and community-centered futures in action around the world. Through community audits and collaborative brainstorming, participants will transform this exploration into imaginative and practical responses to local challenges. Participants will craft a creative product of their choice with self-selected materials inspired by Solarpunk.

Details:

The news is grim and hope seems to be in short supply these days—but is our destiny a dark and depressed guarantee? What if we refused dystopia and instead insisted on and worked toward a brighter, better future for all? This is the ethos of Solarpunk—an approach that centers an egalitarian society, balanced with local ecosystems, and harnesses technology in ways that are restorative and regenerative, not extractive or exploitative. Solarpunk emphasizes low-tech DIY options and is adaptable to climates and cultures around the world.

Riverworks Associate Artist and Ag Reserve resident Christine Hubbard has been teaching a college course with a Solarpunk focus since 2022 and is excited to follow up on a 2025 Made-in-Studio session with this Community Roundtable Project. This series is open to teens and adults: creative folks at all levels and in any media, concerned community members, educators for any age group, and people who need a dose of hope.

During this series, participants will first explore the Solarpunk philosophy in action around the world, complete a community audit, and brainstorm possible solutions and creative products together. In addition to hybrid check-in sessions and in-person work sessions, we'll be going on two field trips—one to a local farm in line with Solarpunk principles and the other to Solarpunk sites in Baltimore. Participants will craft a creative product of their choice with self-selected materials inspired by Solarpunk—a multimedia creation, an inspirational poster, a short story/poem/essay, or a mix of any of these,



using upcycled and/or natural materials in addition to their preferred media. The series will close with a community presentation and discussion of Solarpunk and how we can incorporate it into our communities. Creativity empowers us to hope and inspires action.

Some Possible Creations:

- Graphic design: Posters/fliers (digital or traditional), sticker/pin/tshirts, flags
- Fashion design: outfits/apparel, upcycled/innovative/sustainable
- Written word: Microfiction, poetry, essays, creative non-fiction, children's lit, YAL, screenplays
- Multimedia: short films, microdocs, animation, musical compositions/lyrics, choreography, architecture/interior/landscape/community design, altered photography
- 2D or 3D products
- Educational modules/lessons/units for schools, community groups, general public, etc.
- Culinary design: menus, mini recipe book, kitchen garden design

Sessions:

Fri., March 6: Roundtable Cohort Orientation at Riverworks Studio at Alden Farms. 6:00 - 8:00 pm. The cohort will get acquainted, participate in a gallery walk, and receive an overview of our objectives, schedule, goals, and final project.

- CRP#5 overview
- Solarpunk intro and gallery walk
- Solarpunk scavenger hunt for Poolesville to define what exists
- Brainstorming possible products
- Meeting a need
- Supplies needed, support needed
- Curated resources to find out more

Sat., March 14: Day trip with site visits to Baltimore City. 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. Includes a sustainability tour of practical sites and museums (carpool/caravan). *(Possible sites include [American Visionary Art Museum](#), [Mr. Trash Wheel](#), [HP Rawlings Conservatory](#), [Woodberry Kitchen](#) or [Lexington Market](#).)*

Fri., March 27: Hybrid check-in (Alden Farms or Zoom). 4:00 - 6:00 pm.

Sun., April 11: Farm field trip (carpool/caravan). 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. *(Possible farms include [Fox Haven Farm](#) or [Reed Center](#).)*

Fri., April 17: Work and feedback session, in-person at Alden Farms. 4:00 - 6:00 pm.

Fri., April 24: Work and feedback session, in-person at Alden Farms. 4:00 - 6:00 pm.

Sat., May 9: Community presentation. Time and location TBD. To celebrate the work of all participants and to share the experience with the community. This event is free to the public.

Plus Christine will offer hybrid office hours as needed and periodic email check-ins.

Solarpunk Book Club. Following the Solarpunk CRP, Christine and Riverworks will be offering a Solarpunk book club for folks who want to continue learning and building community around this theme.

Christin Hubbard Bio:



Interdisciplinary Christine Hubbard is a resident of the Agricultural Reserve, an educator of 25 years, a writer, and artist. Currently an award-winning English professor at Frederick Community College, her teaching style emphasizes hands-on, student-centered learning, and Universal Design. Christine has led many excursions for various stakeholders, including Smithsonian Associates, from day trips to food and culture-themed study abroad trips to France and Italy. Since 2018 she has been leading the annual haunted Poolesville history walking tours to benefit the Historic Medley District.

Beyond the classroom, Christine is a writer herself, drawing inspiration from the Ag Reserve, travel, and food and has been published in various outlets as well as her former blog. Art has also been a lifelong passion and she is the author and artist of the book *Rainbows in the Rain & Stars in the Dark: Inspiration for Positive Living*, featuring a custom font and colorful abstract paintings. She is currently drafting Volume One of *Medley Mysteries: Curious Lore and Hidden History from Montgomery County's Agricultural Reserve* with her co-author. Their work was featured in a summer 2023 Storytellers session at Riverworks.

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