Oakland Environmental Resilience - A Youth Project

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Backstory:

Three OUSD students of color from East Oakland noticed young people of their community are underrepresented in STEM careers. We realize information on environmental issues does not often reach the majority of Oakland students and much less to those who will be deeply affected by climate change. Like any other issue impacting a city, community members need to be a part of the conversation.
Our Goal

Create a youth program dedicated to teaching underrepresented students in STEM careers how to advocate for themselves and their environment.

➔ Would be aimed at students in Oakland Unified School District
➔ They would participate in field days with the purpose of shoreline restoration
➔ Attend lectures of varying topics (STEM, professional development, activism)
➔ Students would have the opportunity to network with professionals
"I know where to find opportunities in STEM"

"I know what climate justice is"
Our Site: MLK Jr Shoreline

+ Why we chose this site
Students will participate in shoreline litter clean up, invasive plant removal and native species planting on their weekly field days.
During the shoreline litter clean up students would keep track of the trash through the Marine Debris Tracker App.

The app was designed by the National Geographic Society as a way to encourage citizen scientists.

Students will learn what it means to be a citizen scientists and why they are vital to their community.
MLK Jr Shoreline clean up days are already hosted by EBRPD but there needs to be constant maintenance at the shoreline.

MLK Jr Shorelines Damon Slough is one of the top five most littered areas in the Bay Area.
Shoreline Center

Potential site for hosting lecture or guest speaker days

Features:

➔ Commercial Kitchen
➔ Main Room
➔ Large Outdoor deck
➔ Audio Visual System
➔ Wi-Fi
Potential lecture topics

➔ The difference between a 1.5°C increase and a 2°C increase
➔ Redlining in the Bay Area and Environmental Racism
➔ Ways to be an advocate at their high schools
➔ Understanding Living Shorelines
Grant opportunities:
- Youth Community Access Grant
- Measure AA

Community/School Funds:
- Youth Participants can lead fundraisers for the shoreline & program

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Total task: $192,000 - $235,000
Schedule

➔ Apply for Youth Access Grant during spring of 2023
➔ Once we get approval to the grant, we can begin preparations for the program
➔ We will also begin precise planning & scheduling for program
➔ Implementing program!
Through our program students will...

➔ Learn about environmental racism
➔ Earn an hourly wage of $20
➔ Will participate in community work
➔ Work to restore the MLK Jr Shoreline
➔ Network with professionals in STEM and climate justice
➔ Build confidence in their leadership and advocate skills
➔ Keep up with current events related to climate change
How Do We Reach Our Program Targets?

- Hold at least 20 lectures throughout the year
- Students will have collected at least 40 pounds of trash
- Students will have removed at least 60 pounds of invasive plants
- Students will have had at least 8 planting field days
- Students will meet at least 15 guest speakers
- At the end of the year students will create a small project on something they have learned through the program
  - It will be presented in a medium of their choice
Contact Information

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