

| FOR INFORMATION/ <u>High-Res Photos</u> |
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| (credit: Catio Spaces) |
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Local artists collaborate to showcase cats kickin' it in their catios and to help cat parents solve their indoor/outdoor dilemma

SEATTLE, Washington (June 28, 2021) -- When cat-loving entrepreneurs collaborate, it can mean fun and carefree times for felines. The project partners also wanted to help raise awareness of catios (enclosed "cat patios") so beloved pets can safely enjoy the great outdoors.

Inspired by a newly built catio for his two cats, musician Steve Parris and fellow band member Bill Keaton, who perform as The Pilchuck Boyz, wrote and produced a catio song, one of the cuts on their recently released "Leisure Village" album.

Soon thereafter, the Snohomish County duo known for their "mostly reggae music" met Cynthia Chomos, founder-designer at <u>Catio Spaces</u> in Seattle who had been envisioning an upbeat, catio lyric song. She licensed the use of their song and produced a <u>90-second video</u>, *Catio Fun*. The catchy tune showcases a variety of cat patios and happy cats enjoying the catio lifestyle. Also featured is a guest appearance by one of her 4-legged fur clients, a dancing cat sporting sunglasses.



Asked why they connected with Catio Spaces, Parris said the Pilchuck Boyz are big believers in the idea that art can enhance just about anything, adding, "The synergy with Catio Spaces seemed pretty obvious. After meeting Cynthia, it was super clear that working together would be beneficial for her and us, but mostly for cats. If this leads to more happy cats, we would consider it to be mission accomplished!"

"Cats are awesome and every cat has a right to happiness," according to Parris.

Chomos concurs. Like many creative entrepreneurs, she combines her passions. Hers are a love of design, nature, and cats.



Chomos says with her background in feng shui, color design, and as a general contractor, she understands the importance of creating environments for wellbeing. The Ballard resident and cat parent founded Catio Spaces to address the need for safe and visually appealing outdoor havens that enhance the lives of cats (and their humans) while offering protection for birds and other wildlife.

"So many neighbors struggle with the indoor/outdoor cat dilemma, from lost or injured cats and wildlife to predation by coyotes and cats trespassing into neighbor's yards," says Chomos. "Catios are a win/win

solution that provides peace of mind for cat parents, plus a joy factor knowing cats can safely experience the wind in their whiskers."

That philosophy resonated with Parris. "Our two cats love the fresh air, birds and stimulation they get from being outside. Because they are part of our family, we wanted to keep them safe and happy so a builder-friend constructed a catio bachelor pad for them." He noted the cats really love going out at night to take in the nocturnal sounds of nature. "It's reassuring to know they are safe in their catio."

The founder of Catio Spaces is an ardent believer in educating feline fanciers about the many benefits of cat enclosures. Chomos devotes a section of her company's website to the "<u>top 10 benefits of catios</u>," and is a sponsor of "<u>Catio Tour Seattle</u>" an annual event to be held this year on Saturday, July 24.

This year's catio tour is a free, educational open house, "The Catio Solution." Catio Spaces is joining with The Humane Society of the United States and education partners PAWS and Seattle Audubon to showcase catios at two locations, one in Ballard and the other in North Seattle. Each location offers a variety of catios and inspirational ideas for building and decorating them.

Registration for the <u>catio open house</u> on Saturday, July 24 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., is required for the self-guided tours. The event is free and donations to PAWS and Seattle Audubon are welcome.



"Catios are a growing trend. Animal welfare organizations and other groups around the U.S. and Canada hold catio tours to educate their communities on the benefits of catios for protecting cats, birds and wildlife," according to Chomos.

Catio Spaces offers <u>custom-built catios</u> in the Greater Seattle area and downloadable <u>DIY catio plans</u> in various sizes and designs for a window, deck, patio, and garden. Many catios are large enough for human enjoyment (think "she sheds" for cats and their humans).

The Pilchuck Boyz – who were raised "on the banks of the mighty Pilchuck River" -- believe the collaboration with Catio Spaces has "really shown what local musicians and business owners can do together."

"It makes our hearts soar when we see the hugely positive comments from people who've seen Cynthia's 'Catio Fun' video," said Parris, who added he wishes more local companies would work with area songwriters rather than just downloading canned audio from the internet. "We really hope this leads to great things for Catio Spaces, The Pilchuck Boyz and our feline friends."

Note to editors:

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Catio Fun music video URL: https://catiospaces.com/catios-cat-enclosures/videos/catio-showcase-fun-music-video/

Catio Spaces URL: <u>https://catiospaces.com/</u> High-resolution photos are available with photo credit (See Photo Gallery)

Pilchuck Boyz URL: https://thepilchuckboyz.com/

Catio Tour Seattle URL:<u>www.catiotourseattle.com</u>

Next page: photos of collaborators



Cynthia Chomos, founder-designer, Catio Spaces with her tabby, Serena



The Pilchuck Boyz. Steve Parris (L) and Bill Keaton (R)