

**COMMUNITY PARTNER DESCRIPTION:**

The Deanery Project is a not-for-profit organization with a focus on the environment, the arts, youth and community, natural building and permaculture. We are open year round offering programs and projects related to energy, forests, health, active transportation and rural living.

Founded 2011 the Deanery Project has become a dynamic education and demonstration site for environmental sustainability, skills development, the arts, and community building. Our staff is available to work with groups to develop experiential, place-based learning activities on our site, or in their communities. We support a wide range of ways for groups and individuals to engage with our space, and our team, from workshops, meetings and retreats, to special events and artist residencies.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The Deanery is currently (March 2021) launching a zoom-based pilot program called Finding Nature, which involves interactive classes that focus on guest artists, small group activities centered around nature, and the production of individual, and collective art works. "Togetherness apart: building community through art and education in a time of COVID" is envisioned as another vital step in building community arts outreach and capacity. With "Togetherness apart," we are looking to expand the engagement and reach of arts and nature activities through the development of tangible, site-based but COVID-safe socially engaged, interactive arts projects. (See attached page for more details.)

**PROJECTED BENEFITS:**

This project will benefit The Deanery, its community, and the artists involved by creating connections and furthering dialogues between art and nature, urban and rural communities, and university and community arts. Moreover, specific site-based and community enhancing workshops will be developed in collaboration with artists and the Deanery to address problems of distance, social isolation and the paucity of social education and arts-related opportunities along Nova Scotia's sparsely populated Eastern Shore.

NB: These are excerpts from the Community Partner's original proposal from 2021.