



“Through this initiative I hope to gain practical skills, both in sustainable building methods and in effective organizing techniques. Moreover, I hope to be part of an experience that is greater than me; something that can enrich and nourish communities for years to come.”

Kai Thomas

McGill University

Montreal inner-city youth

My initiative will engage a diverse group of high school-aged volunteers of various skill levels to participate in the building of an ‘earthship’-inspired greenhouse on a farm used as a summer camp for inner-city Montreal youth. The greenhouse, built primarily with natural and recycled materials, will take care of itself year round by catching and filtering its own water, heating and cooling itself with passive solar technology, and generating its own electricity.

My hope is that the construction will serve as a catalyst for creating a unique, land-based learning community space that will then be shaped and used collectively for the remainder of my time in community and beyond.

One of my communities is that of Montreal black youth. We represent one of many populations that is being distanced from the land and connections to land-based learning. After a few years of working and organizing in black community spaces in the city of Montreal, I feel keen to create a healing bridge that allows diverse groups to reconnect with the land.

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