



Water Stewardship Teaching Artist

Project: Youth Water Stewardship Learning Series

Duration: January 2026 - June 2026

Compensation: \$1,000 stipend

Location: Milwaukee, WI (Hybrid - remote and in-person planning)

Payment Structure:

- **\$500 (50%) upon completion of milestone deliverables:**
 - Arts component concepts developed for 4 standalone 30-45 min lesson plans & rain barrel design activity
 - Materials lists and sourcing plan finalized
 - Collaboration with curriculum developers complete
 - Draft arts activities and instructions submitted
 - Initial review and revision round completed
- **\$500 (50%) upon final project completion:**
 - All 4 arts components & rain barrel designs finalized and approved
 - Visual examples or prototypes completed (as applicable)
 - Grant reporting requirements fulfilled (including documentation of arts impact)
 - Project evaluation review and approval

Project Overview: Partner with educators and community members to integrate artistic expression and creative engagement into water-centered educational youth programming for Milwaukee families. This position supports Fair Future Movement's grant proposal through Milwaukee Water Commons' Water School Program. It supports their Water City Agenda by creating meaningful arts experiences that deepen community connection to local watersheds and promote water stewardship. [Read our grant proposal here.](#)

Responsibilities:

- Develop and integrate arts components into 4 water-focused lesson plans for K-5 learners and culminating rain barrel design activity

- Design creative activities that strengthen understanding of Water City Agenda initiatives (Drinking Water, Water Quality, Blue Green Jobs, Arts & Culture, Education & Recreation, Green Infrastructure)
- Create place-based artistic experiences relevant to Milwaukee's six watersheds (Lincoln Creek, Milwaukee River, Kinnickinnic River, Lake Michigan Drainage, Menomonee River, Root River)
- Design arts activities using minimal, accessible materials appropriate for diverse family settings
- Develop culturally responsive creative experiences honoring Milwaukee's diverse communities
- Create age-appropriate artistic adaptations for children younger than kindergarten
- Design flexible art activities accounting for children's variable participation throughout sessions
- Collaborate with curriculum developers to ensure artistic components enhance educational objectives
- Participate in planning meetings and collaborative review processes with Milwaukee Water Commons
- May facilitate or co-facilitate arts activities at family meetups (as capacity allows)
- Support recruitment of additional artists or creative volunteers for program implementation

Qualifications:

- Professional experience as teaching artist or arts educator working with children/families
- Demonstrated ability to create accessible, engaging arts experiences for diverse ages and abilities
- Knowledge of or willingness to learn about Milwaukee watersheds and water stewardship themes
- Experience with place-based or community-engaged art practices preferred
- Strong collaboration skills and experience working with educators and community partners
- Commitment to culturally responsive and inclusive artistic practices
- Ability to design low-prep, high-impact creative activities suitable for various settings
- Portfolio or examples of previous work with environmental themes, community art, or family programming preferred
- Milwaukee-based artists or artists with connections to Milwaukee Water Commons network encouraged to apply

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Interested Teaching Artists must submit the following materials:

A. Cover Letter (1-2 pages)

- Your interest in water stewardship and environmental arts education
- Relevant experience creating arts programming for children and families
- Approach to culturally responsive, place-based artistic practice
- Understanding of or willingness to engage with Milwaukee's water systems and communities
- Your artistic philosophy and how it aligns with community engagement

B. Resume/CV

- Educational background and artistic training
- Professional teaching artist experience
- Relevant projects, exhibitions, or community work

C. Portfolio (5-10 images or work samples)

- Examples of teaching artist work with children/families
- Projects demonstrating accessible, low-prep arts activities
- Environmental, place-based, or community-engaged work (if available)
- Documentation of process and outcomes preferred
- Please include brief descriptions of each sample

D. Project Concept Statement (1 page)

- Preliminary ideas for integrating arts into water stewardship education
- Examples of art forms or techniques you might employ
- How your artistic practice connects to watershed themes

E. References (2)

- Name, title, organization, and contact information
- Brief description of your working relationship
- At least one reference from educational or community-based work

F. Availability Statement

- Confirmation of availability January - June 2026
- Preferred working arrangement (remote, in-person, or hybrid)
- Interest and capacity for facilitating activities at family meetups (optional)

- Any scheduling constraints or considerations

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated based on:

- **Artistic Quality & Teaching Experience (30%)** - Portfolio strength and demonstrated teaching artist experience
- **Relevant Experience (25%)** - Background with children/families, community engagement, and accessible arts programming
- **Creative Vision (20%)** - Proposed approach to water-themed arts integration and place-based practice
- **Collaboration Approach (15%)** - Ability to work with curriculum developers and community partners
- **Cultural Responsiveness (10%)** - Commitment to inclusive, culturally responsive artistic practices

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

How to Apply:

Email your complete proposal package to:

hello@fairfuturemovement.org

Subject Line: Youth Water Stewardship Learning Series Proposal - [Your Name]

Proposal Package Should Include:

1. Cover letter (PDF)
2. Resume/CV (PDF)
3. Portfolio (PDF or link to online portfolio)
4. Project concept statement (PDF)
5. References (PDF or in cover letter)
6. Availability statement (PDF or in cover letter)

File Naming Convention: LastName_FirstName_DocumentType.pdf

Example: Rodriguez_Maria_CoverLetter.pdf

Portfolio Submissions:

- PDF format preferred (max 15MB)
- Online portfolio links accepted (website, Google Drive, Dropbox, etc.)

- Ensure links are accessible and will remain active through December 2025

SELECTION PROCESS

- **Proposal Review and Interviews Begin:** December 2, 2025
 - **Anticipated Project Start:** January 5, 2026
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About the Water City Agenda:

The Water City Agenda is a comprehensive framework promoting water stewardship across six key initiative areas, fostering community engagement, environmental education, and sustainable practices throughout Milwaukee's diverse neighborhoods and watersheds.

Equal Opportunity:

Fair Future Movement is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion. We strongly encourage applications from artists of all backgrounds, particularly those from communities historically underrepresented in environmental education and arts programming, and those with deep connections to Milwaukee's diverse neighborhoods.

This RFP represents a commitment to centering artistic practice in environmental education, honoring the power of creativity to inspire connection, understanding, and action for water stewardship in Milwaukee's diverse communities.