Mission —

Empowering Our Future Leaders
to care for our environment, contribute to our economy, and create healthy communities.

Green Works in Kansas City develops Kansas City’s future leaders through hands-on environmental science, outdoor experiences, service projects, career exploration, workplace training and paid summer work experiences.

Key Principles

- We serve students living in the Kansas City Public School District.
- We incorporate project-based learning in a social setting with other students and caring adults.
- We follow national best practices including quality staff, small class size and long-term involvement.
- We offer holistic experiences including field trips and service projects to appeal to all types of learners.
- We involve volunteer professionals to help students build self-confidence and strengthen their social networks.
- We incorporate a respect for the environment into every aspect of our programming and administration.

Green Works lab and retail store

We launched an expanded Green Works Lab social enterprise program for our high school students, and opened a sustainable market. Lab students are studying entrepreneurship and sustainable living, and designing, sourcing, creating, marketing and selling sustainable products in our new retail store. Students are also creating environmental window displays for our classroom, and public service announcements on environmental topics. Our store is currently open most First Friday weekends.

IMPACT:

- 150+ Students served annually
- 16k Hours of internships funded
- 100% Student high school graduation rate
- 4k+ Native plants planted in urban KCMO
Summer Enrichment

Our normal summer internships looked different this year due to COVID. We were very limited in finding traditional internship placements for our students, so we got creative and found several options for our students to have real-world, in-person workforce learning experiences. Our students completed in-person work experiences, job shadowing, academic learning academies offered through universities, and our own outdoor internship program.

With funding from SchoolSmartKC we developed a summer internship program called Health & the Environment. The summer program covered topics that revealed the serious health impacts our environmental actions have on humans and other life forms. Students met a number of professionals working in the fields of public health, environment and conservation, and enjoyed field trips to an urban farm, the KC Zoo, Science City, and BikeWalkKC.

Program Highlights

Developing youth leaders for a sustainable future

ECOS
The ECOS program for 4th - 8th graders includes hikes, bird watching, identification of native trees and plants, nature art projects and more. ECOS ran on Saturdays during the school year at the Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center, near 47th and Troost. COVID-19 disrupted the spring semester, but we were able to resume summer ECOS programming with students at Operation Breakthrough.

Excelerate
Our workforce development program for high school students helps students prepare for post-secondary education and the workforce. Students take skill and interest evaluations, research three growing careers, prepare a resume, take part in job shadowing, and participate in money management training and soft skill training. This year we served 50 students, the most ever, including a class we offered through a partnership with MindDrive. Thanks to funding support from SchoolSmartKC when COVID-19 hit in the spring, we transitioned Excelerate to a virtual platform.

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New board member Mark Eisemann is a regular volunteer with the Excelerate program.

Diane Patrick a long-time volunteer transitioned her volunteer efforts to Zoom when COVID hit.

A fun bike ride with BikeWalkKC!
Program Outcomes

Working towards our mission to empower Kansas City’s future leaders to care for our environment, contribute to our economy and create healthy communities, we measure our success using the following program outcomes:

1. Increased science literacy
2. Changed behaviors towards the environment
3. Improved life skills including financial literacy
4. Hours of work experienced through paid summer internships
5. Increased social capital connections

A Successful Year in Spite of COVID-19

- We earned our first grant aligned with health outcomes! The Jackson County Children’s Services Fund approved over $40k in funding for our ECOS program.
- Dr. Connie Campbell conducted an extensive evaluation of the ECOS program, which will position us well for expansion.
- Ad2, a group of young marketing professionals, selected us for pro-bono ad work this year. Along with designing some changes to our website, they designed (and found pro-bono placement for) billboards and radio ads for the ECOS program.
- We added four new board members including a conservation ecologist, a marketing specialist, an attorney, and a young woman who graduated from our programming 6 years ago.
- We doubled our space in Midtown. Our new workroom and retail storefront have been invaluable in helping us spread out our students for social distancing.
- We created a nature guide for distribution to urban community and health centers. Along with listing home activities, nature centers, trails and parks, the guide serves as an advertisement for the ECOS program.
- This spring volunteers wrote encouraging letters to 29 of our Excelerate students, and the “pen pal” program was highlighted in a piece by a local news station.

Repair Cafe

During the fall of 2019 we worked with our neighbors, Maker Village, 816 Bike Collective and our partner Stitching Change to offer a repair event. As far as we can tell, it was the first one ever held in urban Kansas City. 75 people stopped by for free repairs on lamps, small furniture, jewelry and clothing.

Revenue

Year 13

Funders

Taylor & Patti Abernathy Trust
Bank of America
BlueScope
CBOE
Evergy
M.R. and Evelyn Hudson Foundation
KCMO Water Services
Live Like Luke Foundation
Mariner Foundation
Mid-American Regional Council (MARC)
RA Long Foundation
SchoolSmartKC
Sherman Family Foundation
Shumaker Family Foundation
United Way of Greater Kansas City
US Bank
History and Contact Info

Green Works in Kansas City was founded by Kate Corwin, an IT professional, former business owner and community leader. Green Works was incorporated in the state of Missouri in February of 2007 and recognized as a nonprofit corporation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code in September 2007.

Contact us: kate@greenworkskc.org, 816-304-8400
607 East 31st Street, Kansas City, MO 64109
greenworkskc.org

How You Can Help

There are many ways to help Green Works including the following:*

• Give a monetary contribution and consider giving monthly,
• Donate a car, truck, boat, motorcycle or RV.
• Join others who have designated Green Works for a planned gift through a charitable bequest or beneficiary designation.
• Volunteer as a guest instructor, student mentor, or planting assistant. Email info@greenworksk.org for a volunteer application.
• Write a review of Green Works on GreatNonprofits - greatnonprofit.org.
• Connect to us on Facebook, Instagram or LinkedIn.
• Sign up for our newsletter and then share with your friends. (Simple form at the bottom of the website homepage.)
• Get your company involved. (See website for ideas.)

* Check our website support page (greenworkskc.org/support) for details.

Looking Ahead to Next Year

Our expanded Green Works Lab program will fully launch in the fall with a new class of high school students, and our retail storefront will be open most First Friday weekends with masks and social distancing. Our students will be gaining real-world experience in designing, sourcing, marketing and selling sustainable products. With funding from the Children’s Services Fund of Jackson County we are adding a second Saturday ECOS location, offering ECOS nature exploration programming to students at the Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center, and now Lakeside Nature Center. In addition, we’re developing a backyard nature gardening guide for families and a backyard nature kit for kids.

Check our website to see some of the products our students are selling in our new retail store.