

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
2014 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

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**Project Title:**

**ENRTF ID: 082-C**

Urban Youth-Led Ecological Regeneration Partnership

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**Category:** C. Environmental Education

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**Total Project Budget:** \$ 208,200

**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** 1 Year, July 2014 - June 2015

**Summary:**

This initiative organizes and engages 8000 participants from diverse communities in improving the community environmental health while preparing their youth for future career possibilities in environmental services and sciences.

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**Sponsoring Organization:** Ce Tempoxcalli

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**Location**

**Region:** Metro

**County Name:** Ramsey

**City / Township:** Saint Paul - Minneapolis

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|                          |                         |                             |                      |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| _____ Funding Priorities | _____ Multiple Benefits | _____ Outcomes              | _____ Knowledge Base |
| _____ Extent of Impact   | _____ Innovation        | _____ Scientific/Tech Basis | _____ Urgency        |
| _____ Capacity Readiness | _____ Leverage          | _____ Employment            | _____ TOTAL _____%   |



**PROJECT TITLE: Urban youth led ecological regeneration partnership**

**I. PROJECT STATEMENT**

1. *Low income communities of color in the Twin Cities face significant environmental challenges, do not have sufficient strategies or capacity in place to promote the long-term well-being of populations in light of climate change or reduce current impacts from deleterious environmental risks locally; and are not “on-path” to play meaningful leadership roles in addressing the significant environmental challenges and opportunities before us all in this 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The Urban youth led ecological regeneration partnership will develop and implement an innovative youth-led community engagement strategy that broadens our knowledge base, initiates behavior change, prepares and employs young people in environmental careers, and improves the long-term resilience of low income communities, and facilitates environmental restoration in participating communities.*
  
2. *The goals of the Urban youth led ecological regeneration partnership are to: a) actively engage youth in careers that build skills by learning and disseminating environmental best practices that will improve the environmental health of their households and neighborhoods; b) Reduce measurable environmental risk in low income communities by sharing and implementing long-term strategies for ecological health by improving air quality, reducing storm water runoff and soil erosion, reducing invasive species and restoring native species and pollination corridors within these communities. Pillar communities served will include North Minneapolis (Harrison, Jordan, Hawthorne and Near North neighborhoods), Saint Paul’s East and West Sides, Frogtown Area of Saint Paul, and West Saint Paul.*
  
3. *The Urban youth led ecological regeneration partnership will formalize its existing working relationship as a coalition focused on the Twin Cities low income communities mentioned above, engaging schools and residents in adapting and tailoring existing best environmental management practices and putting policy action plans into place. Elementary, Middle School and High School students will work with youth leaders and their adult environmental mentors to re-design, test and implement existing environmental education curricula that will be tailored to achieve maximum behavior change supporting environmental regenerative strategies in communities that will ripple effect through social and peer networks across the Twin Cities, statewide and beyond.*

**II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES**

**Activity 1:** *Support the development of youth led community networks based in school and after school programs in each of 7 Twin Cities neighborhoods, working with youth and their school and community based environmental mentors to identify, adapt and implement existing environmental best practices management and education curricula that supports deep community engagement and active learning in the field.*

*Budget: \$60,000/year*

**Activity 2:** *Develop formalized coalition of the youth networks across the 7 neighborhoods described in this proposal* *Budget: \$25,000/year*

**Activity 3:** *Engage the Partnership in a number of events, through which we reach out to the broader community and deepen our impact on promoting environmental regeneration.* *Budget :\$30,000/year*

| <b>Outcome</b>  | <b>Completion Date</b> |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. Youth led Environmental Regeneration Councils in each of 7 participating schools and neighborhoods.  | 11/2014                |
| 2. Identification, adaptation and training of 21 community youth leaders using existing environmental education curriculum as part of the partnership development | 3/2015                 |



|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| <p>3. Support youth leaders and mentors to implement and disseminate existing knowledge Environmental Regeneration/ environmental management best practices training for each of 8 communities that make measurable improvements in air quality, soil quality, reduce run off, increase presence of native species, increase tree cover, increase number and abundance of community gardens, reduce energy, waste and water consumption from these communities, etc.</p> | <p>June 2015</p> |
| <p>4. Engage partners in a series of events that educate and engage a broader constituency in our work to regenerate urban environments.</p>   | <p>June 2015</p> |

