2019 Garden of Fire Lesson Plan

Program Title: Nature in Motion

Name of Organization/Artist(s) Providing Program Session:
Gwen Quigley and Tony Morretti

Week 3

Program location: Tanglewood Nature Center

Length of program: 1.5 hours

Lesson Objectives:
This project would explore balance in motion and would involve learning the necessary skills to build with raw local timber and natural materials.

Program Overview:
Five visiting student groups will be engaged in a collective project to build a natural motion obstacle course that will highlight types of motion found in nature and the course will be built out of natural materials. Students will learn how to use their hands and they will use their bodies to move through the course. They will demonstrate through their work and their play in a diverse array of motion. Some of the motions will be bouncing, jumping, hurdling, climbing, crawling, running and dancing. We will draw parallels between their individual motions and the constant motion of nature around them and the universal law of continual change.

Materials:
Fabric, rope, wire, saplings, logs, rocks, mud, vines, hand tools and paint.

Lesson Outline:
Students arrive. Introduction to garden of fire 🔥🔥 and how the session relates. Explanation of specific project and their groups part of the bigger collective effort. Skill sharing depending on specific projects.

Break up in smaller groups.

Rotate through the stations.

Completion of project and conclusion.
The same basic lesson framework would be employed for all five sessions though each lesson would be entirely different depending on what we were building.

Obstacle Course Elements

An element of the course will be a seesaw built on site with the students. Employing hand tools such as draw knives, saws and wooden chisels; a log could be worked and transformed into a seesaw by the group. Given time, relief carvings could be added for decoration. This element could then be part of the final course set up for the festival at CareFirst.

A group would be tasked with building a series of hurdles and elevated steps as their course elements. The various heights and distances would demonstrate jumping balancing and agility. We would use hand tools to work saplings and stumps to create this part of the course.

Group projects include a relay race that would involve stacking stones and formations that would be part of the course.

Another idea would be to make wheels and spheres using local wild grapevines. The spheres and wheels will be rolled and tossed onto stakes hammered in the ground in a game element of the course.

Long strips of Fabric could be attached to sticks to be used by the students while running and dancing through to emphasize the motion theme. The flowing fabric would demonstrate the motion of the wind in the movement of animals and humans through nature.