*Please submit this completed application, the supplemental budget spreadsheet, and any relevant supporting documentation by the deadline indicated in your Step 1 notification letter to* [*Sustainability-Committee@Illinois.edu*](mailto:Sustainability-Committee@Illinois.edu)*.The Working Group Chairs will be in contact with you regarding any questions about the application. If you have any questions about the application process, please contact the SSC at* [*Sustainability-Committee@Illinois.edu*](mailto:Sustainability-Committee@Illinois.edu)*.*

# General Information

**Project Name:** What are you walking on?

**Total Amount Requested from SSC:** $28,783

**Project Topic Area(s):** Energy Education Food & Waste

Land Water Transportation

# Contact Information

### Project Lead

Applicant Name: Stan Ruecker

Unit/Department: Art and Design

Email Address: sruecker@illinois.edu

Phone Number: 312-882-4793

### Financial Contact *(Must be Full-time University of Illinois Staff Member)*

Contact Name: tan Ruecker

Unit/Department: School of Art and Design

Email Address: sruecker@illinois.edu

Phone Number: 312-882-4793

Organization Code: UIUC Organization Code (for CFOP) – Must not start with 9

### Facilities Management Contact *(If Applicable)*

Contact Name: Name of Applicant or Project Lead

Email Address: Preferred Email Address

**Primary Project Team**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Department** | **Email** |
| Natalie Smith | Art and Design | nataliefsmith@me.com |
| Victor Orozco Chavez | Architecture | vorozco3@illinois.edu |
| Name | Department/Organization | Email Address |
| Name | Department/Organization | Email Address |

# Project Description

**Please provide a brief background of the project, the goals, and the desired outcomes:**

The purpose of this project is two-fold. First, we want to increase student awareness of the ubiquitous nature of concrete, asphalt, and brick, along with their negative environmental impacts. Second, we want to provide information about alternative materials that use local waste, especially crop residues, as the basis for next-generation bricks. Students will choose the materials, design and create the information displays, and manufacture and install the showcase walkway that uses

**How will the project improve the sustainability of the Illinois campus and how will the project go above and beyond campus standards?**

It will provide a relatively small surface as a demonstration project, but that surface will allow students of all kinds to walk on something other than materials they have walked on before. In addition, the information kiosk on display in Art and Design will expose people to the provocative prototypes we are creating out of an even wider range of recovered waste materials.

**Where will the project be located? Will special permissions be required to enact the project on this site? If so, please explain and submit any relevant letters of support with the application.**

The current goal is to put the information kiosk into Art and Design, although we are hoping that additional opportunities may present themselves to subsequently display it at other locations. The demonstration walkway will be associated with one of Mark Taylor’s solar houses. We will require permission from Facilities and Services, yet to be obtained. I do apologize.

**Other than the project team, who will have a stake in the project? Please list other individuals, groups, or departments affiliated directly or indirectly by the project. This includes any entity providing funding (immediate, future, ongoing, matching, in-kind, etc.) and any entities that will be benefitting from this project. Please attach letters of commitment or support at the end of the application.**

Groups that include the School of Art and Design and the Design Research Initiative. I used some of my funding from the Design Research Initiative to contribute materials.

**Please indicate how this project will involve or impact students. What role will students play in the project?**

Natalie Smith (MFA Design 2020) will lead the project from its inception, including the choice of bio-waste materials and the production of bio-bricks, the design and implementation of information, and the installation of the pop-up gallery display in the LINK area of Krannert Art Museum. She will also be responsible for the bio-brick walkway on campus, which is intended to allow students and others to have the experience of using paths that are not made using concrete or asphalt. Victor Chavez (MA Architecture 2021) will be responsible for testing various properties of the bio-bricks, including compressive strength, water permeability, and seasonal degradation of the showcase walkway. A wide range of different students will have opportunities to experience the gallery show in Art and Design, as well as the demonstration walkway.

# Financial Information

*In addition to the below questions, please submit the supplemental budget spreadsheet available on the Student Sustainability Committee website. Submission of both documents by the submission deadline is required for consideration of your project.*

**Have you applied for funding from SSC before? If so, for what project?**

No—this is our first application.

**If this project is implemented, will there be any ongoing funding required? What is the strategy for supporting the project in order to cover replacement, operation, or renewal costs?   
  
Please note that SSC provides funding on a case by case basis annually and should not be considered as an ongoing source of funding.**

There will be no need for ongoing funding for this project.

**Please include any other sources of funding that have been obtained or applied for. Please attach any relevant letters of support as needed in a separate document.**

The only other source of funding was from my research budget: I used $800 to purchase the resin and catalyst we require.

# Environmental, Economic, and Awareness Impacts

*In addition to the below questions, please indicate specific measurable impacts as applicable on the supplemental budget spreadsheet.*

**Which aspects of sustainability does your project address, and how? Does the project fit within any of the iCAP goals? If so, how does the project go beyond the university status quo standards and policies.**

We address land, water, education, food and waste. I’m afraid the scale is too small to make any significant impact on our iCAP goals. Our use of alternative locally-sourced materials does go beyond the current university best practices.

**How will the environmental impacts of your project be measured in the near and long term? What specific monitoring and evaluation processes will you be using to track outcomes and progress?**

We are interested in learning how the demo walkway performs on several measures, including seasonal effects, water retention, and response to freeze/thaw cycles. We plan to monitor these things with intermittent visits, direct measurements, and digital photos.

**What is the plan for publicizing the project on campus? In addition to SSC, where will information about this project be reported?**

The project will be described in a physical information kiosk. There will also be an information display associated with the walkway. Online, the project will be reported on the Design Concepts Lab website: https://publish.illinois.edu/designconceptslab/

**What are your specific, measurable outreach goals? How will these be measured?**

We plan to keep count of the numbers of people who visit the kiosk and to ask visitors to the demonstration walkway to sign a visitor’s book, with their name, date, email address, and any comments.

**Do you have any additional comments or relevant information to aid in evaluation of this application?**

Thank you.