

# SMALL ACTS BIG IMPACTS™

# **GREEN AMBASSADORS ACADEMY PROPOSAL**

**ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AND STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM** 



## Organizational Background

## 1. Tulani Thomas, Esq. Founder/Program Facilitator/Creator

Tulani Thomas is the founder of TuTu's Green World LLC (TGW). She received her accounting degree at North Carolina Central University, and is a former CPA with Ernst & Young LLP. Upon graduation from Duke University's School of Law and Fuqua School of Business, Tulani pivoted into a career as a corporate attorney with Clifford Chance LLP. She has dedicated her life to utilizing her experience and love for the environment to fuel her passion for educating children, parents, teachers and the community as a whole on sustainable living, ultimately founding TuTu's Green World (TGW) in 2011. Tulani Thomas, the force behind TGW, garners accolades as a global innovator in sustainability education. Dr. Michelle Harris of the Continental Societies praises her for "transforming multifaceted ideas into easily digestible lessons that resonate with diverse audiences." Moreover, Karen Hunter, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, underscores the importance and appeal of the "TuTu Goes Green" book, emphasizing "its critical role in educating young readers about environmental responsibility."

#### 2. History of TuTu's Green World (TGW)

TuTu's Green World (TGW) is a sustainability lifestyle company for children that operates under the charming guise of a character named TuTu. Founded in 2011 with the launch of the children's book "TuTu Goes Green", TGW has since made commendable strides in its mission to demystify complex environmental issues for young minds. Through a blend of engaging bite-sized videos, books, blogs, and more, TGW offers children valuable insights into sustainable practices they can adopt in their everyday lives.

The company has rapidly expanded its offerings since its inception. Today, TGW encompasses a series of books, a monthly newsletter, a dynamic blog, an online green store, and most notably, a comprehensive K-12 program, Small Acts Big Impacts - Green Ambassadors Academy, based on its foundational principles of sustainability. TGW has been an active partner to several New York, New Jersey, Florida and North Carolina schools since 2011, offering enrichment, programming, and supporting the state's climate education goals.

Small Acts Big Impacts<sup>™</sup> - Green Ambassador Academy: A Catalyst for Change TuTu's Green World LLC



Scope of Work

## I. Overview

The Small Acts Big Impacts<sup>™</sup> - Green Ambassador Academy (GAA) is an initiative geared towards educating children about the importance of environmentally conscious living and how to incorporate such practices into their everyday lives. We exist to educate, empower, and energize future generations to embrace a more eco-friendly lifestyle. We inspire our youth to develop a deeper love for our fragile planet, by instilling green habits, behaviors, and actions through resources, programs, and community. We are building environmentally-conscious youth who will grow up to make real generational change for our world. By emphasizing the principle that even the minutest actions can trigger monumental waves of positive transformation, this initiative aims to instill an eco-conscious mindset in our youth and the larger community.

#### The "Small Acts Big Impact" Pledge and Mindset:

At the very heart of this transformative journey is the Small Acts Big Impacts<sup>™</sup> pledge. As students embark on this program, they take this pledge, solidifying their commitment and agency to protect our precious planet. Each pledge is not just a verbal commitment but a promise to oneself and the world, reinforced with a certificate as a constant reminder. By year-end, the journey culminates with each participant earning the esteemed Small Acts Big Impacts<sup>™</sup> - Green Ambassador Award, a testament to their dedication and efforts towards creating a sustainable world.

## II. Goals & Objectives

The program is segmented into three clusters, elementary (PK - 5th grade), middle school (6th - 8th grade) and high school (9th - 12th grade).

#### Cluster 1: Elementary School PK- 5th grade

- Goal 1: Introduce young students to the concepts of green living.
- Goal 2: Increase Environmental Literacy
- Goal 3: Exposure to STEAM
- Goal 4: Community Engagement

Goal 5: Introduce young learners to the interconnectedness of self, others, and the environment through mindfulness, fostering a foundation for lifelong ecological awareness and mental well-being.



### Cluster 2: Middle School 6th- 8th grade

Goal 1: Increase Environmental Literacy

Goal 2: Empower students to contribute to their school's sustainability.

Goal 3: School Engagement Projects

Goal 4: Deepen the understanding of the relationship between individual well-being and environmental health, empowering students to see their role in the larger ecological framework.

## Cluster 3: High School 9th - 12th grade

Goal 1: Deepen understanding of sustainability pillars and community needs.

Goal 2: Improve literacy and STEAM exposure for students (Title-I).

Goal 3: Engage the community, parents, and teachers.

Goal 4: Cultivate a holistic understanding of the balance between mental health, personal actions, and global environmental challenges, preparing them for responsible and conscious adulthood.

The Small Acts Big Impacts<sup>™</sup>- Green Ambassador Academy aims to instill a deep understanding and appreciation for environmentally conscious living in students across all grade levels.

The GAA topics includes but is not limited to :

- **Waste Management**: Learning about responsible disposal, recycling, and reducing waste in daily life.
- **Clean Energy**: Exploring renewable energy sources like wind, solar, and hydro power and their benefits.
- Water Conservation: Emphasizing the importance of water and methods to conserve it.
- Sustainable Living: Integrating eco-friendly practices into daily life.
- **Composting**: Learning how organic waste can be transformed into nourishment for plants.
- **Mindful Consumption**: Encouraging thoughtful and responsible consumer choices.
- Local Food Movements: Understanding the environmental and health benefits of consuming local produce.



• Urban Greening: The importance and methods of adding green spaces to urban

The GAA also provides a comprehensive mix of activities that includes:

1. **Career Development**: Students learn about green career options through guest speakers from various green professions, such as renewable energy technicians or sustainability consultants, to inspire students.

2. **Volunteer/Community Outreach**: Students are given opportunities to participate in community service and service learning projects that both reinforce sustainability lessons and lessons on agency and leadership. Examples include organizing and supporting tree-planting events, beach clean-ups, or community garden projects.

3. **Social Emotional Development/Mental Health Wellness**: Practice mindfulness and meditation sessions in nature, promoting a connection with the environment and inner self-awareness.

4. **Field Trips**: Visit local eco-friendly businesses, organic farms, or renewable energy facilities to see sustainable practices in action in their community.

5. **Eco-club Initiatives/ Green Science Fair**: Encourage students to form clubs dedicated to environmental projects, fostering teamwork, leadership, and hands-on learning experiences. Students will have the opportunity to showcase their green solutions at a Green Science Fair at the end of the program year.

6. **Parental Involvement and Engagement**: Workshops and volunteer opportunities for parents to complement the objectives of emphasizing green living in the community and promoting sustainable practices at home.

Tulani Thomas, Esq. Founder, Small Acts Big Impacts<sup>™</sup> - Green Ambassador Academy FAMIS vendor #TUT996514

