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Respondent

10 Kasey Umland

21:33

Time to complete

Instructions:

NOTE: To remain eligible for SSC funding after the Step 1 application, the SSC strongly suggests that project leads present their proposed projects at a working group meeting BEFORE submitting their Step 2 application. If you have not attended a working group meeting, please do so and then continue the Step 2 application.

Linked below is our calendar with all of our working group meetings
<https://studentengagement.illinois.edu/student-sustainability/ssc/calendar/>

If you have any questions about the application process, please contact the SSC at Sustainability-Committee@illinois.edu.

1. Please select the working group meeting at which you presented. *

- Energy + Transportation & Infrastructure
- Food & Waste + Land, Air, & Water
- Education & Justice

2. Date of Working Group Presentation: *

3/19/2024



3. Project Name: *

Intersectional Environmental Justice Summit/Series

4. Total Funding Requested from the SSC: *

\$29,480

5. Project Lead Full Name: *

Kasey Umland

6. Project Lead Department: *

Women's Resources Center

7. Project Lead University Email Address: *

umland@illinois.edu

8. Are you a student? (NOTE: All student-led projects must have a faculty/staff advisor. *

- Yes
- No

9. Project Category: *

- Education & Justice
- Energy
- Food & Waste
- Land, Air & Water
- Transportation & Infrastructure

10. **Project Abstract:**

In 200 words describe the project *

Building on the success of the Ecofeminism Summit, the Women's Resources Center in partnership with the eight other cultural and resource centers seeks to host an Intersectional Environmental Justice Week (or two!) dedicated to bridging the topics of environmental justice, identity, feminism, social justice, and indigenous knowledge in the conversation of environmentalism. During the Summit, cultural and resource centers will each host events exploring environmental justice issues most impacting the communities they represent and highlighting the effort of leaders from historically under recognized and marginalized communities.

Project Team Member List (Student projects must include their faculty/staff advisor's info)

Project Lead

11. Full Name: *

Charlotte Davidson

12. Department: *

Native American House

13. University Email Address: *

drchar@illinois.edu

14. Do you have a faculty/staff advisor? *

- Yes
- No

Project Team Member List (Student projects must include their faculty/staff advisor's info)

Additional Member

15. Full Name:

Amie Baumeister

16. Department:

Women's Resources Center

17. University Email Address:

baumstr2@illinois.edu

18. Do you have additional members? *

- Yes
- No

Project Team Member List (Student projects must include their faculty/staff advisor's info)

Additional Member

19. Full Name: *

Rebecca Hodson

20. Department: *

International Education

21. University Email Address: *

rhodson1@illinois.edu

22. Do you have additional members? *

- Yes
- No

Project Team Member List (Student projects must include their faculty/staff advisor's info)

Additional Member

23. Full Name: *

Awad Awad

24. Department/Campus Affiliation: *

Salaam MENA Center

25. University Email Address: *

awad@illinois.edu

Project Questionnaire

26. Beyond SSC, do you have other sources contributing funding or support (e.g., staff time, external grants, etc.) to this project? *

- Yes
- No




27. Do you have a plan for ongoing funding beyond SSC? (SSC does not guarantee ongoing financial support) *

- Yes
- No

28. Have you spoken with anyone in UIUC's Division of Facilities & Services or a facility's site manager (if relevant) regarding project feasibility and/or approval? *

- Yes
- No

29. Please attach any letters of departmental commitment or support here along with any other supplemental media that will support your application (presentations, pictures, etc.).

-  [Ecojustice Summer IE Letter of Support Kasey Umland.docx](#)
-  [SSC Support Letter - Native American House Kasey Umland.pdf](#)
-  [Ecojustice Summit Planning Committee 04232024 Kasey Umland.pdf](#)

30. **Project Timeline:**

List your project's timeline and milestones. (NOTE: SSC funding agreements remain active for two years and it is expected that the awarded amount will be spent within the award period.) *

May 2024 (4 weeks) - recruit and review applications for a Summer/Fall 2023 Ecofeminism Summit intern
 June 2024 (2 weeks) - Review feedback from the Spring 2022 and Spring 2023 Ecofeminism Summits
 June 2024 (2 weeks) - Identify potential campus partners and form a fall 2024 planning committee; identify new dates for summit
 June - July 2023 (6 weeks) - Host bi-weekly planning committee meetings to determine learning objectives, identify speakers and activities, and develop assessment tool
 July - August 2024 (4 weeks) - Invite identified speakers and confirm dates
 August 2024 - Finalize Schedule and develop marketing
 Before end of Fall semester - Promote week of events on digital signage, Host events
 December 2024 - Evaluate outcomes, consider feasibility of Summit
 January -February 2025 - Submit final report

