

APPALACHIAN FUTURES

Appalachian Futures is a look at how people in our region envision a better future for themselves, their communities, and their environment. By thinking about the issues that occupy discussions of Appalachian identity through the eyes of its scholars, writers, workers, and artists, Appalachian Futures wants you to think, “How can optimism about the diversity of our region, our industry and education, our traditional culture, and our most forward-looking arts help us make for better lives?”

Appalachian Futures addresses popular narratives about Appalachia in a new way. We present the people of Appalachia who are working to rewrite their own stories beyond limiting definitions of what it means to be in these mountains, and present those stories through scholarly research, art, and civic action. You might find yourself asking:

How diverse is Appalachia? How do different ways of being affect our outlook on our region’s way forward?

What is the relationship between industry, technology and our natural environment in a healthy future?

What forms of education and other literacies can we draw upon to move from a difficult economic past to a more prosperous future?

How can our traditions from the past frame a distinctly Appalachian future?

How can the wildest visions of Appalachia help us expand our sense of what is possible?

These questions might lead to big ideas, bold dreams, or wild visions. They might even lead us collectively to a better Appalachian Future.

Appalachian Futures is the second annual collaborative, multidisciplinary exhibit exploring key issues in our region, produced by the WVU Libraries’ Art in the Libraries program. Contributors include WVU and regional scholars, community groups and artists. A soundtrack by Gangstagrass is downloadable online. **A complete list of contributors is also available online at exhibits.lib.wvu.edu/gallery_futures.**

EXHIBITION SCHEDULE

September 3, 2019–June 1, 2020: **West Virginia University, Downtown Campus Library**

June 30, 2020–December 15, 2020: **Marshall University Libraries**

January 15–May 15, 2021: **Appalachian State University**

July 1–December 1, 2021: **West Virginia Library Commission**

January 15–May 15, 2022: **West Virginia University, Beckley Campus Library**

July 1–December 15, 2022: **West Virginia University, Keyser Campus Library**

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS SCHEDULE

APPALACHIAN FUTURES: REGIONAL ARTISTS RESPOND

Downtown Campus Library, Room 1020
August 15–October 15, 2019

Artwork by regional artists including: Debra Ellen Lott (Louisville, Kentucky); Otaes (Kentucky); Robin McClintock (Hendricks, West Virginia); Alana Yon (Bowling Green, Kentucky); Mo Kessler (Sylva, North Carolina); Janet Hart (Wheeling, West Virginia); Michael K. Paxton (Chicago, Illinois [raised in West Virginia]); DeWayne Barton (Asheville, North Carolina) and Thomas Hansell (Creston, North Carolina).

OPENING RECEPTION

Milano Reading Room
September 3, 2019, 5–7pm

Live music by Chris Haddox and Travis Stimeling; Interact with games designed by collaborative teams of art, media, and computer science students in the spring 2019, inspired by West Virginia History.

CAMPUS ART CRAWL

September 27, 2019, 1–5pm

Put the Downtown Campus Library and Appalachian Futures Exhibit on your list of places to see during the Art Crawl.

WOMEN OF APPALACHIA SPOKEN WORD EVENT

Downtown Campus Library, Milano Room
October 19, 2019, 1–3pm

West Virginia University will again host the annual traveling series—the Women of Appalachia Project, which features residents who submit writing from Appalachian counties and were selected to be featured in “Women Speak,” a live spoken word event.

WOMEN OF APPALACHIA: INVITATIONAL EXHIBITION FOR WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

Downtown Campus Library, Room 1020
March 2020

Women of Appalachia Art Project is a program curated by Kari Gunther-Seymour, Instructor in the School of Journalism at Ohio University and is the Poet Laureate for Athens, Ohio. This special exhibit includes work selected by Gunther-Seymour from the 10th anniversary exhibit in 2019.

EXHIBITION SPONSORS

LEAD SPONSORS: WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARY COMMISSION, WVU LIBRARIES, WVU HUMANITIES CENTER

TRAVELING EXHIBIT AND EVENTS SPONSOR: MARSHALL UNIVERSITY

EXHIBIT SPONSORS: MPB PRINT & SIGN SUPERSTORE, WVU REED COLLEGE OF MEDIA, APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES, ARTS MONONGAHELA, CATHERINE WILSON JONES

SUPPORTER: FIRST UNITED BANK & TRUST



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