

# BREATHING ACROSS

A TRAVELING EXHIBITION PLAN FOR

*BREATHING IN A TIME OF DISASTER*

## deliverable

A traveling exhibition plan for the project *Breathing in a Time of Disaster* (BITD) that begins with a return to Houston, TX to forge community ties between the greater Seattle and Houston areas.

## curatorial process

Our curatorial process begins with story circles where collaborators respond to prompts about their relationship with their body, breath, and environment. The common themes that emerge from these story circles guide every aspect of the exhibition from design to evaluation.

## background

BITD began in response to Houston's environmental challenges, including rainstorms, flooding, and Hurricane Harvey. Curators Cassie Mira and Ching-In Chen recognized the need for more media coverage of creative approaches developed by marginalized communities. After the initial exhibition in Houston (2019), the project continued in Seattle (2022), incorporating experiences of wildfires and the COVID-19 pandemic. Story circles were held, and an exhibition followed at Jack Straw Cultural Center's New Media Gallery.

During the run of the show at Jack Straw, I held five watch/listening parties and a story circle for a summative evaluation of the show. Some themes that emerged from the evaluation include that Seattle participants were eager to connect with the Houston participants, that visitors of the exhibition would like to participate in additional story circles, and that there was a desire for even more accessibility.

## impact

The proposal's design expands the role of the story circle beyond curation to serve both as public programming in the form of workshops and as the core methodology of an evaluation plan. This community-centered approach to evaluation showcases a democratic, participatory approach to evaluation data gathering.

## join the breath chorus

Submit a recording of your name and one minute of breathing here:  
<https://bit.ly/breathchorus>

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