31. **Project Description:**

Describe your project in sufficient detail such that we can evaluate its merit and feasibility.
 What does your project hope to accomplish?
 What are your project's deliverables? *

The Women's Resources Center in partnership with other cultural and resource centers seeks to host an Intersectional Environmental Justice Summit dedicated to bridging the topics of environmental justice, identity, feminism, social justice, and indigenous knowledge in the conversation of environmentalism. During the Summit, cultural and resource centers will each host events exploring environmental justice issues most impacting the communities they represent and highlighting the effort of leaders from historically under-recognized and marginalized communities. Programs will include lectures, workshops, film screenings, and book clubs, each designed to provide students with unique opportunities to further explore environmental theory and praxis.

One of the primary goals of the 2023 Ecofeminism Summit was to highlight and uplift the voices of Indigenous scholars, youth leaders, and Women of Color and center their ways of learning and knowing as we explored the theory and praxis of Ecofeminism. We understand that the modern sustainability movement is often centered around whiteness and Eurocentric values and our program seeks to decolonialize environmentalism.

With this project, we hope to build on the success of the Ecofeminism Summit in highlighting the intersections of social justice, environmental justice and feminist theory by expanding our focus and partnerships. By inviting each cultural and resource center to consider the ways in which environmental justice is most salient in their communities and highlight the leadership and resilience of diverse communities around environmental issues, we aim to expand understanding of the ways in which climate justice can be achieved and broaden which students at Illinois see themselves as vital to the movement.

The Summit's deliverables include: (1) Summit participants will demonstrate an improved understanding of the intersections of social oppression and environmental justice; (2) Summit participants will have an increased awareness of opportunities to get involved in campus environmental and/or racial and gender justice activities.

The planning committee currently has representation from La Casa Cultural Latina, Native American House, Salaam MENA, Diversity and Social Justice Education, and International Education in addition to the Women's Resources Center. Asian American Cultural Center and Bruce Nesbitt African American Cultural Center expressed interest but are unable to commit until they address staffing shortages.

In early planning discussions, partners expressed an interest in using this series as a foundation for a collaborative Summit that would deeply explore the intersections of these issues (proposed to be held in Spring or Fall 2025). The series will serve as groundwork to highlight environmental work in the context of identity-based exploration and to engage with students who are interested in these intersections. Out of these efforts, we hope to identify a group of students interested in planning the Intersectional Environmental Justice Summit to highlight the ways in which environmental issues across communities are interdependent and solutions that reflect this complexity. The Summit will also focus on opportunities for student leaders to identify ways to collaboratively address these issues. Please note that we have chosen not to apply for funding for this Summit, at this time. Rather, we are excited to start with this series and see how we are able to build on it for the future

32. **Environmental Impact:**

How does your project increase environmental stewardship at UIUC?
 If applicable, what is the carbon, water, waste, and/or energy savings? *

This series of educational events explicitly aims to draw in students that may not encounter sustainability material in their general education. Students studying a broad set of disciplines, including Gender and Women's Studies, Community Health, Political Science, Cultural and Area Studies, and Interdisciplinary Health, are typical students that frequent programs hosted by the University of Illinois' cultural and resource Centers. By capitalizing on existing program spaces with diverse audiences (Lunch on Us/Dinner on Us, Global Engagement Lounge, etc.) our program will increase exposure to sustainability, highlight opportunities to take action or get involved, and explore opportunities for collaboration across identities and groups. Bringing in other campus units will also help to generate conversations about our sustainability practices within host organizations (for example/ how can we most sustainably source servingware for the Lunch on Us/Dinner on Us programs?). Finally, it makes our culture and society more resilient. By challenging dominant, and sometimes oppressive, ideologies, this summit is an opportunity for the campus to collectively envision a new way to operate and reorganize old ways of thinking and doing.

In educating students on these topics, we shed light on new perspectives and encourage them to take personal and community action towards sustainability, racial equity and gender justice. By drawing connections between theory and practical application, we empower university members to think critically and creatively and take action.

33. **iCAP Objective Correspondence:**

Does your project aim to advance one or more of the Illinois Climate Action Plan's (iCAP) objectives? If so, how?

