

aquiPROJECT

a design to raise awareness of the waters which run beneath our feet.



Existing Condition: A human imprint on the land.

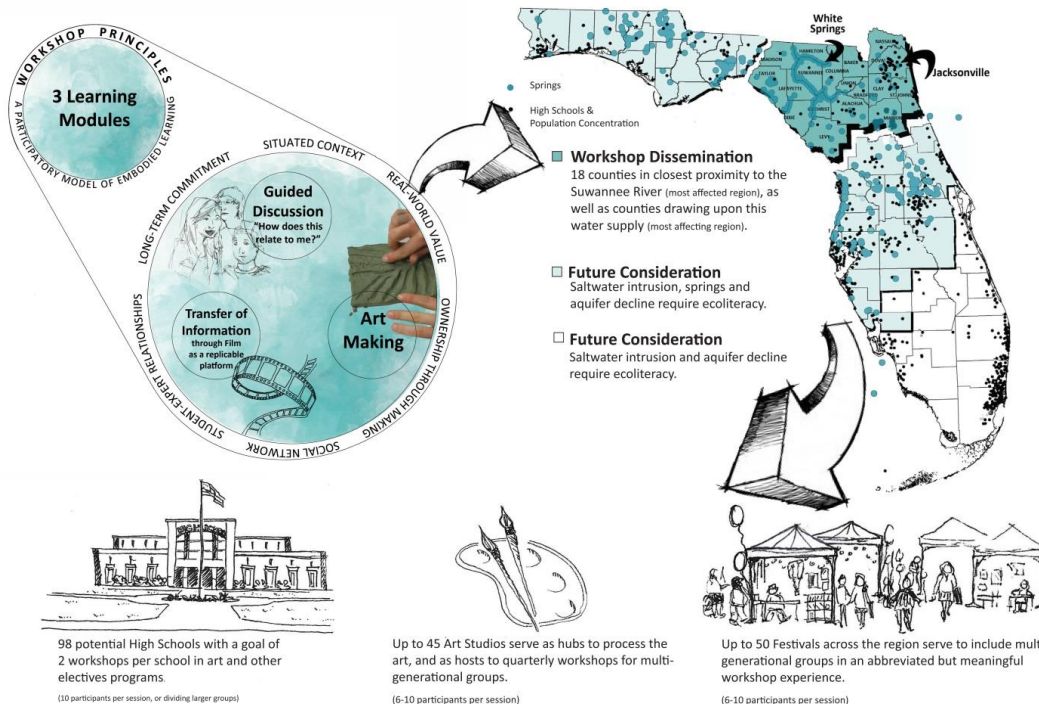


Proposed Intervention: Individual artistic human imprints cast in glass, begin to raise a collective voice for water resource conservation, becoming a call for the return of freshwater to our aquifer.

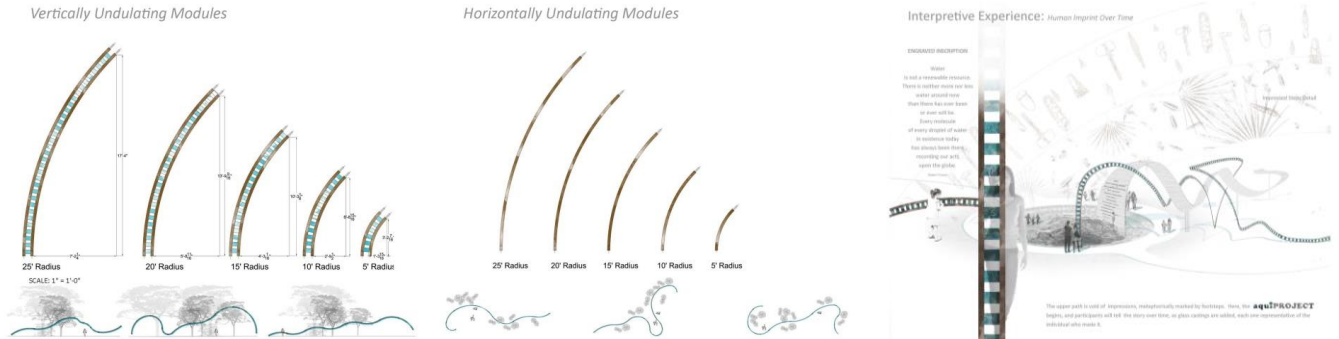
Project Overview: This project employs methods of community-based art and reaches out to underserved and diverse populations to raise awareness of the waters which flow beneath our feet.

