The Vidda Foundation

Final Report Form

The purpose of the Report Form is to help Vidda Foundation's Trustees understand the activities and outcomes of your grant. This form is now part of the proposal process. **Your application for funding will be considered incomplete without it.** Please upload this form along with your grant proposal via the Information Upload link at https://www.vidda.org. If you have any questions about the process, please contact grants@vidda.org.

Instructions

Grantees may choose to complete the form below or format their own Word document. Both allow for copy-paste from existing reports to other funders. Regardless of approach, we request that all grantees please:

- Type and single-space all reports.
- Use headings as provided.
- Answer all questions in the order listed. If a question does not apply, please respond "NA" or "Not Applicable".
- Indicate if information is being provided in a separate attachment (e.g. budgets or financial statements). If requested attachments are not available, please include an explanation.
- Use as much space as needed, while being as concise as possible.

The Vidda Foundation
Final Report of
Christodora

on grant period beginning 1 August 2025

NARRATIVE

1. Major Objectives

List the major objectives of the grant as specified in your original grant proposal. Describe the progress toward accomplishing your objectives and note the number of persons affected by your activities (when appropriate).

In 2025, Christodora requested and received funding from Vidda Foundation for our Community of Rising Environmentalists (CORE), formerly known as New Youth Conservationists. The $15,000 grant from the Vidda Foundation supported the general operating costs of the CORE program, with a focus on new program investments.

The Community of Rising Environmentalists (CORE) is our Saturday youth development, science, and environmental program, which serves youth (ages 11 - 18) from under-resourced communities. The program takes place during the autumn and spring semesters. CORE provides 96 hours of training and science education to support 30-40 middle and high school students over two semesters. In 2025-2026, the number of students grew to close to 50 per Saturday. CORE students meet for half a day for 14-15 weeks each semester, and in 2026, CORE had an average daily attendance of 40 students with an average of 48 enrolled per semester.

With support from Vidda Foundation and other partners, we invested in staff training and development, with particular focus on creating new curriculum. In 2025-26, we also increased the stipends for participating students by $25/student/semester, rewarding attendance at the end of each semester. Higher participation levels also have increased overall program costs, which Vidda Foundation funding helped us to address.

Within the CORE program, we met the following goals in 2025-26:

- **Create and implement new and expanded CORE Curriculum:** We created a four-year sequence of revised and new lessons and content, so that our many returning and regular CORE participants continue to learn new skills, topics, and engagement across a wide body of environmental, STEAM, and Social-Emotional Learning knowledge. Thanks to Vidda Foundation and other partners, our staff, curriculum leaders, and program lead worked to develop new curriculum. This added curriculum ensured that our content is both engaging and dynamic, so all CORE students can experience a sense of growth across different topics and disciplines over the

course of up to four years.

- **STEM to STEAM:** Following the introduction of nature journaling and other creative arts into our program in 2024-2025, we continued these efforts in 2025-26.

Over this past year, CORE educators expanded the Art-in-Nature component by partnering with a guest artist whose work blends hands-on crafts, environmental awareness, and creative exploration. Our teaching artist, Iviva Olenick (bio included at the end), was brought on for direct instruction, staff training, and professional development in art instruction. Students visited the American Natural History Museum and The Met Cloisters. At the Cloisters, our students enjoyed medieval representations of the natural world in tapestries, paintings, and sculpture. In other sessions, our CORE students received art instruction and experimented with techniques such as botanical embroidery, plant-based inks, and plant imprinting on fabric, exploring color and texture. Outdoor Educators prepared for this by attending a professional development day where they learned methods such as anthotype sun prints and tataki-zomé, a plant-hammering technique for botanical fabric prints. In addition to visual arts integration, students engaged with poetry through movement, sound, and group performances at Poe Park in spring 2026, enhancing their connection to nature and self-expression. For the season's finale in May 2026, students made tie-dyed cotton handkerchiefs using plant-based dyes, creating a fun, hands-on activity that celebrated the season and reinforced art and environmental themes. We look forward to continuing these new elements in our program and exploring more creative ways to engage our students. We anticipate working with guest artists again in the year ahead.

- **Deepen Partner Relations:** As we've previously reported, CORE became a mobile program in 2021, after being based at the New York Botanical Gardens in the Bronx for many years. Again in 2025-26, we held programs in parks across the city and mainly in the Bronx and Upper Manhattan. We continue to deepen partnerships with new and ongoing partners, including Riverside Park Conservancy, Bronx Land Trust, and Northern Manhattan Parks' Fort Tryon Park. In 2025-2026, we successfully strengthened our ties with the New York Restoration Project at its Swindler's Cove location, and we collaborated with the Billion Oyster Project and Met Cloisters.

2. Outcomes

What outcomes have been achieved over the grant term? Was it necessary to make any modifications to the program? Are you on schedule? If the grant did not achieve some of the objectives above, please explain.

We met our program goals: (1) Create a new curriculum; (2) Expand and extend the 'Art' in STEAM learning through journaling, 'art in nature,' and other creative engagements through an artistic lens; and finally, (3) Deepened and extended partnerships, connecting CORE students with leaders across NYC's many environmental nonprofits, ecology-focused community groups, parks partners, and more. Our work met our planned schedule and met above objectives.

