



STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Funding Application – Step II

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 Step 2 funding application should include this application, the supplemental budget form, and any letters of support.

Please submit this completed application and any relevant supporting documentation to 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.

General & Contact Information

Project Name: Diversity and Inclusion Center

Total Amount Requested from SSC: \$200,000

Project Topic Areas: Land & Water Education Energy
 Transportation Food & Waste

Applicant Name: Shawna Patterson-Stephens

Campus Affiliation (Unit/Department or RSO/Organization): Office of Inclusion and Intercultural Relations - Student Affairs

Email Address: sps19@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.): The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Project Team Members

Name	Department	Email
Anthony Battaglia	Capital Programs, Project Planning	ambattag@illinois.edu
Ximing Cai	Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment	xmcai@illinois.edu
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Siobhan B Somerville	Gender & Women's Studies	sbs@illinois.edu
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Dustin Tahmahkera	American Indian Studies, Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities	numu@illinois.edu

Student-Led Projects (Mandatory):

Name of Faculty or Staff Project Advisor: N/A

Advisor's Email Address: N/A

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

Contact Name: Joshua Williams
Unit/Department: Student Affairs
Email Address: jawllm@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:

You may copy and paste your Step 1 application answer if nothing has changed.

Under the umbrella of OIIR and along with several partners throughout our community, we seek to explore the feasibility of a multifunctional space which will allow for in-depth examinations of the complex layers of diversity, equity, and inclusion using an interdisciplinary lens. Said space will accommodate our interest in building upon existing campus conversations and knowledge sharing with regard to sustainability and environmental justice. We aim to integrate several functions which will enrich our focus on the cultural significance of environmentalism across cultures, functions that include (1) environmentally-friendly materials, (2) rooftop gardens with plants indigenous to the region, (3) solar panels, (4) natural lighting, (5) composting, (6) reverse osmosis water filters, (7) rainwater harvesting, (8) composting toilets, as well as affording space for wellness and study lounges, ritual observances, student organizations, classrooms/courses, and large-scale lectures, films, and performances. From dialogue on land rights and food diversity, to the importance of green space and serving as water protectors, this physical structure will support campus efforts to enhance the natural and built environment in which we learn, work, and live.

With the completion of this project, we aim to:

1. engage our constituencies in a feedback collection process in efforts to create educational opportunities that truly reflect their needs.
2. identify and contract a LEED-certified architectural firm with a specialized expertise in cultivating culturally significant designs and floor plans.
3. identify ways to incorporate OIIR's commitment to sustainability and environmental justice in design, and in a manner that supports our desire to utilize sustainable praxis in our day-to-day operations.
4. draft a final report which captures a student-centered approach to the construction of structure supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives from an intersectional, interdisciplinary perspective.

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.

Per the Board of Trustees 2014 recommendation, in accordance with the University Strategic Plan, this structure will be erected on Nevada Street among the Cultural Centers and Ethnic/Gender/Sexuality Studies spaces. Permissions have already been granted by the Board of Trustees, the Office of the Chancellor, as well as the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

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.

University Office of Capital Programs and Real Estate Services
University Office of Business and Financial Services
Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois

As previously indicated, funding from other units will become available to this project only upon the completion of a feasibility study. The preponderance of financial support from our institutional colleagues will go towards the construction of the building itself. We are heavily reliant upon the successful completion of this feasibility study to access capital funds.

How will this project involve and/or benefit students?

This includes both direct and indirect impact.

OIIR and our academic partners are identifying new ways to contribute to the sustainability goals of the University. As a unit that currently sponsors large-scale events, we're seeking structured ways to reduce and manage our waste, while also shoring up dialogue on the cultural significance of environmentalism. In addition to conjoining existing programs to fully emphasize our focus on environmental justice, we aim to develop new ways to critically examine our role, as student affairs/academic units and registered student organizations, in shifting the co-curricular paradigm to incorporate environmental components into all aspects of our work. In forming an interdisciplinary partnership, the projected benefits of this project offer a direct and indirect impact on the established iCAP outcomes, and on the holistic educational experiences of Illinois students.

The function of this space connects the curricular and co-curricular experiences of UIUC students, bolstering opportunities for identity development, academic inquiry, and interdisciplinary exploration. Upon final completion of this project, students will be able to enroll in courses which connect the fundamental tenants of culturally significant environmentalism with their lived experiences. In conjunction with several academic units across campus, students will also be able to take advantage of internships and fellowships nestled within the framework of OIIR. Finally, students will be able to utilize an eco-friendly kitchen, attend lectures, and develop strategic leadership strategies within designated student spaces.

