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SEATTLE, WA 98104
4CULTURE.ORG

Art Projects for Individuals

Sample Application

PROJECT SUMMARY

Applicant

Laura Wright

Project Title

Dye Pharm: Duwamish Valley Coloring Book

Short Description

Dye Pharm: Duwamish Valley Coloring Book is a project about the Duwamish Valley through plant dye, natural watercolors, and collaboration with the Duwamish Valley Youth Corps.

Discipline

Visual

Choice Criteria ["Artistic Impact" Criteria]

Engagement

NARRATIVE

Project Description

The Dye Pharm: Duwamish Valley Coloring Book is a collaborative project between the Duwamish Valley Youth Corps (DVYC) and myself, an artist who has lived in the Duwamish Valley for 26 years and is developing the ongoing Dye Pharm project. In this project, youth will harvest plants from two Georgetown dye gardens and the Duwamish Greenbelt to create natural watercolor paints, which will be shared with the community. We will also produce a coloring book that highlights some of the region's ecological concerns. The goal is to make both the paints and the coloring book available at local festivals, where free painting materials and sessions will be offered to the public.

Over the past year, I have been developing a plant and dye curriculum designed to offer project-based learning opportunities. This curriculum highlights the global cultural relevance and contributions of plant-based dyes. Making color from plants is both a physical and intellectual process that is accessible to all types of young learners. The coloring book will help youth convey important messages about environmental issues in a simple and direct way. Presenting challenging information in this engaging format aims to ease the emotional tension often associated with environmental injustice, making it easier for people to absorb the information without feeling overwhelmed.

Ultimately, I aim to continue growing this project as a way to collaborate with youth in creating resources that educate the city about environmental injustice in the Duwamish Valley.

Public Benefit

The project will consist of a ten-session workshop with the Duwamish Valley Youth Corps to harvest locally grown dye plants to make watercolor paints and turn some of the lessons they have learned in the DVYC program into informative and interactive watercolor pages in a book. Youth in this program come from diverse and multilingual communities in South Seattle and will be invited to create informational material in languages and styles that they feel best represent the audiences they would like to reach.

I will share this work at two community events, the Duwamish River Festival in the Summer of 2026 and the Georgetown Steam Plant Science Fair in the Fall of 2026, offering stipends so that youth from the program can be present to share the work. Both of these festivals are local, free to the public, and attract a large and diverse audience.

Project Plan

September – November: Work with the DVYC cohort to learn about and harvest dye plants, make watercolor paint, and develop pages of a coloring book that talk about issues in the area that intersect with DVYC training. I have confirmed partnership with DVYC, and so recruitment of youth would be through their program.

December – March: Prepare participant work to be printed as a coloring book and print 300 copies.

August 2026: Have a table at the Duwamish River Festival in South Park with DVYC participants, watercolor books, and paints for the public to learn from and interact with.

September 2026: Have a table at the Georgetown Science Fair in Georgetown with DVYC participants, watercolor books, and paints for the public to learn from and interact with.

Outreach Plan: By partnering with DVYC and attending two large public facing community events, much of the outreach will be completed by these organizations. However, I will also post on social media to boost interest.

Scaled Down Plan: Depending on the funding received, I could reduce the workshop to only paint making experiences and/or eliminate one or both community outreach events.

Advancing Equity (optional)

I am a Duwamish Valley (a Seattle designated Community of Opportunity) resident and have collaborated with Carmen Martinez on projects that served youth in this area for 17 years. Projects with the South Park Late Night Teen Program and the Duwamish Valley Youth Corps (DVYC), run by Martinez, have allowed me to provide access to arts and expression within institutions that youth trust and feel supported. I have also run programming independently, but know that as a cis-gendered white woman, the most effective and ethical approach to working with BIPOC youth in my community is through participation and support of organizations such as DVYC. Youth in these programs often have personal connections to the program that provide a foundation of trust that I cannot provide as an outsider, or person who is not a staff member of the program. Through partnership with DVYC, I work on trust by offering culturally relevant programming, providing clear goals, being understanding of the challenges that youth in this community face, and writing grants that support the program in addition to my work.

Qualifications

Skills from earning an MFA in Fiber Arts from the University of Washington and an MFA in Digital Art and New Media from the University of California Santa Cruz lay a foundation for the technical aspects of this project. Additionally, I have been an art teacher in formal and informal settings for thirty years with the bulk of this experience stemming from my work in Georgetown and South Park. In 2006 I created the Georgetown Super 8 Film Festival to teach people in the area how to make short films and share them with the community. At first this stemmed from Georgetown's lack of a community center, but it quickly grew into a project to allow Duwamish Valley community members a way to define, document, and share their creativity and the unique nature of this area with each other.

For the past ten years, my studio work has focused on telling the story of this area through plant dye. This past year, though a project with 4Culture and King County Waste Water Treatment Division, I was able to develop an educational and public facing aspect of this work through waterplant, the first project of The Dye Pharm. I created 2 dye gardens in Georgetown and worked with DVYC and Georgetown youth Council (GYC) to make watercolor paints that were shared at community events

with a coloring book I created.

I have received and managed grants from several organizations including 4Culture, Seattle Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs, and Zero1. This past March I had a solo exhibition featuring work that was dyed and/or printed with color made from Duwamish Valley plants that addressed affordable housing, arsenic in the Duwamish River, air pollution in the valley, and the loss of a birch tree due to global warming that also spoke of the areas limited tree canopy.

