



Proposal for Green Library Tours

Office of DeKalb County District 6 Commissioner Ted Terry

Overview

The **Fruitful Community Foundation** has partnered with the **Jane Goodall Institute's Roots & Shoots** program to foster environmental awareness, education, and action within DeKalb County. The mission of the *Fruitful Community Foundation* is teaching the next generation of eco-advocates how to get involved in their local government to build climate solutions into local public policy and change public landscaping plans to more sustainable solutions. *Roots & Shoots* is an organization that empowers young people to affect positive change in their communities and supports them through micro-grants.

In line with our missions, we propose the implementation of the **Green Library Tours**, *an educational and outreach initiative targeting residents at all 23 DeKalb County public libraries*. This program aims to empower individuals of different age groups and communities to become land stewards and active participants in local climate action efforts.

Objective

1. Empower DeKalb County residents to join the people-powered movement for local climate action: *DeKalb Green New Deal*. This will provide educational opportunities that promote understanding of climate change and its impact on the county.
2. Foster a sense of responsibility and encourage sustainable practices among residents within the places they live, work, and play.
3. Supporting the Fruitful Library transition plan and Roots & Shoots youth programming.

Target Audiences and Classes:

The Green Library Tours will comprise of three distinct classes (Family/Elementary Age, Adulthood 16-25, and senior citizens). We've focused on the 18 and under demographic per your grant; although there is an "adultish" and senior component.

1. Family Programming (Elementary Age) - 1-2 hours sessions:

This class will engage elementary and middle age students and their parents. Through interactive and age-appropriate activities, we will educate families on the importance of climate action, sustainable practices, and the role they can play in creating a greener future for DeKalb County. Activities will include storytelling, hands-on experiments, and craft projects related to environmental conservation.

Implementation:

Start Date: October 14th, 2023 - *Kick of Green Library Tours at Clarkston Library during the Green New Deal summit*

Would love to announce at International Peace Day at Legacy Park on September 21st, 2023 with Jane Goodall)

End Date: April 20th, 2024 (weekend before Earth Day 2024)

Collaboration:

Partners: DeKalb County Public Libraries, Jane Goodall Institute's Roots & Shoots, The Atlanta Falcons' Youth Fund, Wylde Center; MicroLife Institute's (Nimby the Clown saves the Town); and more.

To ensure the success of the Green Library Tours, the GreenHive Leadership Program alumni will be teaching the majority of these sessions along with local experts, environmental organizations, and a community liaison from each branch's community who shares our passion for climate action and education. We will work closely with the DeKalb County public libraries' coordinator Teresa Totten to coordinate logistics, secure venues, and promote the program through their existing networks.

Evaluation:

Regular assessments will be conducted to measure the effectiveness of the Green Library Tours. We will collect feedback from participants and make necessary improvements to enhance the program's impact. Additionally, we will track the number of participants, their engagement levels, and their subsequent involvement in local climate action efforts.

Budget:

To successfully implement the Green Library Tours, we estimate a budget of \$36,000. This will cover the costs of program development, coordination, materials, and promotion. We will seek funding from grants, corporate sponsorships, and individual donations to support this initiative.

EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT - \$25,000

- Host (23) 1-2 hour interactive courses at each DeKalb County Library.
- Host (1) Finale Event at StoneCrest Library.
- Create educational materials and one sheets for tour/event participants to explain Green New Deal, productive urban landscaping, policy, project empowerment, and their importance in addressing food insecurity and combating climate change.

Conclusion:

The **Green Library Tours** will empower DeKalb County residents to become active participants in local climate action efforts. By educating and engaging individuals across different age groups, we aim to create a more sustainable and resilient future for the county. Through collaboration, meaningful dialogue, and interactive activities, we believe that together we can make a difference in combating climate change and preserving the beauty of DeKalb County for generations to come.