Details include:

1. Created new curriculum (to launch in 2026-27)
- Year 1: Water in the City (Watersheds, water cycle, NYC water system, marine ecosystems, stormwater management, citizen science)
- Year 2: Plants and their Ecosystems (Urban ecology, native vs. invasive species, pollinators, green spaces, community gardens)
- Year 3: Citizens of a Resilient City (Climate change impacts, urban design, biodiversity, waste systems, transportation)
- Year 4: Sustainability and Green Workforce Development (Environmental justice, green tech, workforce skills, mentorship, Green jobs, renewable energy, leadership, student-led projects)
2. Art: Fall workshop at the Met/Cloisters; journaling and lessons throughout the year with spring tie-dying culmination
3. Partners/Sites: American Museum of Natural History, Ewen Park, Poe Park (Big ReUse Street Tree Care), Bronx Park, Roberto Clemente State Park, Staten Island, Moshulu, Cabrini Woods/Ft Tryon Park, Tree Planting Project, Billion Oyster Project, Highbridge Park, Shoelace Park, Mianus River Gorge, The Met Cloisters, Bronx River Alliance, Bee U.

3. Evaluation & Learning

Briefly summarize the evaluation process for the effectiveness of the grant. What have you learned from your own evaluation? Describe any lessons you learned in carrying out the objectives (improved processes, new strategies, unexpected obstacles or results, etc.)

Christodora evaluates program outputs and outcomes through qualitative and quantitative measures. Quantitatively, we enrolled, supported, and educated our planned number of students: 50 students each semester (Fall and Spring) and 40 students on Saturdays. We measured student experience and outcome through program evaluations at the end of each session/semester, with students again reporting expanded social-emotional learning, connection to nature, and interest in conservation. We worked with 6+ partners, including Bee U, I Fish NY, Big Reuse, Bronx River Alliance, The Met Cloisters, Billion Oyster Project, NYParks, and more. We met our goals to develop and pilot new curriculum and work with new partners; we met our activity/output goals.

Qualitatively, in addition to the above measures (some of them capturing participant experience), we evaluated program success and impact through teacher observation and informal and formal student feedback (through survey responses and informal comments/input). With the number of returning students continuing to grow, we view participant longevity as another measure of positive program impact.

4. Notable Accomplishments

What do you consider your most notable accomplishments during the past year?

Our most notable accomplishment of 2025-26 was the creation of a four-year curriculum, supported by $25,000 in funding from the William T. Grant Foundation. Staff received more training in art and nature, along with additional professional development. We are proud of our continued increase in student attendance, with close to 40 weekly attendees (and 50 individuals each semester), thanks in no small part to ongoing support from partners like Vidda Foundation.

5. Challenges & Obstacles

What were the greatest challenges/obstacles you faced while developing and implementing the program(s)?

We were proud in 2025-26 to address key challenges/obstacles identified in prior years; namely, expanding our curriculum and content to ensure that we can continue engaging repeat and multi-year CORE participants, and sustaining more regular, year-round students. In 2026-27, we launch our four-year, expanded curriculum to ensure new and diverse learning experiences and topics, and to respond to student interest and partner opportunities as they arise. With increased program popularity, we continue seeking a consistent indoor gathering space as an option during bad weather, in addition to museum options. We continue to seek options for a regular indoor home base.

6. Partnerships

What other organizations/coalitions have you worked with to achieve these goals?

2025-26 partners include Upper Manhattan Parks, New York Restoration Project, Billion Oyster Project, Riverside Park Conservancy, Bronx Land Trust, Big Reuse, I Fish NY, and the Met Cloisters.

7. Looking Ahead

What opportunities and challenges do you foresee for the near future?

Our 2026-27 year is exciting and continues a path of new training, new programs and expanded initiatives. Two key opportunities:

1. We begin piloting our new, four-year curriculum starting this fall. With support from Vidda and other partners, we are excited to engage students, gather their feedback and adapt 'in situ' as the new curriculum begins.
2. We continue arts in nature efforts and partnerships, deepening this strand of our education, learning, and student engagement.
3. We continue engaging more students each semester and year, a reflection of the program's engagement, continuity, and growth.
4. We will invest in additional program support through the addition of a student internship position for the next year. This student will support administration and documentation of the program.

8. Financial

Please provide income and expense information to date for the program(s) funded by the grant. Describe any budget changes or financial adaptations.

	CORE FTE	PROGRAM COST	VIDDA FOUNDATION
VP of Programs	15%	13,932.00	1,533.00
Associate Director - Programs	75%	36,375.00	4,001.00
Outreach Coordinator	75%	39,975.00	4,397.00
Seasonal PT Program Staff	100%	1,560.00	172.00
Payroll Taxes and Benefits		38,430.00	4,227.00
Total Personnel		130,272.00	14,330.00
Student Stipend		4,000.00	440.00
Program Supplies		2,000.00	220.00
Program Travel and Meals		2,200.00	10.00
TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS		138,472.00	15,000.00

9. Suggestions

Do you have suggestions for ways to improve the Vidda Foundation's grant, proposal, and evaluation processes? Feel free to answer in the space provided below. Alternatively, these may be submitted anonymously by mail to:

The Vidda Foundation
c/o TCC Group
333 Seventh Avenue, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10001

Click or tap here to enter text.

OPTIONAL ATTACHMENTS

If you wish to attach relevant materials, newsletters, articles, etc. that you feel would provide Trustees with a better understanding of your activities and accomplishments, please include here. If materials are attached in a separate document, please include a list of attachments.

Annual Report 2025
Newsletter with CORE focus (April 2025)
Art in Nature March 2026

Bio for Iviva Olenick

Iviva Olenick is a Brooklyn-based artist developing textiles from seed to fiber and dye and using textiles as texts. Her work has been exhibited all over the United States, including the Philadelphia Museum of Art; Museum of Design Atlanta; the Hunterdon Museum, NJ; Sugar Hill Children's Museum of Art & Storytelling, NYC; the Center for Book Arts, NYC; the Old Stone House, Brooklyn; Wyckoff House Museum, Brooklyn. Olenick is a faculty member of SVA's MFA Art Practice program, where she teaches Fibers. In addition, she gives artist talks and designs intensive textile-based workshops for museums and universities.