PROJECT BUDGET

Expenses		Estimate
Planning	\$2,200	<input type="checkbox"/>
Design		<input type="checkbox"/>
Construction		<input type="checkbox"/>
People	\$14,338	<input type="checkbox"/>
Soft Costs		<input type="checkbox"/>
Facility Purchase		<input type="checkbox"/>
Fundraising		<input type="checkbox"/>
Services	\$866	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supplies	\$900	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promotion	\$312	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transportation/Shipping	\$800	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Documentation/Assessment	\$1,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Equipment/Fixtures		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
In-Kind		<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	\$1,800	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Total:	\$22,216	
Income		Confirmed
Applicant	\$1,216	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundations	\$0	<input type="checkbox"/>
Corporations	\$0	<input type="checkbox"/>

Government	\$6,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Individual Donors	\$0	<input type="checkbox"/>
Earned	\$0	<input type="checkbox"/>
In-Kind	\$0	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	\$0	<input type="checkbox"/>
4Culture Request	\$15,000	
Total:	\$22,216	

Budget Notes

People:

Youth Stipends (12 youth stipends @ \$300 each) \$3600.00

Artist Educator Fee (Calculated using the Teaching Artist Guild Pay Rate Calculator

(<https://teachingartists.com/calculator-results>) and adjusted for inflation

(https://www.bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.htm) = 115.86/hr* 25hr) \$2986.5

DVYC Staff (Two Duwamish Valley Youth Corps Staff @20 hrs x40/hr) \$800.00

Artist Administrative (Book Production, Outreach Events 115.86x 60hr) \$6951.60

Services:

Duwamish River Festival Table Fee \$600

Workshop Venue Insurance (\$22x 3 months) \$66

Workshop Venue Rental (100/hr X 20 hrs) \$200

Supplies:

Paint making supplies (12 youth X \$75) \$900

Promotion (Printed or electronic materials, like flyers, posters, radio, website, etc.):

Coloring Books (printingcenterusa.com 250 copies) \$312

Transportation/Shipping:

Van rental & gas for DVYC to transport Youth to Georgetown Studio (12 youth, 10 workshops) \$800

Planning :

Grant Writing, management, & reporting (10 hrs x \$100) \$1,000

Workshop & Tabling Prep (12X \$100) \$1,200

Documentation/Assessment:

Photographer (10 sessions x \$100) \$1000

Other:

Workshop Food & Snacks (12 youth, Meal and snack x 10 workshop days) \$1,500

Outreach Event food & snacks (20x\$15) \$300

VENUE

Venue Council Districts: 8

Project Venue Notes

1) Workshops @Laura Wright's Studio, Seattle WA 98108 - KC District 8

2) Duwamish River Festival @ DUWAMISH RIVER PEOPLE'S PARK AND SHORELINE HABITAT
8700 Dallas Avenue SouthSeattle, WA, 98108- KC District 8

3) Georgetown Science Fair @ Georgetown Steam Plant 6605 13th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98108 - KC District 8

WORK SAMPLES

Links: <https://youtu.be/Ru89tvOkIA4?feature=shared>

Images:

(attached)

Work Sample Description

waterplant: Video

2024, Digital Film: 1 minute edit from a work-in-progress informational film

This one-minute video explains the waterplant project completed in 2024 for 4Culture and the King County Wastewater Treatment Division. As an Associate Artist, I was contracted to do community engagement prior to the building of the West Duwamish Wet Weather Storage Facility. For this project, I worked with community groups to create dye gardens in the area and taught workshops on natural pigment extraction and making watercolor paints with plants we grew and foraged.

01

waterplant: Coloring Book Intro Page

2024, 11" x 17" excerpt spread from ten-page 8.5" x 11" coloring book

Associate Artist for the 4Culture and King County Waste Water Treatment Division CSO Public Art Project

02

waterplant: Coloring Book Page 10-11

2024, 11" x 17" excerpt spread from ten-page 8.5" x 11" coloring book

Associate Artist for the 4Culture and King County Waste Water Treatment Division CSO Public Art Project

03

waterplant: Painting Session at the Georgetown Steam Plant Science Fair
2024, paintable plant stickers and watercolor paint made from plants grown in our dye garden

04

waterplant: Painting Session & Traditional Dye Garden at the Georgetown Steam Plant Science Fair
2024, paintable plant stickers and watercolor paint made from plants grown in the dye garden
behind participant

05

waterplant: Nettle Paint Tin

Photo Credit: Timothy Aguero

4" x 7" x .5" Tin case, oven bake clay, natural watercolor pigments from plants foraged in the
Duwamish Greenbelt (nettle).

A series of individual paint tins for each plant and color were created by 3-d printing plant names in
several languages and stamping them into oven bake clay along with the impression of the actual
plant.

06

waterplant: GYC Member Sharing Information at the Georgetown Science Fair Display
A large booth with photographs, a pigment making demonstration area, and a large table for visitors
to paint with natural pigments.

07

Scheele's Green, February 2025

Cotton, Plant Dye from the Duwamish Valley (nettle, rosemary, marigold, horsetail, oregon grape, &
sunflower), Duwamish River Water, life vests, 7'x 12'

08

14.08.030, February 2025

Block Prints Made with Birch, Nettle, and Sunflower Pigments (All Hyperaccumulator Plants), Kozo
Paper, Dowels, Filter Fabric Coated in Pollution from Georgetown Air Filtration

The title refers to the ordinance that makes kite flying in Georgetown illegal.... Leaded fuel, however,
is still legal and used to fuel the smaller planes that fly over the neighborhood daily.

09

Birch House, January 2025

Cotton, Silk Gauze, Birch Bark Dye (different mordants on alternating stripes), 7' x 9'

Birch Axe, January 2025

Silk Gauze, Birch Bark Dye, Birch Bark, Axes & Hatchets. 7' x 8'

10

Duwamish Bend Housing Projects (detail)

Silk, Invasive Plant Dyes foraged in the Duwamish Valley, wax, polyester thread, paracord 6' x 11' x 5'