



Request for 2024 Funding Services and Activities Fee Committee

BUDGET PROPOSAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Department Name: Center for Student Involvement

Create Date: 01/25/2024

Due Date: 02/07/2024

Submitter Name: Clare Tupper

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Department Head Approval:

Department Head: Conor Leary

Requested Amount: **\$113,351**

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, connect with the UW Tacoma community through educational and service-oriented events and potentially incorporate educational food preparation demonstrations for students to better utilize our harvest and Pantry items together in simple and healthy ways.

The Giving Garden is requesting continued funds for two student positions. One GG Assistant and one GG Senior Assistant with this elevated role starting next year. Both Giving Garden Assistants (@ 15 hours/week) will focus on greenhouse maintenance, enhancing productivity, raised-bed care, and harvest, creating educational social media content, and assisting in other projects and events with the Senior Assistant taking on a few more responsibilities (See supplemental document)

We also request for the professional staff position (Giving Garden Coordinator) become a full-time position. 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. This position has allowed for better collaborations and organization for the garden, ensuring future stability, and significantly improving 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

Students, Goal 2:

The Giving Garden was created in part to support the well-being of students by providing them with fresh produce and access to green space on campus. As our garden grows, we provide more food and an inviting/comforting environment for students to engage with food systems and nature.

We strive to grow foods that students want to see in the Pantry. We have a survey students can fill out to help provide feedback, so we are always supporting student's specific wants and needs.

This year we are also working on a proposal to utilize the kitchen space in the Dawg House for food preparation demonstrations, both hands-on with students and virtual. The goal of this project would be to increase student's capabilities and confidence in utilizing our harvest which may not always be familiar to our students. We plan to incorporate items found in the Pantry so students can better utilize the free food services available to them while engaging with their food systems and their UW Tacoma community in the process.

Communities, Goal 3:

The GG Coordinator is a recurring staff member of our sustainability committee; the garden is involved in the planning and implementation of events that incorporate the community and community establishments. The garden is also open to all community members both during our hours of operation and volunteer opportunities.

During Summer months when there is less need for our harvest on campus, we partner with local shelters and food banks to ensure every bit of our crop is being utilized. In 2023 we donated 185lbs of fresh produce to Beacon Youth Shelter. We intend to continue this relationship in the future with the hope of engaging the young adults in the garden itself.

Local organization affiliations: Club Pierce, Emergency Food Network, Harvest Pierce County, UWTMSL program, Bonafide Potents, 7 Seas Brewing, Grit City Carnivore Project, City of Tacoma's Urban Green, Hip Hop is Green, Beacon Youth Shelter, The Puyallup Tribe of Indians Language Department, and local high schools.

SAF-FUNDED PROGRAM OR SERVICES GOALS AND OUTCOMESExpand Course Collaboration

Interactions have included: mini field trips to the garden, guest speaking in a class, classes incorporating volunteering as part of their curriculum, professors using the garden as an example/practice for final projects, and interviews with students for class assignments. In the past, we have also had classes use the garden for labs, and final/capstone projects.

See supplemental documents for a video student, Jeremy Dao, created last Spring for TCOM 470

Increase Student Engagement/Recognition of Garden Space and Services

The GG team continues to participate in new student orientation and each quarter's Involvement Fair to increase awareness. From these events, we see a spike in followers on our socials and questions from students on how to get involved.

Increase Harvest

This year we donated 407lbs of produce to the Pantry and local shelter, nearly matching our record harvest of 411lbs in 2021, a significant increase from our 2022 total of 160lbs. This drastic increase can be credited to our increased greenhouse utilization, consistent student employment, volunteer efforts, and environmental conditions.

Install More Sustainable Infrastructure

- Channeling solar power from the SHED to the greenhouse to allow for heating and lighting in the winter months and potentially a cooling system for the peak heat season. These additions will significantly increase our harvest.
- We have installed two compost barrels to lessen our waste and produce our own compost with an additional three-part compost system to come.
- Four of five donated rain barrels were installed around the grounds. Each barrel can hold 50+ gallons of rainwater

Enhance the Accessibility/Beauty of the Garden

We are creating a mosaic steppingstone pathway through our Native Plant walk with stones made by students and community members, adding more tables, chairs, and benches, installing a kiwi trellis with attached work benches for standing accessibility, and once our ash tree is removed, we would like to work with students to create a gazebo with seating and table.

Efforts to Collaborate with Other Campus Offices

We have continued a partnership with the Pantry in the CEI and often work with Husky Volunteers and HSF for volunteer opportunities and special projects. The Giving Garden coordinator is also a recurring staff voting member of the sustainability committee who reaches out to many departments within UWT for events and other projects.

We will be working with the Multi-Media Lab closely if our proposal for Dawg House kitchen usage is approved to create live stream and edited content.

Increase Educational Outreach

This year we have incorporated a weekly educational post on our socials highlighting various topics around gardening, urban green spaces, food security, and environmental justice called Food for Thought Thursdays.