**III. PROJECT STRATEGY**

**A. Project Team/Partners**

*This Environmental Education Partnership for Community Environmental Resilience includes AfroEco, Ce Tempoxcalli, Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota and the Institute for Advanced Study at the University of Minnesota.*

*AfroEco will receive \$75,000 from ENRTF and raise an additional \$175,000 from other sources to support the development of a healthy food system in North Minneapolis, and organize the Third and Fourth Black Environmental Thought Conferences in 2014 and 2016 respectively.*

*Ce Tempoxcalli will receive \$75,000 from ENRTF and raise an additional \$200,000 from other sources to support the development and refinement of a curriculum on Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Environmental Restoration.*

*Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota will receive \$50,000 from ENRTF and raise \$100,000 from other sources for its role in highlighting key environmental justice challenges in economically marginalized inner city communities across the Metropolitan region facing significant environmental risks.*

*Institute for Advanced Study will serve as initiative manager for this grant, receiving \$25,000 for this role and raising \$100,000 from other sources.*

**B. Timeline Requirements**

*This partnership is already in progress with initial planning done by partnering organizations, and funds raised to carry out preliminary work in preparation for July 2014 when LCCMR funds would be approved. This is a 3 year request, July 2014 through June 2015.*

**C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs**

*The long-term change objective of the Environmental Education Partnership is to a) prepare K-12 students from our communities for both careers and aspirational leadership in environmental services and sciences by actively engaging them in addressing environmental issues in service as environmental stewards; b) develop and implement a curriculum that bridges traditional ecological knowledge with the latest advances in environmental science to address current environmental challenges and opportunities; and c) significantly improve the ecological responsibility of households and whole communities with measured reductions in waste, improved air quality; increased local food production; treatment of invasive species with strategies that restore native species and support pollination corridors; and prepare each of our communities with long-term plans for resilience in light of climate change impacts.*

## 2014 Detailed Project Budget

Project Title:

### IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 3 years

| <u>BUDGET ITEM</u>  | <u>AMOUNT</u>                           |
|---|---|
| <b>Personnel:</b><br><i>Investigator - Ce Tempoxcalli - Zea Leguizamon - 0.5 FTE x 60,000 = \$30,000</i><br><i>EJAM - Executive Director - Louis Alemayehu - 0.25 FTE x 60,000 = \$15,000</i><br><i>Tempoxcalli - Cultural Program Director - Phillip Day - 0.25 FTE x 60,000 = \$15,000</i><br><i>Afro Eco - Executive Director - Sam Grant - 0.25 FTE x 60,000 = \$15,000</i><br>Fringe benefits - FICA/ Health insurance/ Medicare @ 50% x 75,00 personnel cost = \$37,500 | Project<br>\$ 75,000<br>Ce<br>\$ 37,500 |
| <b>Contracts:</b><br><i>Youth leaders - Ce T, EJAM, Afro Eco youth 20/hr x 360 hrs = \$7,200 ea x 6 youth = 43,200</i>  | \$ 43,200                               |
| <b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies:</b><br><i>Instructional supplies (easles, clipboards, etc) = \$3,000</i><br><i>Education materials (posters, workbooks, texts, existing curricula) = \$6,000</i><br><i>Environmental tools (shovel, wheelbarrow, tape measure, net, etc) = \$6,000</i><br><i>Office supplies (paper, pens, markers, flinchart paper) = \$3,000</i>   | \$ 18,000                               |
| <b>Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):</b> <i>n/a</i>   | \$ -                                    |
| <b>Travel:</b> 10,000 miles / group x 3 groups = 30,000 miles x 0.55/mi = \$16,500  | \$ 16,500                               |
| <b>Additional Budget Items:</b> Meeting space cost @ 100/hr x 180 hours = \$18,000  | \$ 18,000                               |
| <b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =</b>  | <b>\$ 208,200</b>                       |

