

All material taken directly from Application and edited for brevity.

# Friends of the Arboretum

## Agency Mission:

The Friends of the Arboretum support educational programs as well as the gardens at the New Hanover County Arboretum through both membership and fundraising.

## Project Summary:

**\*TOTAL Budget: \$23,000. Asking for a WIN Grant to cover \$5,000 of costs most related to education and lifelong learning including the Educational Spaces (\$2,800), Signage (\$1,800), and 10% of the Hardscape (\$400).**

The Native American Cultural Garden is a new project at the New Hanover County Arboretum. The \$5,000 of WIN funds will help the Friends of NHC Arboretum give our two Haleiwa-Saponi artists, Senora Lynch and Karen Lynch Harley, the platform to provide a more comprehensive and meaningful educational space for residents and visitors of New Hanover County through the lens of indigenous regional voices.

## Program Details:

New Hanover County residents and visitors are the populations this project aims to serve as the educational materials will be developed with the goal of reaching a broad demographic. The Friends of New Hanover County (NHC) Arboretum seeks support for developing a Native Garden that includes educational opportunities for all ages and ability levels that will expand the regions exposure to Waccamaw-Siouan and Haleiwa-Saponi indigenous culture and practices in North Carolina. Development of this educational opportunity on indigenous traditions and practices in the context of the natural environment is crucial for understanding the past, present, and future of the Cape Fear Region.

Indigenous voices in the Cape Fear Region are historically underrepresented. Through gardening and art, the Friends of NHC Arboretum is uniquely placed at an intersection that allows it to address educational needs in this area through creating a garden with corresponding educational and experiential installments in partnership with The Waccamaw Siouan tribe. Education is a primary goal of the Arboretum, and this project opens doors to written, digital, and potentially STEM content. These components will benefit all ages of lifelong learners in the Cape Fear Region and help the County bridge the historical gap between government and local tribes through providing a more comprehensive picture of the natural environment in which we all live to benefit the general public.

Throughout the inception and discovery phases of this project, indigenous voices have helped pivot the direction and goals of this project.

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### **Impact:**

The project's goals are to educate New Hanover County residents and visitors through uplifting indigenous voices at the intersection of education and our natural environment. The educational pieces in this garden will be pivotal in bringing historically marginalized indigenous voices out of the suppressed history books and into modern day. Waccamaw-Siouan and Haleiwa-Saponi tribes are here, now, today and providing every visitor of the New Hanover County arboretum with this awareness will make crucial links between the variety of modern-day communities in the region.

Educational Installments will be completed and delivered by November 1st, 2022, and the plant components will be ready for a spring unveiling (Date for planting TBD). A self-guided educational program will be developed and ready for the garden's unveiling and at least one workshop will be planned for a summer or fall program to provide hands-on education for the community, i.e., STEM activities, cat tail weaving workshops, and environmental awareness. Ongoing workshops will be planned to provide long-term learning opportunities for all demographics. Success will be determined by observations of Friends of NHC Arboretum Volunteers and staff of the attendance and time spent in the garden itself as well as attendance of workshops.