

SACRED GROVE plans as of 4/2

PRESHOW

Welcoming Gate:

- Arbor entrance (Cindy / Bernadette sourcing or creating)
- Some lights already lit?
- Rug? Petals?
- Shrine gift choices (Doreen choosing, gathering)
- Prayer ribbons (Julia providing)
- Welcome song sung repeatedly as people arrive (Laura wrote)
- Someone ushering, checking off guest list from Eventbrite

OPENING

- Welcome / Invocation / Housekeeping (Laura or various voices). Include Yolo concept Julia was talking about
- “What if you loved a tree?” piece (Laura writing: will be spoken word with tableaux + / or theatrics)
- SONG: Make A Little Music (song by Doreen)

TREE STORIES with roving drummer to signal & draw attention, voice actor on mic, possible dance or theatrics near tree?

1. Sycamore (Kathleen voice, Laura music, Erin dance?)
2. Redwood Sisters (Cam and Cindy voices, maybe include salty little brother—with theatrics, possible comic relief)
3. Willow (Erin voice, Laura embodying?)

TREE OFFERINGS

- Model the idea before sending people out (reprise some of “If you loved a tree” piece with live action at Willow)
- Send people to make offerings/ do prayer ribbons where they choose
- Someone at each site to assist (3 people—could trade off on some songs)
- Musicians remain at stage area making music (Laura, Doreen, two more)
Possible songs below (probably not all). Could also intersperse a poem with music continuing softly under.
 - Holy Forest
 - In Praise of Trees
 - Trees Grow Slow
 - Wash My Eyes
 - Sun Going Down

DEAD TREES IN OUR LIVES: drum call back to the circle / or when people have settled

- Story of the pine log (Laura voicing)
- Possible extension of idea to performers naming / showing many ways trees’ bodies are enriching our lives (ie guitar, spinning wheel, drum, book, bench)
- Bonny Portmore song (Julia and Laura?) while offerings are slowly made to the log by others

- Possible poem or Psalm here? (maybe with music continuing lightly under?) Should honor the dead, also provide transition to lighter topic

MAKING CONNECTIONS

- Talk about how trees communicate (Julia and foil)
- Demo of contact improv dance (Cam and Erin) with music/percussion
- Invite all to try it, seated or standing
- Make connection from redwood(s) to Willow with human dancers (some wear fungus hats?, some tree hats?)
- Sing-along of Trees Can Only Be As Strong overlaps with dance

TINY TREE LOVE STORIES

- Light candles as “campfire” and start sharing tree love stories
- Open it out to audience sharing
- Segue with some story involving tree planting> to the baby redbud story (Bernadette/Julia voicing)
- Invite people who choose to bless the baby tree with water/earth
- While that is happening, roll sing-along songs (maybe not all):
 - Blessing on the blossom
 - Trust Your Heart (Redbud)
 - We are With You as you Grow

CLOSING:

- Thank people for coming. Thank City.
- Individual bows, credits.
- Final short verse/blessing. Maybe Lines from John O’Donohue Axioms For Wildness (see below). Exit greeting at gate?
- Wash your face in the morning dew / Feel the favor of the Earth / With the music inside, Dance like there is no outside / Become subtle enough to hear a tree breathe / Succumb to warmth in the heart Where divine fire glows.

OTHER JOBS NOT LISTED ABOVE

- *Laura is creating a flyer for all to email*
- *Laura, Doreen working on rehearsal material: laurasandage.com/grove_backstage*
- *All distribute postcards/flyers, networking and publicizing in your own worlds*
- *Signs being wrangled by Julia, Laura, Kathleen*
- *Costume committee= Laura and Cam*
- *Julia will call work party for shrine making (include Cindy, Cam, others)*
- *Julia and Laura have worked on sound permit/canvassed neighborhood*
- *Choreography committee=Erin, Cam, Doreen*
- *Documentation: Kathleen, also Laura will ask Jim Coulter*
- *Doreen contacting local schools*
- *Lighting options still need investigating*
- *Sound system provided by Cindy*
- *Choosing poems: Kathleen, Laura*