### V. OTHER FUNDS

| <u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>  | <u>AMOUNT</u>   | <u>Status</u>  |
|---|-----------------|----------------|
| <b>Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b><br><i>Ce Tempoxcalli (General operations, USDA, General Mills Foundation) \$70,000 (pending)</i><br><i>EJAM (Otto Bremer Foundation, Hennepin County, City of Minneapolis) \$70,000 (pending)</i><br><i>Afro Eco (Headwaters Foundation, Bush Foundation, McKnight Foundation) \$70,000 (pending)</i> | \$ 210,000      | <i>pending</i> |
| <b>Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b><br><i>Ce Tempoxcalli (Minnesota Department of Health) \$15,000</i><br><i>EJAM (Minnesota Department of Agriculture) \$15,000</i><br><i>Eco (Minnesota Department of Economic Development) \$15,000</i>  | \$ 45,000       | <i>pending</i> |
| <b>In-kind Services During Project Period:</b>  | \$ -            |                |
| <b>Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable):</b> <i>n/a</i>  | \$ -            | <i>n/a</i>     |
| <b>Funding History:</b><br>Tempoxcalli, EJAM and Afro Eco have raised approximately \$60,000 to date for this project beginning July 1, 2014 from USDA, Bremer and the Bush Foundation  | Ce<br>\$ 60,000 | <i>pending</i> |

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### Urban youth led ecological regeneration partnership

A broad based core group of youth (children & teens) are currently leading environmental justice initiatives in the Twin Cities. This proposed collaborative partnership will support these youth in developing their skills as trainers to deliver, implement and disseminate existing environmental education curricula (how to improve the quality of our water, soil and air) within their own schools, neighborhoods and community groups.

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- Ce Tempocalli**  
Ce T is supporting youth leadership development in arts, education and the environment.
- ALMAS program at Sibley HS**  
This youth led school based program will participate in developing youth trainers and facilitators to deliver and implement existing environmental education curricula.
- TROUPE youth at EJAM**  
Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota runs a youth development program called Together Renewing Our Urban People Environment. Youth leaders are trained as peer educators on improving present...
- EJAM EJ partnership at Henry HS**  
Patrick Henry High School offers a school based environmental justice class as well as an after school environmental education...

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### ***Project Personnel and Organizational Description***

T. Zea Leguizamon Grant – Co Principal Investigator is among the founders of the emerging field of social somatics, which considers how we apply, in practice, group decisions for which we are mutually committed. Given the long history of economic marginalization and limited political voice in American Indian and Communities of Color, having Zea play this role helps the overall effort start and sustain an integral commitment to design integrity. Zea is a licensed somatic movement therapist and is completing an MA In Process-Oriented Psychology with the Process Work Institute in Portland, OR. She is currently the Interim Executive Director of Ce Tempoxcalli, at which she played a key organizing role in the first annual Mother Earth Fest, which drew more than 3000 participants to learn about the environment in a very fun, family-focused environment.

Dr. Rose Brewer, among the founders of AfroEco, and a University Professor in the African and African American Studies Department at the University of MN will serve as Co-Principal Investigator. Rose has worked globally around the intersections of the environment, gender, race and economics, and is widely published in the field. Rose also has the rare status of being intimately involved in all 3 organizations. In addition to her background as a founder of AfroEco, she is also a founding board member of Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota, and has volunteered with Ce Tempoxcalli's annual Chalchiutlicue Water Ceremony since the first one 9 years ago.

Sam Grant of AfroEco, Louis Alemayehu of EJAM and Felipe Espinosa Day of Ce Tempoxcalli all have extensive background in environmental education and youth development. They will lead the implementation of youth engagement in this initiative in the communities. Sam and Louis have worked extensively in North Minneapolis, including engagement of 25 youth employed during the summers to do environmental education work. During the school year Louis works closely with Patrick Henry High School, and is helping students from that school take what they are learning in class, out into the community to address some of the significant environmental risks and opportunities. Sam is playing a lead role in urban agriculture in North Minneapolis – working to foster a coalition strategy that works to change the food system in a way that both increases community and environmental health. Sam is also a key volunteer with Ce Tempoxcalli, helped organize Mother Earth Fest. Through his role as Community Faculty at both Metropolitan State University and Minneapolis Community and Technical College he will play a key role in connecting students involved to college, career and aspirational pathways.

Ce Tempoxcalli, the lead organization of this effort, was founded to build healthy communities by revitalizing indigenous cultural knowledge, and each of our organizations appreciate the importance of uplifting traditional ecological knowledge and connecting it with the latest advances in environmental science and technology in order to actively engage marginalized communities in being stewards of a healthier environmentally sound future for us all. Every year for the past 9 years Ce Tempoxcalli has organized a the Chalchiutlicue Ceremony to engage people across the Twin Cities in paying attention to our relationship with water. Now with the organization's recent commitment to also do an annual Mother Earth Fest, the organization is building a reputation as a key convener for environmental education across the Twin Cities that can effectively get all populations in one conversation. It is for this reason that we are submitting this grant through Ce Tempoxcalli.