

Application Record: Giorgia_Guardamagna_1

Time

2026-01-18 08:18:44

Checkbox

I confirm that I have read and understood the information provided above.

I want to choose this type of project:

Social Practice & Service Project

Choose Project Title

【昆山邵村社区(Shaocun Community) - 社区营造 (Community Building)】【Individual Application】
Students serve as community co-creation partners with Shaocun Community, addressing governance needs through space optimization, and cultural programming.

Name

Giorgia Guardamagna

NetID

gg207

Class

2029

Major

Materials Science

Why are you interested in this project/field/industry?

I am interested in this project because it combines community-centered design, social innovation, and real public impact, which aligns with my academic interests and service experiences. The opportunity to rethink and redesign public spaces in Shaocun Community resonates with my belief that environment plays an important role in shaping people's sense of belonging and well-being. Instead of treating public space as purely functional, this project recognizes it as a shared cultural and social asset, which I find really meaningful. What I like the most is the project's emphasis on moving beyond conceptual proposals to real-world implementation. The idea of adopting a "curator" mindset by listening to residents, understanding local culture, and translating those insights into creative and practical designs really reflects the type of socially responsible design work I hope to pursue. As a Materials Science student with a strong interest in design, I am drawn to how aesthetics, material choices, and spatial planning can come together to improve everyday experiences. Additionally, the project's focus on collaboration between students, community staff, and residents aligns with my past experiences in community service and team-work initiatives. I value projects that prioritize dialogue and long-term engagement rather than one-time

interventions. Being able to witness the visible transformation of a neighborhood and know that it reflects collective effort and community needs is deeply motivating to me. Overall, this project represents an ideal crossing of creativity, social responsibility, and hands-on learning.

Describe the experience and skills that make you a good community leader.

My experiences in leadership, design, and community service have prepared me to contribute as a skilled and reliable community leader in this project. I have extensively worked in collaborative, people-centered environments, where success depends on communication, empathy, and coordination. As a retreat leader, I guided diverse groups through team-building activities and helped design shared spaces and experiences that encouraged participation and trust. This role strengthened my ability to facilitate group dynamics while remaining attentive to individual voices. I have also served as an international student leader and ambassador, supporting students from different cultural backgrounds through tutoring and cultural integration. This experience enhanced my cross-cultural communication skills and taught me how to adapt ideas and leadership styles to different contexts. In addition, my volunteer work designing educational posters and activities for WWF Italia helped me learn how to translate abstract concepts into accessible, visually engaging formats for the public. Working as a kindergarten teacher's assistant further reinforced the importance of patience, responsibility, and inclusive design. Planning activities and supporting children with diverse needs taught me to lead with empathy and adaptability, qualities I believe to be very important when engaging with residents of different ages and backgrounds. I am comfortable working within teams, organizing tasks, listening to feedback, and contributing creatively while keeping community needs at the center.

(For long-term projects) Describe your plan for sustaining the long-term development of this project.

To support the long-term development of this project, I would focus on creating systems and relationships that allow the community to continue benefiting beyond the initial implementation phase. One key approach would be co-creating solutions with residents and community staff rather than designing for them. By involving residents in the planning, execution, and evaluation of public space enhancements and art programs, the project can foster a sense of responsibility that encourages long-term care and engagement. I would also prioritize sustainable operational models for both space management and programming. This could include developing clear guidelines for maintaining installations, documenting processes for organizing art education activities, and training local volunteers or community members to lead future programs. Another important element is continuous feedback. Regular check-ins with community partners, residents, and volunteers can help see what is working, what needs to be improved, and how community needs may change. This feedback-driven approach ensures that the project remains responsive.

Describe your plan for sustaining the long-term development of this project.

Said above.

Please attach your Resume

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Browser

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