

Rivanna Reconnaissance

Virginia Center for the Book Annual Member's Project 2023

P R O S P E C T U S

Topic: As a result of profound climate change, newly revealed archaeological and paleontological finds are surfacing along the banks of the Rivanna River. We are creating a scientific field journal cataloging these incidences in a fictional case study.

Inspiration: Lost treasures unearthed, lost landscapes exposed, lost life forms revealed or revived, lost memories recovered - we are moved by these unexpected finds.

Concept: Climate change is having a rapid impact on the planet, both environmental and cultural. As rivers recede due to extreme drought or rise above their banks due to unprecedented and concentrated rain fall, artifacts of the past - past geophysical features, past life ways, past ideologies - are reemerging.

Will our own waterways soon be impacted? If so, how will draught and flooding change our physical and emotional terrain? What might these changes someday reveal to us and about us?

Participants are encouraged to generate ideas on “artifacts” pertaining to fictional discoveries on the banks of the Rivanna River due to climate change. Participants are encouraged to work in groups to create content around these “artifact” concepts in the form of signatures to be sewn into the final journal.

Form/Structure: Our field journal will mimic a scientific cataloging of evidence in a limp binding structure. Discovered artifacts cited in the journal will be accompanied by an Artifact Catalog Tag. This tag will act as a unifying design element for our book. The center will provide polymers of the Artifact Catalog Tag icon as well as a digital file for digital print methods.

An “artifact” can be a physical object or objects, flora or fauna, or an event or series of events that are brought about through climate change on the Rivanna River. Climate change events can occur in a variety of ways (flooding, mudslide, excavation) not just drought. All of these various “artifacts” will be brought together in the form of our fictional case study as a reaction to climate change on the Rivanna River.

The Artists/Group will create content around these artifacts in the form of one or more signatures in the book. They will decide on the signature style and ultimate layout of the but must have the Artifact Catalog Tag information printed near each artifact.

The Artists/Group must use project ink color predominately (TBD dark earth tone) for project cohesion. Participants are free to use other colors as the design needs but it is requested that the main body text and the Artifact Catalog Tag be printed in the project ink color.

The house font of Garamond is the font of choice but not necessary in cases of printing handwritten notes or historical documents. We ask that Garamond is used at least somewhere in the composition.

As a rule, creativity is encouraged so long as the materials do not degrade the rest of the set collection or hinder the final binding and assembly of the completed book form, i.e not materials that shed, offset, or off-gas, or prevent the binding of the book.

The book center will provide paper for the field journal's signatures. Artists/Groups must determine size and folding of paper to create their signatures. A Rivanna Reconnaissance Page Styles document will be available to help Artists/Groups troubleshoot the needs of their design based on the variety of styles shown in the dummy book. It will have tips for production (i.e. match paper grain and measure correctly).

Finished signatures must measure 7" x 6" closed for final sewing into the book and be no thicker than 1/4" thick.

There will be a **Cover Team** and a **Book Binding Team** that will oversee the design of the cover element to our limp bound field journal and also the assembling and sewing of the limp binding.

Skill-Building:

- Print Production Skills: Artists/Groups will need to discuss how they want to execute their concepts within the parameters of the signature options. They will need to adhere to the print requests (Artifact Catalog Tag, Garamond, Project Ink Color) and take into account how they want to print their layout (imposition, etc.). As long as the signature parameters, ink color needs, and Artifact Catalog Tag cover page needs are met, printing may take place in a variety of forms provided that they *do not degrade the rest of the set collection or hinder the final binding and assembly of the completed book form, i.e not materials that shed, offset, or off-gas, or prevent the binding of the book.*
- Limp Binding: The Book Binding Team will learn to bind the final assemblage of Artist/Group signatures into the final limp binding with covers provided by the Book Cover Team.
- Custom Dyed Book Cloth: The Book Cover Team will oversee the production of cover cloth dyed from sediment gathered from the Rivanna River.