



Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership



2016 CVNHP Local Heritage Grant

Indigenous Champlain Basin Horticulture: A Student Experience

Project Summary

The ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center received a \$5,000 2016 CVNHP Local Heritage Grant to implement the Indigenous Champlain Basin Horticulture: A Student Experience project. The effort was a collaboration of The Seeds of Renewal Project, a grass-roots indigenous food systems revitalization program located in Swanton, VT, and Freleighsburg, QC; the Shelburne Community School (science and art departments); and Sugarsnap, a catering business located in Williston, VT. This partnership had developed from relations developed among many of the principals dating back to the 2009 Lake Champlain Quadricentennial Celebration.

The project had three focal points: 1) **Educational:** In the spring of 2016, Seeds of Renewal Director Prof. Fred Wiseman visited the Shelburne Community School to teach about Abenaki history, culture, worldview and technology. Wiseman and the students planted traditional Abenaki plant seeds on the school's campus that were harvested the following fall; 2) **Artistic:** As the students learned about the Abenaki crops, culture and cuisine, in the fall of 2016, they were encouraged to use graphic arts and social media to translate the data into something more personal, such as paintings, prints or other media. The art chosen by the students was displayed at ECHO in a contest; and 3) **Sustainable:** Project partners collaborated to develop a meal based on traditional, locally grown Abenaki foods. Meals were served at a November 9, 2016, lunch at ECHO for the Shelburne Community School students, with another served at the November 15, 2016, ECHO Harvest Celebration dinner, where the award winners for the art contest were

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Art played a large part of the Indigenous Champlain Basin Horticulture: A Student Experience project. Left: Shelburne students prepare possible entries for the art contest. Above: the winning piece.

NEIWPC Code	PO12129
Date Complete:	2/27/17
Grant Amount:	\$5,000.00
Non-federal Match:	\$0.00
Total Amount:	\$5,000.00