



Request for 2020-21 Funding Services and Activities Fee Committee

BUDGET PROPOSAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Department Name: Giving Garden (Sustainability Committee)

Create Date: 02/02/2021

Due Date: 02/05/2021

Submitter Name: Meg McCann

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Department Head Approval:

Department Head: Ellen Moore

Requested Amount: **\$24,457**

Departmental Information

STUDENT UTILIZATION

The Giving Garden is asking for continued funding that will allow us to grow more food for students, further partner with faculty in integrating the Giving Garden in classes, and connect with the UW Tacoma community through educational and service oriented events.

The Giving Garden is requesting continued funds for the existing student positions. The Giving Garden Greenhouse Assistant that will focus on starting the greenhouse in 2021 and the Giving Garden Assistant who will focus on the raised beds care and harvest.

The Giving Garden is also requesting funds for tools and materials to maintain and improve the garden.

These funds will benefit students by providing food, leadership opportunities, access to greenspace, engaging them in their food system, and experience working with difficult issues like food security and equity.

CORE VALUES/MISSION ALIGNMENT

Impact Goal: Students

The Giving Garden supports our students by fighting for food security on campus and providing a range and depth of opportunities for service learning and educational events around agriculture and sustainability. Specifically, the Giving Garden is able to strengthen persistence to graduation for all student populations by addressing the issue of food insecurity and the challenges it presents to our students.

Impact Goal: Communities

Similar to the founding of UW Tacoma the Giving Garden was born of an engaged community, specifically around the ideas of sustainability and food justice. The Giving Garden creates awareness of UW Tacoma in the community through its physical presence, bringing the immediate community into the garden, and therefore campus. The garden also provides opportunities for community partnerships with organizations like local high schools, Pierce Conservation District, Master Gardeners of Pierce County, Tacoma Tool Library, and many more. With 1/3 of UW Tacoma students facing food insecurity the garden serves as an example of how the University is a leader addressing the problems of our time and place. Through volunteer opportunities and student positions the garden trains students in community engagement and leadership. Finally, the garden is an excellent opportunity for engaging alumni in community service that benefits current students.

Impact Goal: Equity

The Giving Garden helps create a more engaged, civil, and just university by directly addressing the issue of food security through access to fresh local produce. Providing food and access to green space provides the opportunity to increase student satisfaction and reduces the disparities that affect those struggling with food security. The Giving Garden's events and service opportunities provide a space to have conversations about food justice and the experience of underserved populations.

SAF-FUNDED PROGRAM OR SERVICES GOALS AND OUTCOMES

Goal: Reduce Food Insecurity at UW Tacoma

Action: Develop garden growing plan in collaboration with The Pantry, including cultural foods grown when applicable.

Outcome - The Giving Garden has conducted annual surveys in collaboration with The Pantry to identify what fruits and vegetables students would like to see the Giving Garden grow and donate to The Pantry. The results of these surveys help the Giving Garden plan for future growing seasons so that the array of harvestable crops are more diverse and meet the needs of all students on campus.

Action: Establish the new 30-foot greenhouse to provide year-round harvests in a controlled environment, to use for student research, crop growing, and a space to prepare and host plant sales.

Outcome: The Greenhouse was installed in July 2020 and the security fence was installed in December 2020. Starting in February, the Greenhouse will be used to start many crops from seed to later plant in the Giving Garden.

Action: Increase total donations to The Pantry each year through better utilization of raised beds, crop varieties, fertilizer, and student staff.

Outcome: We donated 300 lbs of food in 2020. Total donations for 2020 were lower than the year prior due to delays onset by the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic caused a state-wide lockdown in March. We were unable to start our planting process until late springtime, resulting in delayed harvests and donations.

Action: Repair damaged raised beds and expand total number of beds to 50, filling unused space at the garden and increasing the capacity of the garden to grow and donate food.

Outcome: We finished building the remaining raised beds and met our goal of 50 beds in total.

Action: Build a system of trellises to increase bed productivity and output while utilizing space more efficiently by growing upwards.

Outcome: We have designed the plans for the trellises whose materials will be bought in Winter 2021 to be built for the upcoming spring planting season.

Goal: Engage Students and the Community

Action: Host Educational Events quarterly at the Giving Garden

Outcome: The Giving Garden hosted 2 volunteer events at the garden in 2020, future events were postponed or cancelled due to gathering restrictions put in place by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Action: Host open volunteer hours every week, dependent on student worker's class schedules each quarter.

Outcome: In 2020, the Giving Garden hosted 45 volunteer hours. Volunteer opportunities following Winter Quarter were postponed on account of the pandemic.

Action: Collaborate with local organizations or businesses to promote the Giving Garden.

Outcome: The Giving Garden collaborated with Bonafide Potents by donating over 100 lbs of asian pears and the entire 2020 hop harvest to be crafted into elixirs sold at the Tacoma Farmers Market. Bonafide Potents is donating a portion of the sales back to the UW Tacoma Sustainability Fund to help support the garden and other sustainability efforts on campus.

STUDENT UTILIZATION (COMPARISON OVER PAST 2 YEARS)

Student Utilization in 2018:

- Donated 198 pounds of food to The Pantry and St. Leo's Food Connection
- Hosted 24 events at the Giving Garden running from work parties, harvest parties, Day of Caring in partnership with the Center for Service and Leadership, and Art in the Garden.
- Engaged with 101 participants at our events.

