



2022-23 Awardee

Sci-Design

Sci-Design was awarded the Green Grant for a project using public art to bring awareness to native plants and the role they play in Pennsylvania's ecosystem.

Award Amount: \$640.00

Native Flower Banner

Sci-Design is a student organization with a mission to bring together art and science. This club provides a space for STEM and non-STEM students alike to create work combining their passion for science and art. During their themed drawing sessions, members are given time to focus on art when they may not otherwise have opportunities within their majors to explore science-based creativity. Sci-Design's previous public displays have included submissions to the 2022 Undergraduate Studies Symposium for Undergraduate Research and Creativity, where the student works were featured as a special exhibition.



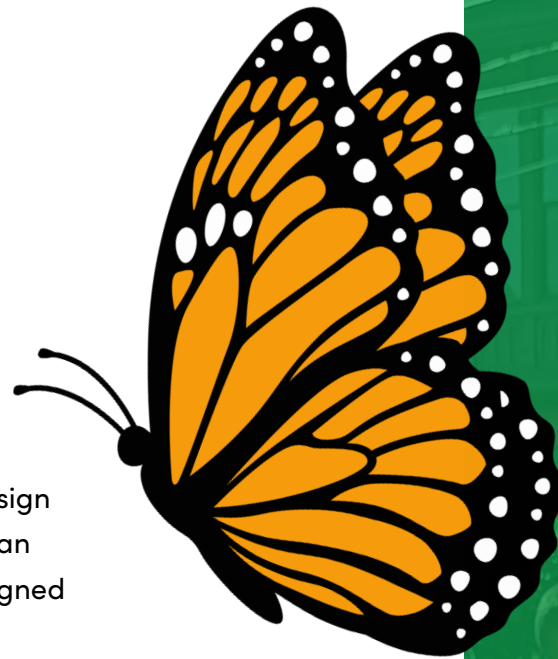
Forward Facing: Art for the Community

The Office of Sustainability's Green Grant enabled Sci-Design to achieve a long-term organization goal: the creation of an educational piece of public art displayed on campus, designed and completed entirely by students.

Why go public?

Sci-Design members are passionate about public art. Public art is accessible to everyone, not just those who can visit museums and galleries, creating beautiful visuals as a backdrop to everyday life. However, public art is more than just aesthetics – it also has societal benefits:

1. Public art reinforces a sense of belonging and can celebrate the qualities and history of an area – such as natural habitats or important figures.
2. Collaborative projects increase bonds between participating community members.
3. Studies show that benefits of public art include increased neighborhood safety and decreased amounts of anxiety and social isolation.



“Tips for How College Students Can Support Native Plants:

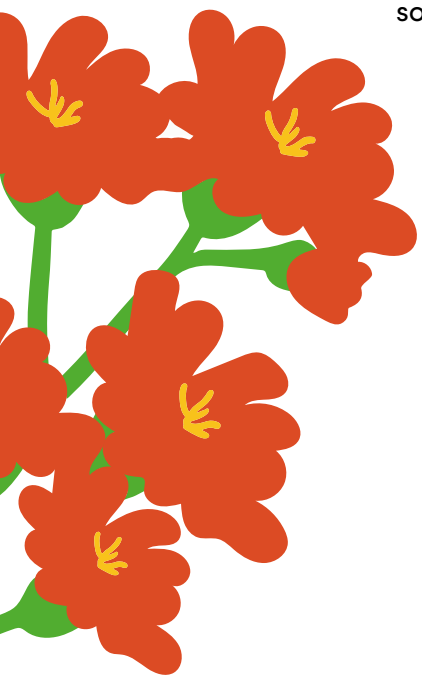
Clean-Up Efforts: Participate in local clean-up events to remove invasive species, learn to identify native plants, and restore habitats.


Plant Natives: Practice what you preach by planting native species on campus or in local green spaces to create pockets of biodiversity.

Raise Awareness: Reach out to family and friends to spread awareness about the importance of native plants and encourage sustainable planting practices.

Research & Art: Engage in research or art projects to educate yourself and others.

