

BUDGET PROPOSAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Department Name: Giving Garden (Sustainability Committee)

Create Date: 02/23/2022

Due Date: 04/08/2022

Submitter Name: Clare Tupper

UW Email Address: cmt373@uw.edu

Phone Number: 2533031365

Department Head Approval:

Department Head: James Gawel

Requested Amount: **\$69,388**

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 (2 Giving Garden Assistants) as well as additional funds for a part-time staff position (Giving Garden Coordinator) due to a private donors gift running out this fiscal year. The Giving Garden Greenhouse Assistant (1 student @ 15 hours/week) will focus on greenhouse maintenance and enhancing productivity. The Giving Garden Assistant (1 student @ 10 hours/week) will focus on raised bed care and harvest. Both will assist in other projects and events.

The Giving Garden Coordinator will focus on current and future projects and general improvements to the garden as well as provide guidance and assistance to student assistants. If this position transitions from a student to staff position it has the opportunity to take the Giving Garden to new heights. Lessening the turn over rate will allow for better collaborations and organization for this role, significantly improving the gardens productivity and student/community benefit.

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 health 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 established around 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 and environmental justice as well as the experiences 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 has been used to create crop starts allowing for a more sustainable and productive harvest.

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

Outcome: We donated 412 lbs of food in 2021, an increase of over 100 lbs from 2020. However, the 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 to ensure the longevity of our work and create a safe and pleasant working environment

Outcome: We finished building half of the beds and have the supplies to replace the rest. All 50 beds will be operable by spring quarter.

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

Outcome: Trellises were built during the summer of 2021 and aided in the productivity of several vining crops.

Goal: Engage Students and the Community

Action: Host educational/volunteer events quarterly at the Giving Garden

Outcome: Event planning was postponed or canceled due to gathering restrictions put in place by the COVID-19 pandemic. Two events are in the planning process for March 2022

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

Outcome: In 2021, the Giving Garden hosted 43.5 volunteer hours. With COVID-19 restriction decreasing we expect an increase in these numbers in the future.

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

Outcome: The Giving Garden donated excess produce that the Pantry could not utilize to St. Leo's Food Connection.

Action: Collaborate with students for research projects

Outcome: A UWT Conservation Biology class used the Giving Garden grounds to conduct research.

Outcome: A UWT student used the Giving Garden SHED to inoculate mushrooms for a class project.

STUDENT UTILIZATION (COMPARISON OVER PAST 2 YEARS)

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

Student Utilization in 2021:

- Donated over 400 pounds of food to The Pantry and St. Leo's Food Connection
- Hosted 2 work party events to build trellis and wooden raised beds
- 44 volunteer hours logged.

Volunteer hours have been affected by COVID-19 allowing only 2 volunteers to sign up for specific time slots at a time. More information can be found in the attached documents labeled 'Giving Garden Volunteer Hours 2021' and 'Giving Garden Harvest 2021.'

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 uncovered 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 show 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. Due to the pandemic, harvest totals were lower than the previous year, but thanks to continued funding, student employee assistance, and increased organizing in-line with pandemic restrictions, the Giving Garden was able to increase donation totals back to the previous numbers. With students getting back on campus and with the help of our new greenhouse, we expect those numbers to continue to climb.

The immediate benefit to students participating in the Giving Garden is access to 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 which is critical for busy students trying to balance their studies, work, and life. (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. Courses that utilize the Giving Garden grounds also give an opportunity for students to step foot outside of the classroom, allowing them to learn through a hands-on approach while connecting amongst their peers and building their community. The garden is becoming more and more intertwined with the 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
Professional Staff ¹	Giving Garden Coordinator (20 Hours/Week) (\$28.85/Hour) (Eligible for pay increase after six months) The Giving Garden Coordinator will work with student assistants to manage the garden's 50 raised beds, fruit trees, native plant walk, S.H.E.D., and grounds. The Giving Garden Coordinator will help deliver produce to The Pantry, host open hours at the garden, and coordinate student events. The Giving Garden Coordinator will work to manage the gardens documents and funding sources. E001	
	Professional Staff Wages:	\$30,000
	Fringe ⁴ @ 29.4%:	\$8,820
Student Staff ³	Giving Garden Assistant (10 Hours/Week) (\$14.49/Hour) (Eligible for pay increase after six months) The Giving Garden Assistant will work with the Giving Garden Coordinator to manage the garden's 50 raised beds, fruit trees, native plant walk, S.H.E.D., and grounds. The Giving Garden Assistant will help deliver produce to The Pantry, host open hours at the garden, and coordinate student events. E002	
	Student Staff Wages:	\$7,550
	Fringe @ 20.4%:	\$1,540
Student Staff ³	Greenhouse Assistant (15 Hours/Week) (\$14.49/Hour) (Eligible for pay increase after six months) The Greenhouse Assistant will run the Giving Garden's new greenhouse. This position will manage planting, growing, and harvesting produce, specifically from the greenhouse, throughout the year for donation to The Pantry E003	
	Student Staff Wages:	\$11,302
	Fringe @ 20.4%:	\$2,306
PERSONNEL TOTAL:		\$61,518

