



# PARTNERING ART AND CLIMATE SCIENCE: NEW CONVERSATIONS



## THE EVENT: 2015 SURGE FESTIVAL

The Skagit Climate Science Consortium is working to broaden the conversation about climate change through collaborations with artists.



Members of the Skagit Climate Science Consortium (SC<sup>2</sup>) are committed to finding new and unique ways to spark conversations about climate impacts. Art and artistic interpretation of climate change has the potential to communicate information to members of the community who have not been part of the conversation before and can also broaden the range of voices and perspectives represented in the discussion. In 2015, SC<sup>2</sup> was presented with an exciting opportunity to start new conversations between and among artists, scientists, and the public by participating in the Surge Festival, a community-based climate change art festival.



The Museum of Northwest Art (<http://www.monamuseum.org/>) in La Conner, Washington hosted the Surge Festival on September 26 and 27, 2015 in partnership with SC<sup>2</sup> and the Skagit Watershed Council. The Festival featured collaborative art projects developed by artists, research scientists, and educators. SC<sup>2</sup> members collaborated with artists on several of the projects included in the festival. SC<sup>2</sup> also contributed posters and interactive displays sharing information about projected climate change impacts in the Skagit Valley. The event was a great success, and SC<sup>2</sup> members were excited to see new conversations about climate change prompted by the event and the continued energy and interest after the event.





## WHAT DOES CLIMATE CHANGE MEAN TO YOU?

During the festival, museum attendees were invited to contribute to a wall of sticky notes with their thoughts on the question “*What does climate change mean to you?*” Responses included:

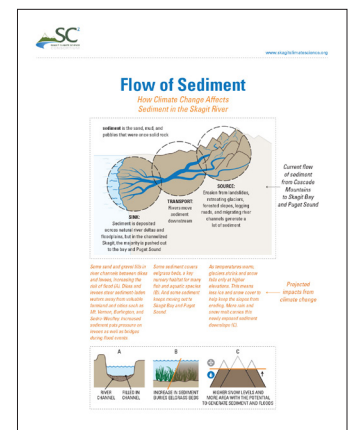
- More forest fires
- Change in my garden
- No more glaciers
- Paradigm shift
- Flooding
- Challenge and opportunity
- Loss of farm land
- Opportunity to work with others
- Drier, hotter summers
- Hope for cooperation

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2015 SURGE FESTIVAL

- Over 300 people attended the Festival.
- Over 100 people attended the panel discussion.
- The Festival featured interactive activities, including:
  - Art activities (including tree rubbings) for children
  - A chalk mural outside of the museum
  - A choral performance
  - A Tribal story — “Telling of the Flood”
- In 2016, the Surge Festival will be expanded to a week-long event, scheduled for September 17-25.

## Materials SC<sup>2</sup> contributes to the conversation:

- Historic and recent photographs showing changes in Skagit Watershed glaciers  
[http://www.skagitclimatescience.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Changes-in-Glaciers\\_InfoGraphic.pdf](http://www.skagitclimatescience.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Changes-in-Glaciers_InfoGraphic.pdf)
- Infographics about changes in sea levels, flood risk, and sediment  
[http://www.skagitclimatescience.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/SeaLevelRise\\_InfoGraphic.pdf](http://www.skagitclimatescience.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/SeaLevelRise_InfoGraphic.pdf)  
[http://www.skagitclimatescience.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/ClimateChange-CombiningForces\\_InfoGraphic.pdf](http://www.skagitclimatescience.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/ClimateChange-CombiningForces_InfoGraphic.pdf)  
[http://www.skagitclimatescience.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Sediment\\_InfoGraphic.pdf](http://www.skagitclimatescience.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Sediment_InfoGraphic.pdf)
- Posters about the Anacortes Water Treatment Plant and about the difference between weather and climate
- An interactive web map displaying information about future projected flood levels in the Skagit Valley  
<http://www.skagitclimatescience.org/flood-scenario-map/>
- A narrated video about flood risk, including a 3D flyover of projected future flood levels  
<http://www.skagitclimatescience.org/flood-risk-in-the-skagit/>



These and other materials are available on SC<sup>2</sup>'s website at: [www.skagitclimatescience.org](http://www.skagitclimatescience.org).



### The Skagit Climate Science Consortium (SC<sup>2</sup>)

SC<sup>2</sup> is a nonprofit 501c(3) organization consisting of scientists working with local people to assess, plan, and adapt to climate related impacts. Composed of research scientists from universities and federal, municipal, and tribal governments and agencies working in the Skagit basin, SC<sup>2</sup> members seek to understand how the landscape, plants, animals and people may be affected by changes in the patterns of rain, snow, temperature, storms and tides.

[www.skagitclimatescience.org](http://www.skagitclimatescience.org)

Visit our website to learn more about who we are, what we do, and the various resources we can provide.

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