Together, we can protect native plants and ensure a healthier, more biodiverse future for our urban ecosystems.”





“*I think a city
that is vibrant
and thriving
has art right
at the center.*”

-Jane Golden, Executive Director
of Mural Arts Philadelphia



Science Design (Sci-Design) is a club with a mission to bring together art and science. The Green Grant project revolves around using public art to bring awareness to native plants and the role they play in Pennsylvania’s ecosystem.

The banner painting project began with the Science-Design’s mission to public art that would combine both science and art in an educational way.

In discussions with club members and the Office of Sustainability, it was decided that the project should center around raising awareness about the importance of native plants, placed near Temple University’s Community Garden to encourage students and community members to consider how they can help protect native flora. All the design decisions—from the palette to composition and illustration style—were made collaboratively during club meetings.

Why native plants are important?

- Ecosystem Health: Native plants are essential for maintaining a balanced ecosystem. They are adapted to local conditions, reducing the need for chemicals and promoting soil health.
- Biodiversity: Native plants support a diverse range of wildlife, including pollinators and native species, fostering a thriving ecosystem.
- Resilience: In the face of climate change and environmental challenges, native plants offer stability and adaptability to our ecosystems.

Materials Matter

One of the most important aspects of the project was the use of sustainable materials. The student leadership team conducted extensive research to learn about the harmful ecological impacts of most exterior paints on the market. To avoid exposure to toxic chemicals including VOCs and harmful emissions, Sci-Design chose a more sustainable soy-based paint alternative.

The remaining budget was allocated to additional materials including paintbrushes, tape, pencils, sharpeners, hardware for hanging the banner, and more. These materials were also chosen with sustainable purchasing practices in mind. Students opted for low emission shipping and natural, untreated paintbrush bristles. Members also lent any supplies they already had so more products didn't have to be purchased unnecessarily.

