

TRASH TO TREASURE:

Environmental Sustainability Through Art & Literature

Mini Grant Initiative for WLS Libraries



FIELD
LIBRARY

The Field Library
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Project Narrative:

Field Library seeks a WLS Mini-Grant in the amount of \$1,000.00 for **Trash to Treasure: Environmental Sustainability Through Art & Literature**. Using the arts to teach and communicate the importance of environmental sustainability is a well-established method, with organizations including the National Science Foundation and Sustainable Arts Foundation promoting such projects. With **Trash to Treasure** Field Library hopes to provide an innovative twist intertwining science, art, and writing into a five-week summer-long series for Peekskill's culturally and economically diverse urban teens. **Trash to Treasure** was inspired by two successful 2014 teen programs at Field Library, *Inside/Out: Teen Portrait Identity*, portrait photography classes for teens, and *Sci-Fi Summer* series, led by a local author, which motivated teens to write short stories that became a published book, the openings of which drew over 200 attendees each.

With **Trash to Treasure**, Field Library hopes for the opportunity to expand upon this format of artist-youth education collaboration, encouraging teen summer reading and writing education (counter-acting summer slip) while advancing science and STEM principles. **Trash to Treasure** is a series of classes where teens will discover the importance of environmental sustainability and recycling/upcycling, advancing participant scientific knowledge through the creation of artwork and essays. Environmentally experienced representatives from Peekskill's own *Wheelabrator Technologies* will teach the importance of, and local efforts in, environmental sustainability and recycling, and what students can do to help. Then, under the guidance of an accomplished Westchester artist/writer and inspired by their new knowledge, teens will create an innovative project with two symbiotic components: artwork and essay. Teens will explore use of natural and recycled materials, learn the science of creating natural pigments using sustainable sources, and then transform repurposed materials into works of art via collage, painting, and sculpture. Next, teens will compose essays communicating the importance of: recycling, how environmental awareness shaped their perspectives, etc. Essays will strengthen participant writing and reading skills while simultaneously highlighting the teens' new

scientific and environmental awareness, and be exhibited with the corresponding art piece. The **Trash to Treasure** series will culminate with an open-to-the-community exhibit in the library's Field Gallery.

Field Library is one of Peekskill's only venues to offer equal-opportunity classes for teens at no cost, and we hope to continue this proud tradition through **Trash to Treasure**. The many summer art and education classes in the area do not focus on science and are prohibitively expensive for Peekskill's limited income families, with 12.7% below poverty level, 11.8% SNAP rate, 71.8% of students on free/reduced lunches, and often dependent on public transportation (2010 US Census). With zero teen programming budget Field Library teen events are possible only with generous sponsors like WLS, Entergy and Con Edison. With your support Field Library's **Trash to Treasure** series will fill a huge community need by providing a five-week science-focused art and writing class, affordable for all.

Strategies for engaging participants: Between 15 and 20 attendees will be drawn from Peekskill Youth Bureau summer camp and the public, grades 6-12. There will be pre-summer class visits grades 6-12 at Peekskill and Lakeland schools, press releases to local media and online event calendars, fliers to local businesses and organizations. The library will display eye-catching fliers and post to library social media and websites (all thanking Entergy and Con Ed). Local officials receive Exhibit Opening invites.

Project Dates:

- Wednesday afternoons, 1 ½ hours per class - July 8 through August 5, 2015
- Gallery Opening Party August 8, 2015 - Art show Exhibit August 8 through August 30, 2015

Project Goals & Community Impact:

- Quality educational, STEM, writing & art education to urban multi-cultural youth of Peekskill at no cost to attendees. Meet basic informational learning goals in STEM grades 6-12.
- Teach principles of environmental sustainability through the creation of art & writing.
- Fulfill library mission statement-provide free literary, entertainment & educational opportunities.
- Strengthen collaboration & foster connection between Field Library, local non-profits, businesses, the large artistic community & community members.
- Provide scientific, educational & artistic enrichment for community through the Gallery Exhibit.
- Gallery party gives students pride & recognition for their hard work by the community.
- Value of scientific, artistic, & literary endeavors in strong sports community.
- Encourage students & viewers of the exhibit to see creative potential in objects that would otherwise be thrown away as well as teaching an environmentally conscious viewpoint.
- Evaluation surveys will be collected from students & exhibit attendees to assess the series.

