

NNF Receives National Science Foundation Grant

To Develop Innovative, Replicable Flood Forum Program

Nurture Nature Foundation, a non-profit organization developing a flood-focused science center in Easton, Pennsylvania, was recently awarded very competitive planning grant funding from the National Science Foundation to develop and host forums focused on the science of flooding and mitigation strategies. These forums, which will be piloted in the flood-prone Lehigh Valley region of Pennsylvania, are intended to form the basis for a replicable program of flood forums that can be conducted nationally. They will provide an opportunity for discussion about community-specific flooding issues and will include specific events for young people, first responders, and residents, as well as the public.

Our Goals

- Build dialogue about flooding and its social, economic and technological issues
- Conduct seven forums in Spanish and English to give audiences the background needed to enter into civic debates about land use and flooding patterns
- Raise public awareness of the causes of flooding and technologies that can reduce damage
- Engage a diverse public constituency in planning for future NNF flood programming

Shared Outcomes

In addition to the benefits of a better informed public, the forums will culminate in the drafting of reports summarizing the results of the public discussions, which will be presented to community decision makers to give the public a strong voice in flood-related policy-making. An intensive program evaluation will shape future forum formats, and make suggestions for how to replicate good results in other communities. NNF is interested in learning about other communities in which forums might be welcome and beneficial.

Major Partners: David Sittenfield, Museum of Science in Boston; Brad Herring, North Carolina Museum of Life and Science; Dr. Tom Mueller, California University of PA; Dr. Dru Germanoski, Lafayette College; Dr. Dork Sahagian, Lehigh University; Dr. Jeffery Featherstone, Temple University. **Other collaborators** include Marshall Frech, award winning film maker and educator on flooding issues; Tom Hylton, Pulitzer prize-winning reporter and author; Matthew Braccili, manager of PA's largest Hispanic radio station; and Nick Henshue, high school science teacher.

For more information about Nurture Nature Foundation visit:
www.nurturenaturecenter.org and www.nurturenature.org