



Request for Proposals Announcement **Seeking: Environmental Art Fellow**

Are you an artist gifted with an eye for communicating scientific and ecological principles? Are you an educator with an artistic flair for creating dynamic learning environments? Are you a creative thinker who can help people of all ages understand climate change and resiliency principles in auditory, visual, tactile, and other sensory modalities? Are you a parks person with a creative eye for helping people learn?

Whether you are an artist, educator, scientist, or curious citizen, if any of the above speaks to you and your skills, we'd love to hear from you!

Proposals Requested By: March 15, 2023

Fellowship Period: Minimum 4-months anytime between May 1 and September 30, 2023

Compensation: \$7500 Stipend.

Interviews and Selection(s): March-April 2023

Background: SEEDS Ecology & Education Centers has been based in Traverse City and working with students of all ages since 1999. The SEEDS EcoLearning Center at Historic Barns Park is one of our key demonstration Centers in collaboration with our nonprofit neighbors there, the Botanic Gardens and the Traverse City Community Gardens. SEEDS will continue to highlight climate solutions, including carbon sequestration through waste mitigation and regenerative agriculture, through new features to be included at the park in 2023. SEEDS will be installing additional composting systems and expanding our perennial food demonstration sites.

We are looking to engage learners of all ages at the park through dynamic, artistic, and interactive exhibits. Our goal is to create a 'walking ecology museum' that engages people in ways that will make lasting impressions, leading to lasting environmental impacts.

We are seeking a person or persons experienced in artistic exhibit development through community engagement processes. The Environmental Art Fellow will help us add more interest to our learning spaces, creating accessible and experiential learning opportunities that inspire long-term change. SEEDS will provide a 1099 stipend, basic design guidelines, subject matter expertise, materials and labor to support exhibit construction, access to workshop space(s) or access to labor support depending on your craft, and an awesome collaborative staff culture.

Requested Deliverables: Design at least five interactive exhibits using creative principles with a goal to provide universal accessibility, noting that exhibits can be either temporary or permanent in nature and that one location may host multiple 'exhibits' that reach different target audience groups. Provide all conceptual plans in easy to understand renderings, ideally with components that could translate to digital media, eg. photography, video, audio, and graphics files.

Entities and Responsibilities:

SEEDS will:

- Provide access to materials, tools, support labor, and equipment as is feasible and negotiated.
- Provide a framework for exhibit design guidelines and signage standards
- Provide staff support for exhibit development
- Promote and support community engagement events for exhibit development
- Promote the Fellow's work through our marketing channels
- Provide a modest fixed stipend or honorarium of \$7500

Environmental Art Fellow will:

1. Utilize their own specialized tools and work spaces as preferred.
2. Collaborate with SEEDS staff toward the target goal of Universally Accessible exhibits.
3. Design and host community engagement sessions of up to 12 stakeholders
4. Design exhibits as noted in deliverables above
5. Participate in construction and installation of exhibits
6. Participate in an end-of-term evaluation and reflection of the experience.

Qualifications: Individuals, small businesses, and cooperative partners are welcome to apply. The Fellow must demonstrate the ability to design concepts appropriate to SEEDS guidelines, including budgetary needs in a timely manner. Prior experience in exhibit design and construction is ideal, but not required.

Preference: Preference will be given to those with outstanding demonstrated design concepts, those with prior experience in exhibit design for public spaces, those who have designed for educational purposes, and those working with materials based on sound ecological principles.

Proposal Components: Submit all proposal documents to jennifer@ecoseeds.org

Strong proposals will clearly describe your focus, demonstrated proficiency, and ideas for exhibit concepts. Please include a BRIEF narrative with the following components:

- Description of proposed activities and timeframes including any initial ideas you envision
- Interest in and experience with public engagement
- Three representations of previous work, or initial proposed concepts for this opportunity in digital format. May include graphics, audio, or video files, or links to such materials
- Two references speaking to work quality and professionalism
- Please also consider including:
 - Any additional experience you wish to communicate
 - Your approach to safety - physical, spiritual, and emotional
 - Supplies or Equipment required or desired to be utilized
 - Workspace, storage, and/or other required or desired spaces to be utilized
 - Insights and/or questions

Proposal Evaluation: Proposals will be evaluated based on the following considerations,

- Demonstrated relevant experience and skills
- Ability to translate educational content into aesthetically pleasing and engaging exhibits

Position dates may be flexible but ideally initiated by mid spring of 2023.

Questions? Email jennifer@ecoseeds.org

Resources:

www.ecoseeds.org

<https://www.ecoseeds.org/173/historic-barns-park>

<https://www.ecoseeds.org/517/historic-barns-park/wetlands>