

PINA Permaculture Design Contest 2023

Use this form to **submit your Permaculture Design to PINA**, the Permaculture Institute of North America, **before Monday October 2, 2023**. You must answer all questions and upload images and supporting documents for your design to enter the Design Contest.

Design Contest Rules Summary: The Top Five (5) Finalists in each category will be selected by PINA's Panel of Judges: the ***\$1,000 New Designer Award*** (must have completed a PDC in the last 3 years, after 1/1/2020), and the ***\$5,000 Grand Prize for the best designs, regardless of design experience!***

The Top Five Finalists in each category will be invited to share about their designs in **Live Online Events, November 14th @ 7:30PM ET for New Designers and November 15th @ 7:30PM ET for the Grand Prize.**

PINA members will vote to select the winners in each category. **Voting closes November 21st** and the **Winners will be announced November 27th**. All Finalists will receive award packages from our sponsors. Please read the complete [Design Contest Rules, Terms and Conditions](#).

As is the case with all good Permaculture Designs, PINA is seeking design submissions that creatively use and respond to local conditions to improve quality of life for you, your community, and your ecosystem.

Consider how your design can best impact local communities of need, grow local economies, address "invisible structures," and how your design can create more engagement, more Permaculture education, more Earth Care, People Care, and Future Care in your region.

Note: *Every design doesn't need to solve all of today's issues, but more integrated designs are encouraged.*

Project Lead: First and Last Name (must be a current PINA member & a PDC grad) *

Jasmine Rose Oberste

PDC Info: Date and location where you completed your first PDC, and name of primary instructor(s) *

May 30, 2021, Occidental Arts & Ecology Center, Brock Dolman and Kendall Dunning

Email: *

Phone : *

Title of Design Project: *

River of Community: A Social Permaculture Project of Youth Created Native Gardens & Community Mosaics

Note: Please be concise but comprehensive in your answers below.

If you are logged in to a Google Account, this form is auto-saving so you may return to it at your leisure 🎯🎯.

Awesome! Got it.

Design Overview: Please give a summary of your design. Where is it located? Community impacted? *

Problems solved? What goals does it achieve?

PROJECT SCOPE & LOCATION:

Located in the Cowichan Valley of Vancouver Island, British Columbia, this project is a creative opportunity for youth from three different schools and involved with a local organization that supports recent immigrants and refugees settle into the Cowichan Valley. It will provide opportunities during its creation and after the installation local community to learn about native ecosystems and keystone species as well as to learn the local Indigenous names of native plants and animals, with an emphasis on traditional foods. In order to include Indigenous, BIPOC and recent immigrants and refugee youth, we are connecting with different schools and organizations in the valley.

Each middle school class will work with Quw'utsun elders to learn about the ecosystem, watershed, and traditional foodways and then students will paint a 4" x 4" tile of the plant and animal species they discuss. Tiles from each group will contribute to all 6 locations so that each mosaic contains paintings from all the student programs involved.

IMPACT:

The goals of this project are multi-faceted:

1. To foster connection between youth communities spread out around the Cowichan Valley and to foster connection with Mother Earth.
- 2 To create a meaningful, creative project that beautifies each school and community centre
3. To learn about and celebrate local Indigenous knowledge and ways of life

4. To create learning opportunities for the broader community through signs and QR codes linked with recordings of the Hul'qumi'num pronunciation of different plants and animals names.

Earth Care: How does your design address climate instability, potential pollution concerns, and enhance your local ecology? *

This Social Permaculture project supports Earth Care by:

1. Creating small mother gardens of native plants
2. Teaching youth about native ecosystems in a creative, hands-on way
3. Teaching the broader community about native ecology and Indigenous names and uses of plants through using QR technology to link native gardens with audio recordings about the plants, their traditional uses and their names in the local Indigenous language, Hul'qumi'num
4. It also supports knowledge and valuing local ecology through the mosaic murals that will be installed in 6 different locations so that people can see beautiful expression of the local watershed and its native plant and animal species.

People Care: How will your design engage and/or serve local communities? *

This project strongly incorporates people care through a number of methods:

1. Bringing youth together to paint tiles to be contributed to mosaics. Each school will contribute tiles to all 6 locations
2. Choosing schools and organizations that have strong representation of Indigenous and BIPOC students as well as recent immigrants and refugees and bringing youth together to co-create beautiful, public installations
3. Bringing Quw'utsun elders to work with the different groups of middle school students to teach them about Quw'utsun culture, tradition, and connection with the local ecology
4. Creating a finale celebration inviting members from all the organizations

Future Care: How will your design foster more permaculture projects and on-the-ground action? *

This project also supports Future Care in a number of ways:

1. The mosaic installations will be installed in carefully chosen locations that will hopefully last for many decades to come, teaching and celebrating native ecology
2. Each mosaic will have a native plant garden adjacent to the mosaic installation, which will provide native pollinators with food and provide demonstration learning gardens
3. It is our hope that these kinds of projects that bring together youth of different ethnic backgrounds and from different life experiences, that we can bridge the divide of segregation that is the colonial legacy of North America and much of the world

Details: Choose three (3) Permaculture Design Principles and share how they can be seen in your design. *

1. USE & VALUE DIVERSITY

"Diversity reduces vulnerability to a variety of threats and takes advantage of the unique nature of the environment in which it resides. This includes diversity of plants, animals and people." This project not only includes diversity of plant species in our native gardens, but significantly includes ethnic diversity in the youth groups coming together as well as age diversity by bringing elders to work with middle school students.

2. USE EDGES & VALUE THE MARGINAL

"The interface between things is where the most interesting events take place. These are often the most valuable, diverse and productive elements in the system." Our gardens and mosaics will be on the edges of buildings that are otherwise unused and plain. Also the adjacent native gardens will be in small edge spaces nearby.

3. INTEGRATE RATHER THAN SEGREGATE

"By putting the right things in the right place, relationships develop between them and they support each other." This works with all aspects of design including plants and people!

Budget: How would you spend the \$5,000 Grand Prize to implement your design in the next year? Please *

be as detailed as possible.

\$1,500 wholesale bulk flats of native plant plugs (focusing on Garry Oak ecosystem / wildflower such as camas, woolly sunflower, aster, nodding onion and native grasses)

\$1,500 stained glass for river and underglaze paints for tiles

\$2,000 Stipends for those working with youth to prepare (Indigenous elders, ceramic artists)

Upload your design here: *PDF Preferred, images and docs accepted, up to 5 files (10MB limit per file) *

River of Commu...

Design Experience: Do you qualify for the *\$1,000 New Designer Award*? *

Yes, I took my PDC within the last 3 years, after January 1, 2020

No, I took my PDC before January 1, 2020

Do you agree to the [Rules, Terms and Conditions of the 2023 Permaculture Design Contest](#)? *

Yes, I will use the award money to implement my design & agree to the terms linked

No

In order to submit your design, you MUST be a member of PINA at any level. Are you a current PINA member? [Become a member here.](#) *

Yes

No

Maybe

Other:

Feedback: any comments or suggestions for this submission process?

Thank You for Your Entry!



Permaculture
Institute of
North America

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