**Thank you for your interest in Participating in the Seed Bank Project!**

 **Goals of the Seed bank Project:** Although it is hard to have expectations with a project that could potentially exist beyond our generation, the planting of the seed banks are an important aspect of the project and the act is meant to highlight the importance of local ecology in the midst of an increasingly global outlook. Each bank is meant to ignite a dialogue about the intimacy of place, our emotional connection to it, and evoke a curiosity of the interconnectedness between us, and the ecology of the place we call home, or places we inhabit through a common burial ritual that transcends most cultures.
 The banks also exist as an exploration of time, particularly how innovations in technology have begun to condense our sense of time, specifically in relation to the construction of the 24-hour day and how the harnessing and storing of power has shifted our relationship with labor, materials and the manipulation of natural resources to perpetuate these innovations. Through ritual, families who plant the banks together will begin a multi-generational dialogue pertaining to the importance of ecological balance through an acknowledgement of future changes we will see within the environment and our species ability to adapt to them in a more sustainable, and intentional manner.

**Seed Bank Design:** In choosing a design, I decided to look to ecological design methods that created a symbiotic connection to its’ surroundings, and maintained its autonomy from human maintenance. Each bank is designed to prolong the viability of the seeds through the careful consideration of using the thermal mass of the earth (Much like the architectural Earthship Movement), trapped in a layer of air between two porcelain walls to maintain a constant temperature below the permafrost ground level, and each bank is sealed with beeswax to maintain a constant air tight, water tight environment. Although the environment to promote the viability of the seeds has been considered in the design of the bank, each seed has its own unique life span that genetically determines its viability, and thus not all seeds will remain viable. The hope is that if ever found beyond its span of viability, the seed’s DNA can still provide the cultural significance of the ecology of the place in which it was found.

 **Outreach:** An online data base will provide a detailed collection of information about each bank; the seeds inside, the ecological classification of the place in which it was planted, who planted it, the potential ecological and cultural significance of the plant, etc. Together, the banks will correspond to a greater understanding and active curiosity of local ecology, through the personal choice and reflections of the individuals (and families) who worked together to plant them. Also, an informational video will be made with the images and footage that you record to engage a larger audience, and will be debuted at the Helen E. Copeland Gallery incongruence with my Thesis Exhibition. I sincerely thank you in advance for your concern for the future of this planet, and your sweat equity in the participation of this project.

**Choosing which seeds to store in your Seed Bank (and save for future generations)**

When considering which seeds to fill your bank with, please consider these three guidelines:

1. Native seeds are an excellent indicator of the ecology of the place in which you are considering. Try not to use seeds from noxious weeds, purely ornamental or foreign seeds, seeds from large corporations that could be genetically modified, or seeds from plants that are contributing to an imbalance within that ecology.

2. Consider using plants that provide sustenance or habitat to living creatures within that ecology, such as berries or seed pods of trees/grasses that provide a safe-haven for birds or animals beyond just human consumption. Often times, these seeds will also benefit humans, but focusing on the ecological system as a whole is the goal.

3. Agricultural seeds can be an interesting indicator of human’s ability to co-exist and thrive within their environment. Please consider seeds that promote a sustainable, and ecologically sound farming practice. Perhaps some research on indigenous farming practices could direct you to some interesting heirloom plant varieties, or seeds that have been raised in your area for generations, thus naturally adapting their DNA to adjust to the climate in which you, and they exist.

**Where to find seeds and where to plant your Seed Bank**First, it is important to **get permission** to plant the bank on federal or state land. If you are unsure if it is legal to dig where you want to plant, contact your local forest service or public land authorities to determine if it is ok to plant a bank. If you choose to plant your bank on private property, make sure you have the permission of whomever owns the land. Planting a bank on your own property can be the easiest logistical choice, but be sure that you choose seeds that are native to the local ecology.

1. Once you have chosen your plant, be sure you can identify that plant. It is important that you fill the bank with seeds from a plant in the same location in which you plant it. You may need to do a bit a research to figure out the plants ecological significance to the area.

2. Get photo documentation of the plant, particularly the overall structure, close-ups of the plants leaves, bark, seeds/seed pod structures, flowers and any other unique structures to that plant. Also photograph the area in which you are digging your hole. You can take a panoramic view, or snap a few images of the surrounding area. (this is required information that can help you identify the plant later on if you don’t know what it is).
3. If you have multiple people in your party, have one person taking a video of the process (if you are comfortable with me using this documentation for an informational video). You can send this to me through email.

3. Once you have filled your bank with seeds and documented the plant, screw in the waxed topper, and use a lighter to heat up the bees wax around the top of the screw top to ensure an airtight/water tight seal. Allow to cool for 5 minutes before you bury your bank (this is a great time to start digging your hole!)

4. Depending on which climate you are in, you will have to research the permafrost level of your area to determine the depth of your hole. Check for permafrost here: <https://nsidc.org/cryosphere/frozenground/whereis_fg.html>
 Generally, it will be the same depth at which water pipes are buried into the ground.

Once you have a whole at depth 6 “ below the permafrost level, place your bank in the hole, with the chained rock still at the surface. Fill the hole with dirt, being careful to not bury the chained rock, this should sit on the surface of the ground as an indicator.

5. Once you are done, stand on top of the hole you just dug and use the compass app on your phone, or a GPS device to get the GPS coordinates of the bank. (I have downloaded the compass app on my iphone and then screen shot the coordinates to record later. You may have to turn roaming on for a minute to get service in some locations).

**Data Collection:**

Please record this information, and then send it back to Rachael Marne Jones either digitally through email (rachaelmarnejones@gmail.com) or by mail:

Rachael Marne Jones

217 W. Koch Apt. 203

Bozeman, MT 59715

Name(s) of Seed Bank Planter(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Seed Bank Marker No. :\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

General Location of Planted Bank: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

GPS coordinates (in Minutes): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Elevation: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Ecological Classification of location:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(find ecological classification of your area in attached .pdf or by visiting:
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Vegetation.png#/media/File:Vegetation.png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File%3AVegetation.png#/media/File:Vegetation.png))

Seed Type: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Ecological Significance of plant: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Cultural/Personal/Emotional Significance of Plant:

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Please sign here to confirm that all information is correct, and you and affiliated parties have planted the seed bank in the aforementioned location specified above. By signing below, you also give Rachael Marne Jones consent to use any and or all of the information and documentation (written statements, photographs and videos) that you provide for the online data base, and also educational and promotional materials.

Seed Bank Planter Signature:

Name (Printed):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please include 5 images of the plant as described above, and a few images of the location in which you planted it (think panorama) in .jpeg form, 300 dpi, no larger than 2 mgb. Send to my email in digital form: rachaelmarnejones@gmail.com . You may need to compress the file into a zip file, or send using a formatter such as google docs. Also, if you are comfortable, please include a short (less than 5 minute) clip of you (and your family) planting your seed bank, choosing a plant, or doing research on your plant. This information will be compiled into a digital database.

 Thank you for your participation!

Sincerely,

Rachael Marne Jones

 