**Funding Criteria**

**A. General Rules**

1. Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to submit requests for funding. Student-led projects require a faculty or staff sponsor in order to have funds awarded.
2. Funding can only go to university-affiliated projects from students, faculty, staff, and departments.
3. All SSC projects must make a substantial impact on students. This may be a direct impact or an impact through education and engagement. All SSC funding is 100% from student green fees, so the projects funded by the students must benefit them.
4. SSC encourages innovation and new technologies – creative projects are encouraged to apply.
5. Unless a type of expense is specifically listed below as having restrictions, SSC can generally fund it. The items referenced below should not be taken as comprehensive list.

**B. Things SSC Can Fund, On A Case-By-Case Basis**

1. SSC can fund feasibility studies and design work; however, it must work toward ultimately addressing a sustainability need on campus.
2. SSC can fund staff positions that are related to improving campus sustainability. Strong preference will be given to proposals receiving matching funding from departments and/or plans for maintaining continuity of the position after the end of the initial grant.
3. SSC can fund outreach events with a central theme of sustainability, provided their primary audience is the general campus community.
4. SSC discourages funding requests for food and prizes but will consider proposals on a case by case basis that prove significant reasoning.
5. SSC can fund repairs and improvements to existing building systems as long as it works toward the goal of improving campus sustainability; however, a preference is shown to projects utilizing new or innovative ideas.
6. SSC can provide departments with loans for projects with a distinct payback on a case by case base. Loans will require a separate memorandum of understanding between SSC and departmental leadership pledging to repay the award in full and detailing the payback plan.

**C. Things SSC Will Not Fund:**

1. SSC will not fund projects with a primary end goal of generating revenue for non-University entities.
2. SSC will not fund personal lodging, food, beverage, and other travel expenses.
3. SSC will not fund any travel expenses.
4. SSC will not fund tuition or other forms of personal financial assistance for students beyond standard student employee wages.

**Your funding application should include this application and any letters of support.**

*Please submit this completed application and any relevant supporting documentation by the deadline listed on the SSC website 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 Student Sustainability Committee at* [*Sustainability-Committee@illinois.edu.*](mailto:Sustainability-Committee@illinois.edu.)

**General & Contact Information**

**Project Name:** Seed Bomb Bash

**Total Amount Requested from SSC:** $455

**Project Topic Areas:**  Land & Water  Education  Energy

Transportation  Food & Waste

**Applicant Name:** Ellie Sander

**Campus Affiliation (Unit/Department or RSO/Organization):** Food Justice Alliance

**Email Address:** elliexs2@illinois.edu

**Check one:**

This project is solely my own ***OR***

This project is proposed on behalf of (name of student org., campus dept., etc.): Food Justice Alliance

**Project Team Members**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Department** | **Email** |
| Ellie Sander | Food Justice Alliance | elliexs2@illinois.edu |
| Sarah Tate | Food Justice Alliance | state3@illinois.edu |
| Noah Bell | Food Justice Alliance | noahb5@illinois.edu |
| Madeline Shick | Food Justice Alliance | mshick3@illinois.edu |

**Student-Led Projects (Mandatory):**

Name of Faculty or Staff Project Advisor: Janett Barragan Miranda  
Advisor’s Email Address: janettbm@illinois.edu

**Financial Contact *(Must be a full-time University of Illinois staff member)***

Contact Name: Janett Barragan Miranda

Unit/Department: Department of Latina/o Studies

Email Address: janettbm@illinois.edu

**Project Information**

*Please review the proposal materials and online content carefully. It is highly recommended you visit a working group meeting sometime during the proposal submission process.*

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

*We want to know: What is your project? What does it concretely produce, accomplish, or solve? Why is this project needed on campus?*

Our Seed Bomb Bash seeks to create a space for UIUC students to give back to the community in simple and accessible ways, by creating seed bombs and having students distribute them throughout their communities. We want to provide students with the materials to do this activity together and plan a route that we can take as a group to bring native plants to areas that may be deprived of them. Since we are the Food Justice Alliance, we wanted to find a way during Earth Week to address environmental issues that impact food justice. This project specifically encourages the intentional greening of public space, which also supports the area's ecosystem, and thus, food production. This could be very valuable for our campus community because food justice is not always addressed in conversations surrounding environmental sustainability and we want to shed more light on the subject, especially because of its importance to social sustainability.

**Where will the project be located? Are special permissions required for this project site?**

*If special permission is required for this location, please explain and submit any relevant letters of support with the application. SSC cannot fund projects without prior location approval.*

**We plan to hold the seed bomb-making portion of this event outdoors on the Main Quad with plenty of blankets/cloth to keep our materials neat and easy to clean up. We will be mixing it all in a bin so the seed bomb mixture will be well contained. Once we have made the seed bombs themselves we plan to do a short walk off-campus, to demonstrate areas of soil-filled open space that have or lack native vegetation. We will not be planting the seed bombs ourselves, but simply showing students what optimal sites look like for the seed bombs. We should not need permission to do this since we will not be going on private property and will not be disrupting any natural land to do so.**

**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 benefit from this project.**

*Please attach letters of commitment or support at the end of the application.*

The people who will have a stake in this project are mostly the students involved who care about cultivating healthy and sustainable communities, as well as their community members who may enjoy these plants as they walk through public space. We are planning to invite a wide variety of environmental and food-focused RSOs in particular, so we hope that our emphasis on food justice will have an impact on some of their initiative and projects in the future. We also hope that we can learn more from the students joining us what they've learned about environmental sustainability and what they're passionate about. Some departments we hope to reach out to for promotion of this event include the Department of Urban and Regional Planning; Earth, Society, and Environmental Sustainability; Agricultural and Consumer Economics; Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences; Political Science; and even Civil and Environmental Engineering.

