



NATURE Lab Urban Environmental Education Center

Overview

We have a remarkable opportunity to build a place in North Troy with lasting healing ecological impact—rippling through the city, the NY Capital Region and the world. We call it NATURE Lab.

NATURE Lab stands for **North Troy Art, Technology, and Urban Research in Ecology**. We operate at the intersection of arts activism and environmental justice organizing.

It has been operating nomadically since its inception in 2013, but NATURE Lab needs a permanent space to reach its greatest potential. We have just purchased a long-vacant building on our block to become that home, complete with a laboratory.

The Media Alliance arts and environmental campus, which includes sprawling gardens, The Sanctuary for Independent Media and NATURE Lab, is located just a block from the incredibly environmentally sensitive northern tip of the Hudson River Estuary and the beginning of the historic Erie Canal.

Two hundred years ago Troy was an influential player in the American Industrial Revolution. Little is left here of the great wealth that was created then. We occupy toxic urban land on the banks of the nation's largest Superfund site, where the poverty rate is more than triple that of surrounding Rensselaer County. The legacy of enduring inequality fuels our work to bring about change.

NATURE Lab Center will be a model for post-industrial communities working to transform our toxic consumer culture. Already a hub for a growing legion of eco-warriors, we are training new generations to think critically and take action on our hyperlocal problems with a view to world-wide environmental concerns.

Budget

INCOME

Earned Income	\$10,000
Major Donors..... (confirmed)	\$10,000
Corporate Support.....	\$10,000
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.... (confirmed)	\$30,000
Foundation Support..... (pending)	\$25,000
Crowdfunding.....	\$15,000 (in progress)

TOTAL \$100,000

EXPENSES

Building Purchase.....	\$13,000
Science Laboratory.....	\$30,000
Roof Repair.....	\$9,000
Doors and Windows.....	\$9,000
Insulation.....	\$14,000
HVAC Installation.....	\$5,000
Plumbing	\$7,000
Electric.....	\$8,000

Kitchen..... \$5,000

TOTAL \$100,000

Frequently Asked Questions

What Is NATURE Lab?

The NATURE Lab (**N**orth Troy **A**rt, **T**echnology, and **U**rban **R**esearch in **E**cology) program is a volunteer-led initiative offering STEM education and activities to the public, the vehicle through which we work with our community to repair the neighborhood from the grassroots up.

Since 2013 NATURE Lab has been hosting community workshops, science and technology related public art installations, bio-artist residencies and ongoing research activities in our surrounding ecosystem.

What Does NATURE Lab Do?

Past NATURE Lab programs include:

- Bioremediation of lead contaminated soil
- Testing for antibiotic resistant microbes in the Hudson River
- Seining in the Hudson River

What Is Bio-Art?

The term “bio-art” refers to work of contemporary artists working with living systems, sustainable practices, and using biological techniques and materials to produce art. Bio-artists have been involved with NATURE Lab since its inception, using their creative talents to beautify our community and inspire action.

Why Is This Necessary?

Fighting climate change is imperative and people need to take action from whatever point of entry available. Projects like NATURE Lab are exactly how our communities will affect change from the bottom up.

Who Will The Center Serve?

NATURE Lab will serve our immediate community of North Central Troy and the entire NYS Capital Region as a hub for skill-shares and workshops led by scientists, artists, professors, farmers, nutritionists, historians and others.

Is There Anything Else Like This?

Although there are other projects with components of the NATURE Lab Environmental Education Center, this project is special because we are located in such an ecologically and historically significant location, suffering from generations of embedded poverty.