

CHENXI ZI

ARTIST + ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES RESEARCHER

Founder and Executive Director, Fish Lantern Environment

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PROFILE

Interdisciplinary artist and environmental humanities researcher working across environmental history, place-based knowledge, and public engagement. Practice spans writing, tabletop games, visual communication, interactive installation, and documentary media. Current research centers on the environmental histories and local cultures of seagrass ecosystems. Through Fish Lantern Environment, she is building a platform for environmental art, artist residencies, and new narratives for frontline ecological action.

SELECTED ARTISTIC WORK & EXHIBITIONS

Tidal Fields

2026

Tabletop game with 3D-printed components, exploring seagrass ecosystems, local knowledge, and participatory environmental learning; an open-source print-and-play paper edition is also available.

Selected Solo Exhibitions

Artist

China Fishing Culture Museum, Ningbo | A4 Museum, Chengdu | OFFBUND, Shanghai

PROFESSIONAL & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Fish Lantern Environment Co., Ltd. | Beijing, China

Jul 2023 - Present

Founder and Executive Director

- Founded an interdisciplinary environmental organization integrating humanities research, artistic practice, public communication, and cross-sector collaboration.
- Lead research and creative projects on the environmental history and ecological value of China's seagrass beds, multilingual climate fiction, and oral histories of Chinese environmental practitioners.
- Develop organizational capacity in artistic production, curatorial practice, and support for place-based environmental art.

Friends of Nature | Beijing, China

Aug 2019 - Jun 2023

Fundraising Campaigner (2021-2023) | Project Manager, Public Narrative Workshop (2021) | Zero Waste Project Intern (2019-2020)

- Led public fundraising campaigns, donor engagement, volunteer programs, and cross-sector partnerships; initiated an archive documenting 30 years of major environmental events in China.
- Managed six public narrative workshops across China, training 200+ participants; supported zero-waste public programs and research for the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics guidelines.

EDUCATION

Duke University & Duke Kunshan University

Aug 2025 - Apr 2027 (expected)

Master of Environmental Policy | International Master of Environmental Policy (iMEP) Program | GPA: 3.9/4.0 | DKU Empower Scholarship

- Research Assistant, Just Transition in China's Climate Response; Project Assistant, Campus Biodiversity Enhancement; Participant, Blue Pioneer Marine Conservation Program.

Beijing Normal University, Liyun College

Sep 2016 - Jun 2020

B.A. in Philosophy; Minor in Economics | GPA: 85/100 | Research focus: Science and Technology Studies (STS)

- National Top Talent Cultivation Experimental Program in Humanities and Social Sciences; Outstanding Graduation Thesis: Zero Waste: An Ideal Model and Its History.
- Principal Investigator of a national-level undergraduate research project on identity construction among migrant workers' children.

FELLOWSHIPS & HONORS

LeadNext Fellow, The Asia Foundation (2023) | **DKU Empower Scholarship** | Outstanding Graduation Thesis, Beijing Normal University

METHODS & TOOLS

CREATIVE Rhino 8, Bambu Studio; Arduino, DigiShow; Figma, Adobe InDesign, Illustrator; Final Cut Pro, Premiere Pro

RESEARCH Oral history, archival and field research; R, Stata, SPSS, NVivo; responsible AI-assisted research and prototyping

LANGUAGES Mandarin Chinese (native), English (proficient), French (conversational)