



Girls in STEAM Apprenticeship program

Overview

STEMarts Lab is submitting a proposal to launch a new Girls in STEAM Apprenticeship program whose mission is to empower underrepresented women and girls to develop STEAM skills applied to creative expression, community building, and social change, in addition to traditional STEM fields such as website building and programming. Our successful pilot STEAM Ambassador program which recruited 5 girls ages 14-26 to facilitate a STEMarts sci-art project called the Space Messengers, inspired the idea for the apprenticeship program. We saw the positive impact it had on the girls and would like to now expand on the program to include customized training such as website development and programming.

Recruitment

The plan for the year is as follows. First we will recruit the 5 women/girls. Two will be alumni from the STEAM Ambassador program. One is entering high school this year and wanting to become a website developer the other is 26 and wanting to become a new media artist and work for Meow Wolf. We will be putting out a call for the other three through an application process.

Training and opportunities

The next step is to work with our partners to facilitate a series of workshops to build their own personal website portfolio and learn ARCGIS programming. This would take place between July and September. In October the Space Messengers project launches in Lisbon Portugal with a virtual reality event here in Taos. The girls will be involved with the planning, design and implementation of this event. They will work with our STEMarts mentor, Estacia Huddleston who will be facilitating the STEMarts Lab events in Taos. Jennifer Nevarez, Community Learning Network, will mentor the website development as the girls build a STEMarts Lab Story map website that will highlight the contributions of the Apprentices and the locations of the projects they are working on around the world. In the spring of 2022 they will work on the Space Messengers@Guadalajara workshop/Festival (virtual). Apprentices that are interested in developing further their skills in website development and programming will be placed in high level training programs. They will also be offered internship and work opportunities if they are ready and interested. We will be evaluating the outcomes to determine how best to meet their unique needs through weekly zoom focus meets, surveys and observation. Apprentices will be given the opportunity to lead STEAM workshops at middle schools and speak at conferences and community events. They will receive a stipend of \$1000.



Sustainability

In the spring of 2022, we will announce a call to enlist the 2nd cohort of 5 apprentices. Our pilot apprentices will be invited to serve their 2nd year in higher level positions and mentor the new cohort. Our goal is to provide long term mentoring, training and guidance to our apprentices until they reach their personal goal which is established at the start, whether it is acquiring STEAM skills to add to their website, placed in higher level internships or job opportunities, or continuing within the STEMarts Lab as part of the creative team. From our experience with our past alumni, we anticipate that our apprentices will continue with us over multiple years. Our aim is to provide quality in-depth and personalized training to build a network of STEAM girls moving into the workforce.