**How will this project involve and/or benefit students?**

*This includes both direct and indirect impact.*

**This project will allow students to learn one way in which they can connect with the community around them, and see how they can create a positive impact for the people who live in the CU area or in their own hometown. We have noticed that it can sometimes be hard for students to become involved in sustainability initiatives on campus without having to committ a lot of time on top of academics, other extra-curriculars, and work. This event could be a really engaging and fun way for students to participate to keep them excited about environmental participation without asking too much of them. This project also seeks to provide students with tools and knowledge to reproduce projects like this on their own in a more self-directed setting.**

**What are your specific outreach goals? How will this project inspire change at UIUC?**

**We are aware that the SSC seeks to fund projects that impact sustainability on the UIUC campus, but we believe that also means our university needs to be connected to the surrounding community. Often times students spend their years at UIUC without having the opportunity to see how they can or do influence the broader area. Campus can be a wonderful place with many resources and opportunities for our faculty and students, but it is also an objectively insulated area from the rest of Champaign-Urbana. We wanted to give students the chance to see how even beyond the university and academia, there are a lot of ways in which they can encourage enviornmental sustainability in their own communities.**

**How will the project improve environmental sustainability at the Urbana-Champaign campus?**

We hope that the native plants that students create will provide sources for pollinators that will help to support the local ecosystem and environment. We recognize that this region around the university sustains many growers and producers, both large and small, so we hope to demonstrate both direct and indirect ways students can promote food justice. Food justice is not just about getting food to people, but ensuring that they live in a natural and built environment that supports food availability and accessibility.

**If applicable, how does this project impact environmental injustice or social injustice?**

**As previously mentioned food justice is greatly intertwined with enviornmental justice, as many disinvested communities often lack environments that support public health and wellbeing. There are actions that can be taken on both an inidividual and institutional level to address these issues. We realize the University of Illinois has a lot of initiatives such as the SSC itself and programs like iSEE that support these goals, so we thought this could be a great way to show students the impact they can have on their own. We also know there has been a rising amount of attention given to environmental justice, so we wanted to help bring awareness to food justice as a large part of that conversation. As we do the activity we want to have meaningful discussions about what is happening both on and off-campus and help one another find more activities to become involved.**

**Scope, Schedule, and Budget verification**

**What is the plan for project implementation? Describe the key steps of the project including the start date, target completion date, target date for submitting a final report, and any significant tasks or milestones.** *Please be as detailed as possible.*

We plan for this project to take place on April 20th, 2023 during Earth Week to encourage the participation of more students with concerns about the environment to become involved in food justice initiatives. With any remaining materials from the seed-bombs we would like to potentially host another social in the Fall of 2023, or distribute the seed bombs to participants who may want to bring them home with them and use them in their own communities. We plan to submit our final report by September 20th, 2023 as we will have had a second event by this time based on the weather and ideal planting times.

**List all budget items for which funding is being requested. Include cost and total amount for each item requested.**

*Please be as detailed as possible.*

*RSO Digital Signage - $60*

*Dry Clay - $15*

*Soil - $10*

*Pollinator Seed Packets - $310*

*Sterlite Container - $20*

*Native Seeds - $40*

*TOTAL = $455*

**If the project is implemented, will you require ongoing funding? What is the strategy for supporting the project in order to cover replacement, operation, or renewal costs?**

*SSC provides funding on a case by case basis and should not be considered as an ongoing source of funding*

*If the project is implemented, the Food Justice Alliance will not require ongoing funding. We try to create new projects on a yearly basis, so once we are finished with this one we will likely complete a new application for a new project.*

**Please include any other obtained sources of funding. Have you applied for funding elsewhere?**

*Please attach any relevant letters of support as needed in a separate document.*

Because this is a relatively small scale project, we have not sought out other funding sources, particularly because SORF funds have been exhasted for the academic year.

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

The Food Justice Alliance applied for funding from the SSC under our previous RSO name (Metropolitan Food and Environmental Systems Student Association - MFSTSA). This was for our event titled MFSTSA Talk-Series: Reimagining Our Food Systems.

**How will you bring awareness and publicize the project on campus? In addition to SSC, where will information about this project be reported?**

We plan to publicize the Seed Bomb Bash by using some of the funding for digital advertising in the Union (as listed above), and we will promote widely on all our social media platforms. The Food Justice Alliance has built relationships with several other RSOs that are working toward sustainability and environmental justice, and we also are connected to the recently initiated Food Security Working Group. These networks have allowed us to get in touch with many students and faculty that are strongly invested in building greater food justice initiatives on campus. We will report this information about this project to our faculty advisor as well.