Other Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
Contracted Services	Regular city trash pickup of a 60-gallon container. Monthly Charge of \$59.51 S002	\$714
	Regular city recycling pickup. Mixed - Paper, Plastic, Aluminum, Tin, Cardboard. By-weekly haul at \$7.23 S003	\$189
Other Services	Tacoma Tool Library Organization Membership (Allows us to rent hundreds of different tools needed for projects in the garden like building trellises.) S004	\$150
	Workday Fee S005	\$258
	UW telephone services S006	\$200
Non-Food Supplies & Materials	Organic Seeds (Seed Packs, seed counts vary by crop), 50 units at \$10.00 per unit. 10.2% tax included S007	\$551
	Organic Fertilizer (12lb Bag), 5 units at \$32.99 per unit. 10.2% tax included S008	\$182
	Organic Raised Bed Mix (One Cubic Yard), 30 units at \$29.00 per unit. \$150 delivery fee included. 10.2% tax included. S009	\$1,109
	Paper Towels (12 Rolls), 1 Unit at \$19.59 per unit. 10.2% tax included. S010	\$22
	Wet Wipes (304 ct), 1 Unit at \$12.19 per unit. 10.2% tax included. S011	\$13
	Giving Garden Logo Canvas Bag, 100 Units at \$5.55 per unit. 10.2% tax included. S012	\$612
	Giving Garden Logo Sticker (300 Count), 1 Unit at \$139.00 per unit. 10.2% tax included. S013	\$153
	2 Lg Cedar Mason Bee Houses S014	\$95
	mason bees S015	\$75
	2 ft. x 1 ft. x 4 ft. Round End Metal Trough S016	\$120
	Rectangular planter boxes (4 units at \$12.68 per unit) S017	\$51
	Greenhouse Shade Kit S018	\$48
Food	Granola Bars (48 x 1.2 oz), 4 units at \$15.69 per unit. 10.2% tax included. S019	\$69
	Bottled Water (40 x 16.9 oz), 4 units at \$3.69 per unit. 10.2% tax included. S020	\$16
Equipment	Batteries for Lawn and Garden Tools. 2 Quantity. Briggs & Stratton Briggs & Stratton 82-Volt Max 4.0 Lithium-Ion Battery S021	\$500
	DEWALT XR POWER DETECT 20-Volt Max 7-1/4-in Brushless Cordless Circular Saw (1-Battery and Charger Included) S022	\$300
	DEWALT XR 20-volt 1/2-in Brushless Cordless Drill (2-Batteries Included and Charger Included) S023	\$199
	Solar Powered Greenhouse Fan S024	\$300
	Lawn Edger S025	\$36
	Dell Latitude 5300 2-IN-1 Business Laptop with Gumdrop Droptech Case Designed for Dell Latitude 5290 2- in-1 S026	\$1,908
SUPPLIMENTAL TOTAL:		\$7,870

PERSONNEL TOTAL:	\$61,518
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:	\$7,870
COMPLETE PROPOSAL TOTAL:	\$69,388

Supplemental Documents



HARVEST TOTALS

Harvest donations made to The Pantry and St. Leos Food Bank



VOLUNTEER HOURS

Record of hours served during volunteer events and open volunteer hours



GIVING GARDEN COORDINATOR POSITION CHANGE STATEMEN

Explanation of change of coordinator position request.



GIVING GARDEN STUDENT COORDINATOR STATEMENT ON POS

The current Giving Garden Coordinators thoughts on position shift to staff.