

CAPITAL FRINGE

Celebrating cultural democracy and art for everyone. | 1150 4th Street SW #204, Washington, DC 20024 | 202-731-6634 | capitalfringe.org

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Capital Fringe Gets Down to Earth Explores the Climate Crisis and it's Impact on Systemic Racism Through Art



Breakfast on the Anacostia 1200 BC by DC narrative painter Rik Freeman

WASHINGTON – [Watch the first episode of the Down to Earth web-series](#), 'Preparation to Illumination' to learn more about our Winter Season Artist Rik Freeman's life as an artist living and working in the nation's capital, in this episode, you will also learn about his creative process, in creating original paintings illustrating life along the Anacostia 1200 BC to current day, during his residency.

In November 2020 Capital Fringe announced the Down to Earth program, a creative project partnership between Friends of Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens and Caandor Labs. As part of this program, the [five stages of the creative process](#) are used to focus and examine the climate emergency and its intersectionality with systemic racism in the Kenilworth Area of Ward 7. Four artists were selected in late December to participate in our inaugural year of Down to Earth.

DOWN TO EARTH

Down to Earth 2020 – 2021 Residency Artists:

- Winter December 21 – March 20 Rik Freeman, DC narrative painter
- Spring March 21 – June 19, Nikki Henricks, DC fashion designer
- Summer June 21 – September 21, Siobhan Rigg, MD artist/researcher
- Fall September 22 – December 21, Thomas Stanley, Malik Thomas, Mark Cooley, MD & DC artists collective

[Learn more on each season's artist.](#)

“When the pandemic hit, I thought about how Capital Fringe was servicing and reflecting our community through the arts. Down to Earth is using the creative process to not just guide the work of the artists but also to amplify how we engage with advocates. This is a long form project that will only ripen and grow over the length of the program.” said Julianne Brienza, Founding Director of Capital Fringe. Brienza also serves as curator of Down to Earth. “

For the first episode of the Down to Earth podcast, hosts Brienza and Ibrahim, focused on clean-up of the National Park Kenilworth North. This land, which once stood as wetlands, was used as a landfill from 1942 to 1970. In November 2020, the National Park Service released a proposed clean-up plan for the park. Once the federal government completes the clean up, the park will be transferred back to the District. Brienza and Ibrahim sat down with two local advocates Dennis Chestnut and Justin Lini who have been advocating on behalf of the community for years on the Kenilworth North Park Landfill clean up. The podcast explores each of their individual journeys as advocates and what sustains them to keep going.

[Down to Earth Podcast](#)

[Down to Earth Web-series](#)

Episodes air at least two times a month, if not three. Tune in!



About Capital Fringe

Fringe strives to celebrate cultural democracy and art for everyone. By embracing diversity and a spirit of independence, we create earning opportunities for individual artists. We aim to challenge perceptions and shake up the hierarchy, be brave and unafraid, and serve as a launching pad for unseasoned and established artists. For more information, visit capitalfringe.org.

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DOWN TO EARTH