A full list can be found here:

<https://icap.sustainability.illinois.edu/objectives>

While the Summit does not directly address any objective in the iCAP, it is related to several existing objectives.

Objective 6.1 Broadening Sustainability Education emphasizes the importance of engaging students "as members of campus and of society" in how they can "apply sustainable practices to their education and daily lives." This Summit seeks to achieve the same goals by providing programs focused on culturally relevant climate solutions. By engaging students across a diverse set of identities and issues, we engage them in this meaning making process in a way that is both deeply personal and simultaneously collective. Additionally, just as a general education requirement acknowledges that "a student studying civil and environmental engineering might encounter sustainability differently than an individual pursuing music performance" so does an international student experience climate change and the environment differently than a domestic student, and a student who identifies as non-binary may navigate environmental leadership in ways that differ from a student who identifies as cis-gender.

Objective 8.3 Environmental Justice Plan calls on the University to focus "on the human component of climate resilience, with an emphasis on communities that have been historically marginalized and underserved, and are therefore disproportionately vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, heat waves, air pollution, and public health crises." By partnering with a broad group of campus partners who each deeply engage a distinct and intersecting student population, we aim to not only focus on intersectional environmental justice but also to "identify existing programs within our local communities" and celebrate them as well as "to recognize common principles and points of contingency."

Finally, with support from the SSC, the partner organizations of the Summit will seek to emulate the principles of the Illini Unions Sustainable Events Program (Objective 7.2) by "serving local food with meatless options, going paperless, eliminating disposable items, providing reusable giveaways, and communicating the priority of sustainability at the event." We have requested funds to purchase sustainable servingware and reusable giveaways to specifically reduce food waste at our programs featuring food.

34. **Student Impact:**

How many students will be directly impacted by this project? *

500

35. How many students will be indirectly impacted by this project? Please be realistic in your estimate. *

500

36. How will this project benefit students?

How will students be involved with this project?

What educational components are in your project? *

This project is designed explicitly to engage students in critical thinking, analytical skills, and open-mindedness around issues at the intersections of the environment and other systems of oppression. Every event will be designed for and by students, with an emphasis on engaging students in taking action for the environment and fostering a sense of community.

Involvement

A student intern will lead the project from conception to implantation to assessment. Interns, student workers, and student leaders from affiliated student organizations of each cultural and resource center will be invited to help identify speakers, topics and programs as part of the planning committee for that Center. Students are the primary intended audience for all events.

As always, we also welcome input for speaker event ideas from members of the SSC.

Educational components

Events will highlight how environmental impacts disproportionately impact gender minorities, LGBTQIA+ communities, Indigenous relatives and People of color. Speakers will draw connections between movements for LGBTQIA+ rights, gender, racial, and environmental justice and provide tangible pathways for attendees to advocate for positive change.

Impacts

Interest and engagement in the Ecofeminism Summit has increased significantly since the program was relaunched in 2022. While both the Spring 2022 and Spring 2023 Summits engaged just over 100 unique individuals with overall attendance near 180, the Fall 2023 Summit had an attendance of 258 individuals. With the addition of new partners on the planning team and the engagement of many of the Cultural and Resource Centers, we hope to reach a significantly larger audience of at least 500 students across events. In addition, we hope that the stories, ideas, and actions that students share following the event will have ripple effects that broaden that impact to an even larger audience.

Project Finances

37. **Please Complete the Attached Budget and Timeline Excel File**

Please be very descriptive when filling out the document. Submit the completed document below.

<https://studentengagement.illinois.edu/student-sustainability/ssc/docs/SSC-Supplemental-Budget-Timeline.xlsx>

*

 SSC-Supplemental-Budget-Timeline Fall 2024v3_Kasey Umland.xlsx

38. **Project's Finance Manager:**

Must be a fulltime UIUC faculty or staff member** *

Joan Wingo

39. Project's Finance Manager's Department: *

Women's Resources Center

40. Project's Finance Manager's University Email: *

wing@illinois.edu

41. Has your project and/or project team applied for SSC funding previously? *

Yes

No

42. Did your project and/or project team receive SSC funding? *

Yes

No

43. What is the total amount of SSC funding received to date? *

\$20,000 directly to WRC. We also served as the fiscal sponsor for a student led projects that was awarded \$9999 in Spring 2023 and were a partner on a second project that was sponsored by ISEE that received \$9999 in Spring 2022.