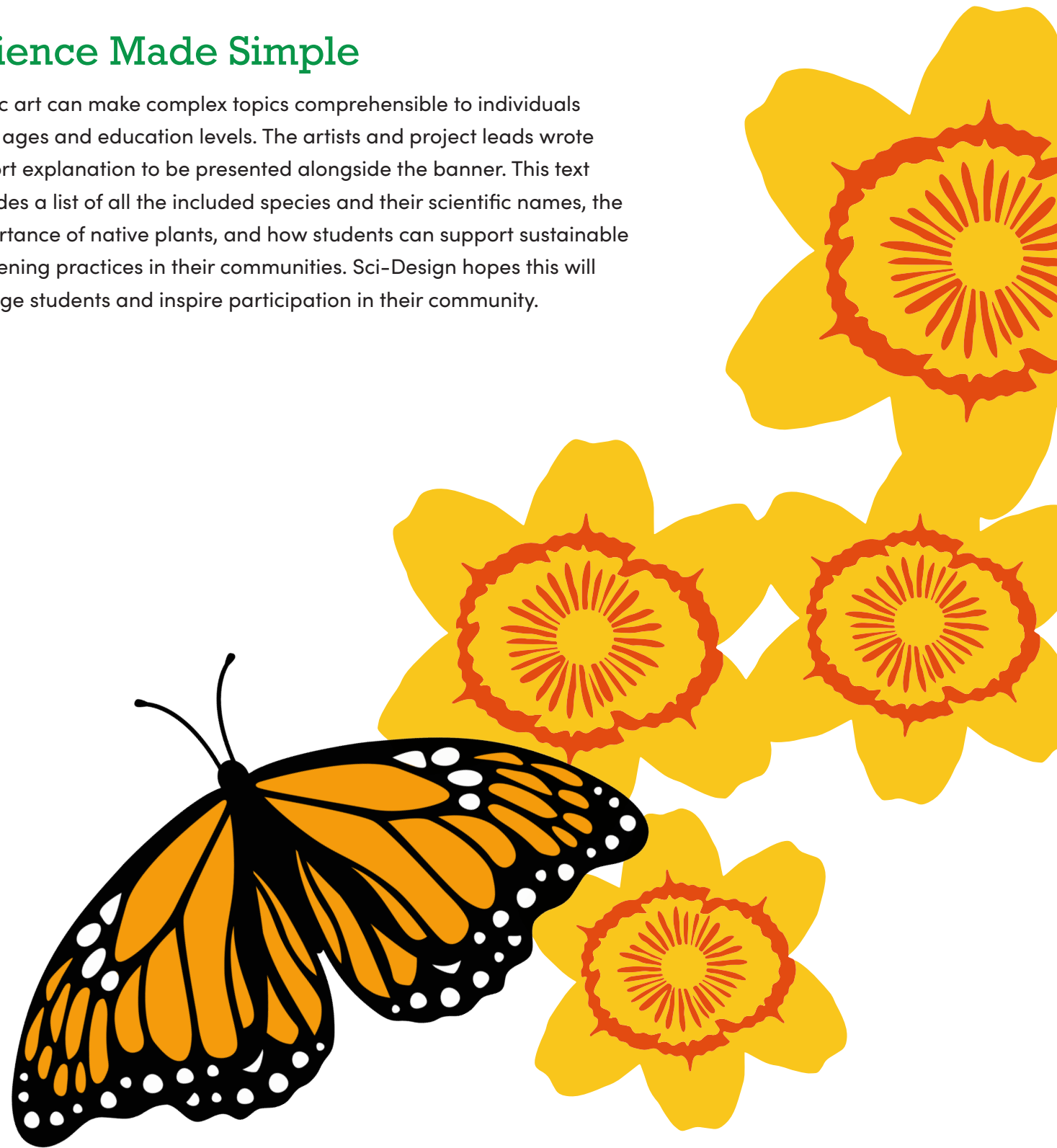
Bringing the Banner to Life

The club officers began by tracing the illustration on the banner and pencil and then creating a "paint by numbers" guide on the banner. Using the digital illustration as a reference, dots were painted along the inside of the plant outlines so that volunteers who were not familiar with the design would know where to paint.

This method was used so that the event could be inclusive to everyone, not just those in the club or who were involved in the conception of the design.

Science Made Simple

Public art can make complex topics comprehensible to individuals of all ages and education levels. The artists and project leads wrote a short explanation to be presented alongside the banner. This text includes a list of all the included species and their scientific names, the importance of native plants, and how students can support sustainable gardening practices in their communities. Sci-Design hopes this will engage students and inspire participation in their community.



Sci-Design hopes to use the skills gained during this project, such as research, design briefs and presentations, budgeting, and volunteer organization to create more public art projects on Temple University's campus.

Could you briefly describe what sustainability means to you?

"Sustainability means promoting practices that ensure the long-term well-being of our planet and its ecosystems. It involves minimizing our environmental impact, conserving resources, and fostering biodiversity to create a healthier and more resilient world."

-Isha Amin



How do student-led sustainability initiatives affect change on campus?

"Student led initiatives help inspire other students to take an active role in fighting climate change. Sometimes it feels like the decision is out of our hands and seeing other peers take a stand in some way can help us find more courage and motivation!"

-Caroline George



Is your project a climate solution? How or why?

"Sci-Design's art project is one part of the climate solution. Creating a public banner that celebrates native Pennsylvania plants and insects reminds viewers to notice and appreciate nature around us, not just for its beauty, but for the important relationship between ecosystems. Every natural organism is crucial to the environment's health and functioning, and it's important to remind viewers of this! By adding tips for how everyone can do their part to protect the environment, especially in everyday life, it can combat feelings of helplessness that can arise from the climate crisis and encourage continued engagement."

-Syz Angelini



Native species shown in mural:

Monarch Butterfly: *Danaus plexippus*

Tulip Tree: *Liriodendron tulipifera*

Virginia Bluebells: *Mertensia virginica*

Witch Hazel: *Hamamelis virginiana*

Cardinal Flower: *Lobelia cardinalis*

Orange Hawkweed: *Pilosella aurantiaca*

Late purple Aster: *Symphyotrichum patens*

Oxeye Sunflower: *Heliopsis helianthoides*

Butterfly Weed: *Asclepias tuberosa*

