

PINA DESIGN CONTEST 2019

By: Jared Williams & Lala Montoya Heredia Williams

THE EDGE PROJECT:

A Permaculture initiative,
which aims to push the edges of art, food, and culture.

ADDRESS:

***#84 Pine Lane
Saugerties, NY 12477***

COORDINATES:

***LATITUDE: 42.072582
LONGITUDE: -74.042938***

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT US ONLINE:

INSTAGRAM: https://www.instagram.com/the_edge_project/

WEBSITE: <https://cargocollective.com/LalaMontoya/>

FOOD SHARE: <https://www.facebook.com/SaugertiesFoodShare/>

Nature Wise Grant Submission

By: Jared Williams & Lala Montoya Heredia Williams

The goal of The Edge Project Permaculture Demonstration Site is to develop resilient, informative designs of food, energy, and cultural systems which can easily be replicated. Focused on natural systems, our intention is to cultivate an abundance of plants, fruits, vegetables and skills for education and sharing. We expand our systems into our community through many educational programs, which have been evolving for 7 years. For example, the Community Compost Project: collecting scraps from restaurants, turning them into soil, starting seedlings with our local boys and girls club and then sharing those seedlings for free, encouraging a dynamic cultural shift.

Welcome to The Edge Project, our “share-stead” (sharing homestead) which aims to push the edges of art, food, and culture. You are heading down the driveway within a pine/maple/oak forest in Saugerties, New York, and you spot the Community Compost piles (8 in total) which receive food wastes from 5 local restaurants and many neighbors. This food waste feeds a flock of chickens and a few pigs, produces tons of compost, and will fuel a new Bio-digester, to be located just behind the timber-framed outdoor kitchen. This multipurpose structure, which hosts community potlucks, collective meetings, seedling giveaways, and permaculture gatherings, will benefit from a new metal roof, to ensure a quality rain catch system for washing dishes and watering plants. Behind a kiwi and schisandra arbor, lie herb and edible ground covers filling in all the available niches of the 5 year old food forest garden mandala, completing the layers of the guilds. In front of the outdoor kitchen space, are the “Community Swales”, where neighbors work together, laugh, and have conversations all the while. Veggies and grains grown in the contoured swales are shared with our summer apprentices and at our monthly food sharing events.

As you move closer to the house, you notice the spot for a new 500 gallon rain catch system to hydrate the greenhouse, propagation nursery, and swales daily to lessen the use of electricity for irrigation, and provide water in times of drought. The system will also hydrate thousands of spring seedlings grown to share with the local garden collective, the Boys & Girls Club, and any inspired neighbors who want to try growing food and share it. The greenhouse will even grow seedlings in February, once we install a new rocket mass heater, which also thermally buffers the home. You walk or wheel up to the house on the wheelchair-accessible ramp. Inside, a cookstove heats domestic water during the winter, and on the roof, the new solar hot water system provides the hot water for all dishes and hand-washed diapers during the warmer months. Previously the only way to cook at this share-stead was with wood fuel. We will upgrade our current rocket stoves with a food waste bio-digester that collects methane, adding to our renewable fuel sources and also producing a vibrant fertilizer for our gardens and our community.

The Nature Wise Grant can help us to enrich our contributions of ecological, economical and social benefits in our community. The completion of the guilds and added technologies will not only replace enormous amounts of fossil fuel needs, but also engage our whole community, young and old, in new relationships with carbon, eliminating waste, and conserving water. These upgrades demonstrate accessible ways to transition toward a sharing economy by weaving permaculture into the social fabric of our lives.

Budget & Timeline:

The systems we aspire to establish with this grant are interconnected and throughout Zones 0 - 3, and extend their direct effect to our Zone 5 (the edge between this land and the community).

Solar Hot Water System: (**\$400**) Plumbing, panels & hardware
Zone 0, Home, All Water will be heated by natural means. *Build Spring of 2019*

Rocket Mass Heater: (**\$500**) Sand, barrel, chimney piping & bricks
Zone 1, Green House, Heated environment for early seedling starts. *Build Summer/Fall 2019*

Rain Catch System: (**\$1,800**) Gutters, first flush diverter, tank & plumbing
(**\$550**) Clear roofing panels
Zone 1 & 2, Greenhouse + Nursery/Swales, Irrigate greenhouse, propagation nursery, and community swales. Roof extension for wheelchair ramp longevity & safety. *Build Summer of 2019*

Outdoor Kitchen Roof: (**\$700**) Roofing, plumbing & gutters
Zone 2, Outdoor Kitchen, is in need of a metal roof, to provide security in all weather, also a rain catch for washing dishes and irrigating the nearby food forest. *Build Summer 2019 - Summer 2020*

Bio-Digester System: (**\$350**) Barrel, piping, stove, storage bag
Zone 2, Outdoor Kitchen, Diversify fuel sources with a biodigester system that will generate cooking fuel. The compost program will provide ample food for it! Also, our good friend Kathy Puffer, a local biodigester expert, will host the build. *Build Spring/Summer 2019*

Food Forest Mandala Guilds: (**\$450**) Assortment of perennial seedlings + seeds
(**\$250**) Black Locust bulk bare root
Zone 3, Food Forest Mandala, Pollinators and ground covers, edibles, medicinals and native species. Natural fence finished by adding more black locust. *Planted Spring 2019 & Spring 2020*

Total Expenses: (**\$5,000**)

Our timeframe for finishing this project is 2 years. We have been observing and evolving this design for the last 7 years and are ready to begin. We are currently working with Kingston Highschool (Zone 5: our community), to create an apprenticeship program where students receive credits to collaborate with us. With that being said, the actual installation process will take time, but the benefit of this relationship is that the students will be exposed to Permaculture! The other projects will be created by hosting "sliding-scale" workshops, "Permie-Blitz" events with our local Roundout Valley Permaculture Meetup members, and family / friends of our local collective network, all of which benefit from the experience and/or fruits from the gardens.

It is with our best intention to share the permaculture design and implementation process with our community. For the past 7 years, we have been living with the gift, always sharing, not only the surplus, but truly sharing our skills and what we produce. We hope that by attaining this grant, we can further demonstrate that Permaculture is more than just creating landscapes and sharing our extra pawpaws. Permaculture is about developing a culture that, yes, encompasses food and nature, but extends to support the arts, shifting our relationship towards all forms of energy and cultivating a vibrant creative culture.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration!
We look forward to hearing from you soon!