Student Utilization in 2019:

- Donated over 406 pounds of food to The Pantry and St. Leo's Food Connection
- Hosted 16 large events/work parties, plus small work parties consisting of less than 5 people during 225 open volunteer hours
- 633 volunteer hours logged, 130 were unduplicated participants, 296 returning participants
- Engaged with IDEA High School, Club/Camp Pierce, UWT Craft Beer Program, 5 UWT classes, 3 capstone/independent studies done in the garden

Student Utilization in 2020:

- Donated over 300 pounds of food to The Pantry and St. Leo's Food Connection
 - Donation totals were lower this year due to the mandatory quarantine during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Hosted 2 work party events to help build wooden raised beds
- 45 volunteer hours logged, 13 were new participants, and 9 were returning participants

More information can be found in the attached documents labeled 'Giving Garden Volunteer Hours 2020' and 'Giving Garden Harvest 2020.'

COLLECTION OF FEEDBACK & IMPROVEMENTS

Using the surveys conducted with The Pantry, we receive feedback on which fruits and vegetables students will benefit the most from. These surveys also provide us with information regarding which culturally significant foods are the most sought after at The Pantry and whether the Giving Garden can provide those foods.

To track students' benefit we document volunteer hours, event attendance, and amount donated to The Pantry as a means of measuring engagement.

SERVICE BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

According to a 2013 study by UW Tacoma Faculty Dr. Christine Stevens, one-third of students at UW Tacoma are food insecure. In 2018 a tri-campus study at UW was done identifying that 26% of UW students self identify as food insecure. These statistics align with national studies (Goldrick-Rab, Sara, et al. Still Hungry and Homeless in College. Wisconsin Hope Lab. 2018) on food insecurity and shows a need to assist our students.

The Giving Garden is already addressing this need by providing fresh produce to The Pantry. Fresh food and produce is a big request of students accessing The Pantry, according to their surveys. In 2020 the garden donated over 300 pounds of produce compared to 400 pounds in 2019. Due to the pandemic, harvest totals were lower than the previous year, but with continued funding, student employee assistance, and increased organizing in-line with pandemic restrictions, the Giving Garden can increase donation totals back to the previous numbers, if not higher.

The immediate benefit to students participating in the Giving Garden is fresh nutritious food that they grow and a sense of service in supporting their fellow students. Beyond that, they have an outlet to be in nature and interact with the natural world without having to leave campus. Exposure to nature and fresh air have been shown to reduce stress and anxiety. (Capaldi C, Dopko RL, Zelenski J. Frontiers in Psychology. 2014)

The Giving Garden also starts a career of community leadership with students, helping them learn about food security, equity, and the possibilities of growing your own food, even in an urban environment.

The Giving Garden's harvests benefit every student who uses The Pantry and is exposed to fresh produce. Without ever attending an event or visiting the garden itself students are impacted by what we do.

The garden also provides opportunities for students to work on campus in a leadership capacity while aligning them within their community. It allows the students to engage in a professional setting while giving them tools and connections for their future.

It also gives an opportunity for students to step foot outside of the classroom by integrating the Giving Garden into the curriculum. Students are able to apply concepts they're learning through a hands on approach, while connecting amongst their peers and building their community.

The garden is becoming more and more intertwined with campus through its partnerships with The Pantry, Professional Development Center, faculty and their curriculum, and Facilities Services. Access is a core value of the University of Washington Tacoma and the Giving Garden serves this value through access to food, education, community, green space, and student growth.

Staff Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
Student Staff ³	Giving Garden Assistant E001	
	Student Staff Wages:	\$7,020
	Fringe @ 22.2%:	\$1,558
Student Staff ³	Greenhouse Assistant E002	
	Student Staff Wages:	\$10,530
	Fringe @ 22.2%:	\$2,338
PERSONNEL TOTAL:		\$21,446

Other Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
Other Services	Tacoma Tool Library Organization Membership	S001 \$132
Non-Food Supplies & Materials	Paper Towels	S002 \$22
	Wet Wipes	S003 \$13
	Hand Sanitizer	S004 \$150
	First Aid Kit	S005 \$39
Food	Granola Bars	S006 \$69
	Bottled Water	S007 \$16
Equipment	Solar Greenhouse Lighting	S008 \$72
	Hose Watering Wand Attachment	S009 \$28
	Hanging Hooks	S010 \$14
	Crop Harvest Trays	S011 \$124
	Hose Reel	S012 \$110
	Potting Soil	S013 \$143
	Seed Starting Trays	S014 \$154
	Compostable Produce Bags	S015 \$66
	Organic Fertilizer, 12 LB	S016 \$182
	Organic Seed Packs	S017 \$551
	Benches	S018 \$704
	Garden Signage	S019 \$71
	Garden Gloves	S020 \$308
	Masks	S021 \$44
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:		\$3,011

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COMPLETE PROPOSAL TOTAL:	\$24,457

Supplemental Documents



GIVING GARDEN HARVEST TOTALS 2020

A detailed breakdown of the harvest totals in the Giving Garden, broken down by types of foods and weights