Professionals involved and their qualifications:

- Jasmine Johnson, B.A., Published author & accomplished artist – jazjohnson.weebly.com
 - Past Youth Library Classes: Author/Instructor/Mentor/Publisher for Field Library’s Teen Short Story Collection “Stories Across the Universe” (available on Amazon.com) & *How To Draw Anime & Manga* – Teen class for libraries
- Elizabeth Anastasi, Young Adult and Reference Librarian, Field Library - Extensive experience developing and executing successful library classes and workshops for all ages, especially teens
- Naeem Price, Peekskill Youth Bureau – Collaborator and cross-promotion at YB Summer Camp
- Alicia Morgan, Field Library Gallery Curator - Curator Field Gallery 2007 to present
- Wheelabrator Technologies Reps - Education in the science and practice of recycling, waste management, and local environmental efforts

Community involvement; partners, if any, and their roles:

- Field Library – Host, coordinator, and site of **Trash to Treasure** series
- City of Peekskill Youth Bureau – Collaborator with Field Library on **Trash to Treasure**
- Wheelabrator Technologies – Education in recycling, waste management & local efforts
- Peekskill Agencies Together & Peekskill Arts Alliance – Publicity

Culminating activity planned:

The **Trash to Treasure** project will culminate with an exhibit of the participants’ artwork and essays in the library’s Field Gallery, curated by participants, led by the expertise of library curator Alicia Morgan. The exhibit will highlight not only the creations of the participants, but also the environmentally conscious and sustainable materials and methods used in their design and construction. Informational materials, made by participants, will be available for distribution to visitors. Participants and library will host a Gallery Opening Show – families and friends, officials, local artists, and the entire community will be invited. The show will be on display from August 8 to August 30, 2015 and open to the public during library hours of operation – over 60 hours each week. Field Gallery is one of the premier exhibit spaces in the city of Peekskill, regularly featured in the *New York Times* and exhibit space of many famous local and world renowned artists.

Total Project Budget Amount: \$1,000.00 (WLS grant) to be matched by Field Library: teen librarian time planning & publicizing **Trash to Treasure** & paying \$150 for Exhibit Party.

Total Project Request Amount: \$1,000.00 from WLS, Entergy & Con Edison

Project Budget:

Place/Person	Service / Purpose	Cost
Wheelabrator Technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education in the science and practice of recycling, waste management, and local environmental efforts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$0.00
Jasmine Johnson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teach 5 Classes & 1 Art Show Opening, mentoring students, editing essays Travel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$115.00 x 6 = \$690.00 \$100.00
Supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foam Board (Dollar Tree) Mod Podge glue (16 oz) Tacky Glue Paint brush variety set Aprons/smocks Acrylic Paint (various colors) Wire Sources for natural pigments Re-purposed materials (paper, plastic, ceramic, rocks, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$1.00 x 25 = \$25.00 \$5.00 x 5 = \$25.00 \$1.00 x 5 = \$5.00 \$5.00 x 4 = \$20.00 \$1.50 x 20 = \$30.00 \$5.00 x 10 = \$50.00 \$5.00 x 5 = \$25.00 nature = \$0.00 nature & donation = \$0.00 <p><i>Prices from Michaels.com with 20% coupon pre-deducted.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supplemental Resources Books on topics of sustainability, environmentalism, and recycle projects will be purchased for the Teen Collection and used as resources for student research for art and essay. 	<p>Book Titles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>DIY T-Shirt Crafts: From Braided Bracelets to Floor Pillows, 50 Unexpected Ways to Recycle Your Old T-Shirts</i> by Adrienne Surian New book on sustainability TBD. <p><i>Prices from Amazon.com</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$15.00 \$15.00
TOTAL		\$1,000.00