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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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How Many Ways Can Stories Inspire People to Take Climate Action?

Local group partners with international governments to celebrate 'Climate sHeros' of NYC

June 3, 2015 (New York, NY)–On June 17, the [Human Impacts Institute](#) (HII) will launch their [Human Impact Stories](#) program with a celebration of inspiring personal stories of New York-based women who are powerhouses in taking action on climate change. With the partnership of the German Consulate in NYC, the Permanent Mission of Germany to the UN, the French Consulate in NYC, the Permanent Mission of France to the UN, and the European Union, they will hold a climate change and storytelling event in honor of these women and to celebrate international, joint action on climate for #ClimateDiploDay

“By sharing these women's' stories of triumph, heartbreak, and perseverance, we are showcasing the human side of climate change and challenging each of us to find our role to play in creating solutions,” commented Amy Braunschweiger, advisor to the program. And the stories are diverse–participating ‘Climate sHeros’ range from a NASA scientist to a South Bronx community activist to a high school student who became an activist after losing her home in Hurricane Sandy. HII had their stories recorded and edited into podcasts, while also creating a moveable, designed outdoor exhibit featuring the women and their work. The women’s inspiring stories touch on issues underpinning climate change, like racism and social justice. The end goal: To inspire New Yorkers to take on climate change.

As different people are inspired in different ways – audio, visual, tactile, etc – HII has enrolled musicians, as well as a spoken word and performance artist, to retell the women’s stories through their own lens, in order to broaden the reach of these stories and inspire even more people to take action in their own, personal way.

At the event, the Human Impacts Institute will also announce the finalists of its [Creative Climate Awards](#), which showcases artists creating climate-inspired public works and actions.

The event will take place from 6:30 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday June 17, at the French Consulate, 934 Fifth Avenue. RSVP at <http://climatediploday.bpt.me>

The artists participating include:

- **Shan Gao:** A singer-songwriter, Shan had two number 1 hit songs in China this year.
- **Honeychild Coleman:** Kentucky native Honeychild Coleman's avant-electro-pop sound has infiltrated New York's Dub scene.
- **Emily Danger:** Emily Danger is a classically trained Brooklyn vocalist whose music is described as "Dark Cabaret Rock."
- **Lea Fulton:** A performance artist, Lea has done moveable theater, a dance film collaboration and choreographed music videos.
- **Julie Patton:** A poet, vocalist and composer, Julie has performed at the New York Shakespeare Festival, the Nuyorican Poets' Cafe and the Whitney Museum.

The Human Impacts Institute is a 501(c)3 nongovernmental organization based in NYC whose mission is to inspire YOU to transform environmental challenges into social action for a just and livable world. Learn more at HumanImpactsInstitute.org

The Climate sHeros whose work inspired the multimedia exhibit and event are:

Kazi Ateea, Wendy Brawer, Majora Carter, Aria Doe, Jeanne DuPont, Gioya DeSouza-Fennelly, Kim Fraczek, Jean Gardner, Sarah Levine, Sabine Marx, Helen Matsos, Mary Miss, Eve Mosher, Cynthia Rosenzweig, Anasa Scott, Courtney St. John, Shino Tanikawa, Annie Willis, and Bethany Yarrow.

Also supporting this project are the New York State Pollution Prevention Institute (NYSP2I), StoryCorps, Winters Past (Isaac Kestenbaum and Josie Holtzman), Andrew Shea, and Amy Braunschweiger.

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