

Taking Flight is a series of free printmaking and paper-making workshops and a traveling series of interactive, pop-up exhibitions that spreads awareness and promotes the planting of native plants (especially Swamp Milkweed) to support bees and other pollinators. This project has three parts: Making, Installing, and Revealing.

For Making- workshop participants create artwork to both take home and that combine into an exhibition. Three types of workshops will be offered: 1) monotypes on recycled paper 2) Schoolchildren will create seed-embedded paper in STEM events with the Butterfly House, a division of the Missouri Botanical Garden and at workshops in parks. 3) At Central Print, I will offer workshops to create collographs of native plants on archival paper.

For Installing- I will build a free-standing structure to hold prints from the workshop and a regional map of St. Louis region. Colorful 5 x 5 inch monotypes from workshops will fill a 15 foot wall in a vibrant quilt pattern. The colorful layer will be hidden beneath drab, seed-embedded paper squares from the paper-making workshops. I will attach each seed-paper square with a single map pin.

Revealing- This would happen at various venues around the St. Louis region, such as an interactive Forest Park Visitor Center Pop-Up Exhibition Event. Participants of the exhibition each remove one pin and its square of seed-paper. They take home the square to plant their own pollinator gardens. They use the pin to mark their zip code on the St. Louis region map. The regional map will begin to mark the future pollinator gardens. Venues could also be banks or clinics as the display will be free-standing.

The visual metaphor will illustrate how anyone can contribute small acts of care to create a strong patchwork that supports native wildlife. Empowering the region to take part in art-making and supporting pollinators and ecological stewardship is a net benefit to all.

PARTNERS

Marie Oberkirsch, Director of Central Print, will provide workshop space for collograph sessions at Central Print. Chris Hartley (Science Education Coordinator) and Laura Chisholm (Senior Manager, Collections Education and Facilities) of Butterfly House have assisted in planning, will provide a collection site for recycled material, loan pollinator specimens, and create seed-embedded paper during STEM workshops in elementary and middle-schools for the project. Laura and Chris will put me in contact with their school contacts around the county and city. Steve Burkhardt, Facility Manager at Forest Park Forever, approved hosting the pop-up exhibition in the Visitor Center in Nov 2018 (for a previous unsuccessful grant application). I plan to hire other teaching artists, such as Christina Gregor (MFA, Printmaking Northern Illinois University and Lindenwood University Adjunct Instructor) and Christine Holtz (MFA Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Fibers and adjunct instructor at Maryville University) to help conduct workshops. Producer Suzie Vanderhoff of the Higher Learning Channel- TV will document the project in its multiple parts. I will use my printmaking MFA coursework to share printmaking and papermaking with the public.