

JENNIFER L. SLOAN

jlsloan.w@gmail.com

Scarsdale, NY 10583 | 516-581-9207
www.linkedin.com/in/jennifer-sloan-3a14532/

EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Innovative leader in informal education, creative placemaking, and environmental literacy, with over 20 years of experience designing transformative, interdisciplinary learning experiences for children, families, and schools. Combines deep expertise in STEM curriculum development, nonprofit operations, and exhibit design with a proven ability to fundraise, scale programs, and serve as a compelling public ambassador. Known for turning underutilized spaces into vibrant hubs for exploration and discovery, engaging thousands through hands-on, inclusive programming. Adept at managing cross-functional teams, stewarding donor relationships, and aligning educational strategy with organizational growth.

EDUCATION

Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA

Bachelor of Arts, Animal Behavior

Minors: Anthropology, Religion | Graduated January 2006

CORE COMPETENCIES

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| • Strategic Program Design & Evaluation | • Creative Placemaking Interpretive Exhibit Design |
| • Informal & Experiential Education Leadership | • Team Building Staff Hiring, Training & Supervision |
| • Curriculum Development (STEM, Environmental, Arts Integration) | • Public Speaking Media & Donor Engagement |
| • Public-Private Partnerships & Government Relations | • Urban Agriculture Sustainability & Climate Education |
| • Fundraising Grant Writing Community Campaigns | • Art Direction Murals Set & Exhibit Fabrication |

SELECTED WORK EXPERIENCE

Program Coordinator, Edible Academy

New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY

Jan 2020 – Jun 2025

As the strategic lead of NYBG's flagship informal education initiative, oversaw curriculum innovation, staffing, and daily operations for public-facing programs impacting tens of thousands of children and families annually. Supervised 30+ part-time educators and program interns while developing cross-curricular garden-based STEM learning for diverse audiences across NYC's boroughs. Spearheaded collaborative initiatives to expand equitable access, sustainability education, and family engagement.

- Led development and refinement of culturally responsive curricula integrating horticulture, environmental science, and hands-on learning.
- Directed hiring, training, and evaluation of full-time and seasonal education staff; built a values-driven team culture rooted in inclusivity and inquiry.
- Designed interpretive signage, wayfinding tools, and educational materials to enhance place-based storytelling and visitor experience.
- Played key role in managing grant-funded projects and internal reporting systems to ensure program quality and alignment with mission.
- Partnered with NYBG's marketing and advancement teams to showcase the Edible Academy's impact to funders and media.

Director of Sustainability Education

Groundwork Hudson Valley – Yonkers, NY

Mar 2012 – Dec 2019

Led the strategic growth of Groundwork's signature informal education initiatives, including the Science Barge, EcoHouse, and Daylighting Park — pioneering immersive, place-based learning experiences for youth, educators, and community members. Spearheaded curriculum design, exhibit development, fundraising, and program operations that significantly expanded the organization's regional impact and visibility.

- Designed educational STEM exhibits and interactive displays focused on biodiversity, energy, food systems, and sustainability; maintained hydroponic and aquaponic systems as living laboratories.
- Raised capital funding for an all-weather educational pavilion with A/V capabilities through successful crowdfunding campaigns and grant writing; contributed to grant underwriting, research, and design for greenhouse and barge infrastructure renovations.

- Cultivated and maintained relationships with donors, elected officials, and community stakeholders, serving as the primary public representative; advocated for the Science Barge's mission and future vision.
- Directed all programmatic metrics and reporting to Groundwork USA, demonstrating outcomes and ROI for school-based and site-based sustainability education programs.
- Drove 250% increase in school program bookings (measured in student hours) and a 145% rise in public visitation, transforming the Science Barge into a regional model for sustainability and STEM education and experiential learning.
- Authored *Global, Coastal, Local*, a NOAA-funded climate change curriculum and exhibit series implemented across Gr 8–12 audiences.
- Recruited, trained, and led a team of educators, docents, and youth interns; mentored students in urban agriculture, STEM literacy, and civic engagement.
- Acted as a liaison to school boards and municipal partners; secured BOE contracts, represented the organization at partner meetings, and oversaw program compliance and evaluation.

Farm Apprentice

Keith's Farm – Port Jervis NY

April 2011 – November 2011

Supported seasonal operations on a 15-acre organic farm and NYC Greenmarket vendor.

- Cultivated produce from seed to harvest; implemented organic soil health practices
- Managed farm stand setup and retail customer engagement at Union Square Greenmarket

Naturalist Educator & Intern Coordinator

Greenburgh Nature Center – Scarsdale, NY

Sep 2006 – Apr 2010

Led environmental education programs and seasonal public events for school groups and families at a leading regional nature center.

- Delivered hands-on science education to K–3 audiences in ecology, animal adaptations, and conservation
- Designed and installed interactive displays and annual natural history exhibits (themes: Biomimicry, Invasive Species, The Hudson River)
- Managed intern recruitment, training, and housing; developed performance protocols and onboarding systems
- Coordinated volunteer groups and assisted in planning large-scale events reaching 8,000+ attendees
- Maintained live animal collections and supervised husbandry volunteers and docents

EARLY CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- Youth Employment Aide, White Plains Youth Bureau – designed and led park-based youth conservation programs and vocational training
- Farm Intern, Restoration Farm – assisted with organic CSA operations and educational tours
- Naturalist Intern, Greenburgh Nature Center – led animal care and early education programs, managed volunteers
- Corps Member, Catskill Outdoor Education Corps – park maintenance, trail building, environmental interpretation, program development

ACTIVITIES AND HONORS

- ❖ [Member of the Planning Committee for the Regional Environmental Educator Day \(REED\) \(2012-2019\)](#)
- ❖ Guest performer/interviewee on numerous news, radio, and television appearances, including: The Food Channel's "Quest for the Fresh" ([pilot episode – 2012](#)); Press Conference for USDA Agriculture Grant with Senator Gillibrand – ([2012](#)); U.S. Department of State Office of Broadcast Services ([Vietnam, 2014](#), Ecuador, 2016) PBS's "Cyberchase" (["A Reboot Eve to Remember – Cyberchase for Real Segment" – 2017](#)); The Debbie Nigro Show ([Radio interview – 2018](#)).
- ❖ [Speaker and co-honoree at Omega Center's Excellence in Sustainability Education Ceremony \(2013\)](#)
- ❖ Guest Lecturer at Orange County Community College – "Sustainable Agriculture" (2015)
- ❖ [Panelist for Manhattanville College \(2008\), Roots and Wings \(2012\), and Sarah Lawrence College \(2016\) for workshops on non-profits, urban farming, and community partnerships](#)
- ❖ Honoree at the Ladies First in S.T.E.M. Ceremony (2013, 2014)
- ❖ [Guest Presenter at the Urban Waters Forum and River Rally National Conference \(2018\)](#)