Regional Workshops Design: The expanding project is designed to be comprised of the work of individuals in art/ecoliteracy workshops across the region. The process gives participants a voice toward positive change as a visual, public and unified social call for the conservation of the Floridan Aquifer System.

A Workshop Framework for Ecoliteracy & Regional Dissemination Plan



Modular & Adaptable Design: The design is modular and adaptable, and envisioned as site-based for most venues to cultivate *attachment to place*. An infinite number of configurations are possible, as shown in the sample iterations below:



The Art Learning Module
*as means of embedding understanding by
 democratizing the interpretation of art*



Found and brought items are used to create textures in the clay. Sculpting tools are used to create a positive mold which represents the individual. The clay positive is placed in a plastic box, serving as 'mortar boards'. Plaster is mixed and poured into the plastic box covering the clay positive. The plaster mold is removed from the frame box. The clay is pulled away to reveal the one-time-use plaster negative mold which will be used to make glass castings.

45 minutes 10 minutes after 30 minutes



The 'Art Making' Learning Module was piloted in 3 workshops which included children, college students and professionals.

Overwhelmingly, participants with varying skill sets found the project engaging, and were interested in following the project through an online blog (aquiPROJECT.com), and traveling to see their work **cast in glass** in an expanding sculpture.

Further Development and funding for the following areas are critical and currently either underway or being planned:

- June 15 – July 31, 2013: Detail Development and Cost Estimates of Framework Design
- June 22 – October 15, 2013: Creation of a 10-minute film to become the “Transfer of Information” in the Regional Workshops (Includes current summer camp program through HOPE Summer Enrichment Program, White Springs, and may include participants from Jasper High School in August or September.
- July 5-7: Specialized Training in the kiln-cast glass method (Mt. Rainer, Maryland)
- August 1 – September 30, 2013: Prototype development of glass castings, framework and support system.
- August 1 – September 30, 2013: Further Development of an easy-to-update website which becomes a showcase for each workshop, and a network / communication-hub for participants, as well as a place for them to tell their stories of how the project and other experiences has piqued their awareness of the springs, Floridan aquifer, and the issues surrounding water resource conservation.
- August – December 2013: Marketing and networking among potential participant groups and supporting art studios.
- January 2014: Target Date to begin full workshop schedule.
- May 2014: Target Date for first ‘Reunion Event’, reuniting all participants at the site of the first phase of the expanding sculpture.

Future Direction. The aquiPROJECT is an *expanding* project. The direction it will go and its impact on participants, visitors and viewers will unfold over time, becoming the story and the provocative intertwining of strength and beauty of the art and the message. (See aquiPROJECT.com)

The site, audience and participants will encompass tourists and locals, environmentalists and skeptics, young and old, complacents and activists. The project idea originated in White Springs with the defunct spring presenting an opportunity for visitors to visually understand the far-reaching problem. Similar site-appropriate designs using the adaptable modular system could be applied to other sites as well. Each site would offer opportunities and instructions on how visitors could participate in the expanding project:

- Springs (both private and publicly owned)
- Public Open Spaces
- Public Conservation Land

Qualitative and Quantitative Research on attitudinal change resulting from a hands-on ecoliteracy project which compels a long-term relationship with the land and project can be gathered by keeping participants connected through the story-telling website (aquiPROJECT.com).