Throughout the garden, we have installed more educational signage. (See supplemental documents)

- Native plant signage.
- Two signs describing the benefits and process of composting will be installed on the SHED above a three-part composting system.
- We intend to install an informational sign above a rainbarrel

STUDENT UTILIZATION (COMPARISON OVER PAST 2 YEARS)

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.'

Student Utilization 2022:

- Donated 160lbs of food to the pantry and CSI office for pick up. These numbers are much less than previous years due to a very bad growing season region wide, a new rabbit problem and being short staffed for a good portion of the year but we are confident we will be able to mitigate those issues to get back on track with our previous numbers.
- Hosted a volunteer event each quarter, two additional work party events to work on a pathway throughout the garden, and one welcome week event to promote the garden and provide a greenspace for students to enjoy their community with food, games, art and music.
- 275 volunteer hours logged

Student Utilization in 2023:

- 407lbs donated to the Pantry and local youth shelter nearly reaching our record of 411lbs.
- Hosted a volunteer event each quarter including our Earth Day event where we earned a Sustainability Impact Award for our community painted mural and participation in Day of Caring
- Students often use the garden as a topic for assignments or a field area for research.
- 217 volunteer visits (same person can be counted for different visits throughout year. Do not have the unduplicated number)
- Roughly 35 attendees at Fall Quarter Welcome Days event
- 351 volunteer labor hours from events and open volunteer hours

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. We are now using Dubnet to track volunteer hours

Based on participation numbers in previous years, we are trying to focus winter quarter volunteer hours on infrastructure projects to increase the level students can engage with the garden when there is limited crops.

SERVICE BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

According to UW Tacoma Faculty Dr. Christine Stevens who has been conducting research on food insecurity on our campus since 2018, as of 2021, 48% of UWT students met low food security, greatly surpassing the national average numbers of one out of three university students. 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 are a big request of students accessing The Pantry, according to their surveys. In 2023 the garden donated 222lbs of produce to the Pantry and 185 to a local youth shelter during the summer quarter. Continued student employment, increased numbers of volunteers, and with our greenhouse to be heated next winter, 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 with 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 allow 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
Classified Staff ²	100% FTE Giving Garden Coordinator E001	
	Classified Staff Wages:	\$55,830
	Fringe @ 31.4%:	\$17,531
Student Staff ³	Senior Giving Garden Assistant E002	
	Student Staff Wages:	\$14,776
	Fringe @ 20.5%:	\$3,029
Student Staff ³	Giving Garden Assistant E003	
	Student Staff Wages:	\$14,125
	Fringe @ 20.5%:	\$2,896
PERSONNEL TOTAL:		\$108,186

Other Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
Non-Food Supplies & Materials	Seeds	S001 \$350
	20 Tomato starts at \$6	S002 \$120
	Two varieties of potato at \$25	S003 \$50
	Potting soil \$12.98x30	S004 \$390
Equipment	Rain Barrel Informational Sign 36"x 24	S005 \$346
	Craftsman 20-Piece 1/4" Drive SAE & Metric Socket Set	S006 \$20
	Samsung TV from CDW for cooking demonstration live streams	S007 \$324
	Laptop Latitude 3440 for cooking demonstration live stream	S008 \$1,038
	Absolute DDS Premium Education/State & Local Gov't. - 5 Yr. Term	S009 \$96
	Blackmagic Design ATEM Mini Extreme ISO for cooking demonstration live stream	S010 \$1,295
	Netgear 8-Port Business Essentials Gigabit Ethernet Unmanaged Switch for cooking demonstration live stream	S011 \$22
	Dell P2422H 23.8" 16:9 IPS Monitor for cooking demonstration live stream	S012 \$270
	HDMI CABLES (micro HDMI to HDMI) 10ft	S013 \$11
	Items needed for three-part composting system (see supplemental document)	S014 \$833
SUPPLIMENTAL TOTAL:		\$5,165

PERSONNEL TOTAL:	\$108,186
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:	\$5,165
COMPLETE PROPOSAL TOTAL:	\$113,351

Supplemental Documents



KITCHEN USAGE PROPOSAL

A written proposal for the Giving Garden and Center for Student Involvement to utilize the kitchen space within the Dawg House



STUDENT TESTIMONY

Student employee Victoria Sims' testimony in favor of 100% FTE Giving Garden Coordinator position and the creation of a Senior Giving Garden Assistant position



STUDENT TESTIMONY

Student employee Jenny Hunt's testimony in favor of 100% FTE Giving Garden Coordinator position



VIDEOS AND PHOTOS

A collection of videos and photos highlighting the garden from student-generated documentaries to photos of completed projects



SUPPLIES ESTIMATE

Lowes estimate for three-part composting system supplies



MULTI-MEDIA LAB SUPPLIES LIST

List of available equipment from the Multi-Media lab as well as a list of items required for purchase for cooking demonstration live streams



HARVEST TOTALS

Harvest totals



VOLUNTEER HOURS

volunteer hours