Currently, OIIR sponsors hundreds of programs throughout the academic term, but we lack the support required to change some of our practices (for instance, we purchase compostable flatware, rather than plastic, however there isn't currently space on campus to support our desire to compost at the magnitude we require). In supporting this project, the SSC would be providing a long-term investment in our approach to student development and co-curricular programming. From reducing water, food, and energy waste, and exploring the myriad ways marginalized communities are impacted by corporatized development (and identifying ways minoritized populations resist environmental plunder), to engaging in tactile activities which allow students to participate in a wrap-around approach to sustainability, this project will offer our coalition the opportunity to fully contribute to sustainability efforts on campus in the ways our current lack of structure disallows.

Student involvement in the Feasibility Study includes:

- Student groups seeking additional support will have high-touch access to faculty and staff representative of several academic units and departments across campus.
- Student groups will also have direct access to meeting space, office space, programmatic space, administrative services, and budgetary support.

Students will be included in the building committee, with specific representation from affinity-based RSOs, SECS, and the ISG Sustainability Chair. Throughout the completion of this feasibility study, focus groups, interviews, surveys, and student meetings will be conducted to ensure student feedback is included in the development of floor plans and structural design.

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

As a student-facing operation, OIIR is fully dedicated to prioritizing transparency throughout each stage of this project. We intend to connect with several registered student organizations, in addition to the ISG Sustainability Chair, to engage in varying stages of student outreach (e.g., introduction to the project, recruitment of students to the committee, study updates, completion summary/recommendations, etc.).

The footprint for the space is currently available on the Campus Master Planning Page. Updates will be published on the following websites:

- Illinois Facilities and Services Capital Project Planning
- Student Affairs website
- OIIR website
- LAS website

We intend to provide periodic updates utilizing the following venues, as well:

- SSC communique
- ISG meetings/public comment
- Student Affairs Directors/Department Heads meetings
- Student Affairs Lunch Bunch meetings
- OIIR listserv announcements
- Board of Trustees meetings (as requested)
- Senate Executive Committee meetings (as requested)

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?

N/A

If this project is implemented, will you require 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.

Should we develop a successful collaboration with the SSC, the cost for this aspect of the project will be addressed. There are no ongoing costs associated with the feasibility study.

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.

N/A

As indicated, the projected cost of feasibility study for a 40,000 square foot structure has been quoted at \$200,000. The entirety of this cost will cover the service consultant fee paid to the architectural firm. I have included a percentage breakdown of the costs associated with the feasibility study as a point of reference.

Elements of a Feasibility Study

- **Program Intent** – Declaration of the owner’s principal project objectives; establishes clear building requirements and a basis of design which must be realized in order to be successful.
 - Anticipated share of professional service consultant fee: 5%
- **Space Use Verification** – Perform a spatial program validation to assess the degree to which the new or existing building design meets all the owner’s space requirements, and cross check the intended design performance with occupant inclination and subsequent resolution.
 - Anticipated share of professional service consultant fee: 15%
- **Stakeholder Engagement** – Effective, timely and meaningful participation is vital to draw on the ideas, expertise and opinions of the faculty, staff and students to ascertain potential impacts that need to be considered, understood and addressed.
 - Anticipated share of professional service consultant fee: 15%
- **Functional Brief** – Further describes the user’s complex project requirements that need to be evaluated, reconciled and accommodated, and is developed, reviewed, revised and adopted by stakeholders. It addresses opportunities assessed, constraints identified, owner requisites and long-range planning for academic, instructional, research, administrative, public, collaborative, storage and building service spaces.
 - Anticipated share of professional service consultant fee: 10%

- **Facility Condition Audit** – An assessment of the condition of a facility in terms of age, design, construction methods, and materials to obtain baseline data via walk-through inspections, in situ testing, and building information modeling.
 - Anticipated share of professional service consultant fee: 5%
- **Site Study** – Context analysis to establish that initial design concepts will respond to external conditions that can be changed vs those that need to remain including buildable limits, infrastructure, traffic, sensory, climate, and future development.
 - Anticipated share of professional service consultant fee: 10%
- **Historic Preservation** – When applicable, campus is obligated to partner with the State to administer preservation programs, oversee national registry nominations, conduct surveys of historic resources, develop preservation programs, and educate the public in preservation matters.
 - Anticipated share of professional service consultant fee: 5%
- **Concept Planning Alternatives** – Extensive study and observation of an initial building concept may challenge the direction of the programmatic elements. Understanding strengths and weaknesses of the preliminary design can fuel discussions of alternatives that can fortify positive characteristics and offer creative solutions to negative elements.
 - Anticipated share of professional service consultant fee: 5%
- **Sustainability** – In alignment with the climate action plan, the university has made a commitment to be a model of sustainability of which building design, energy infrastructure and usage, and site elements all contribute. All new facilities must be designed to promote the most environmentally and financially responsible construction, maintenance, and use.
 - Anticipated share of professional service consultant fee: 10%
- **Opinions of Probable Project Costs** – A preliminary order-of magnitude budget, or the approximation of the cost of a project represented in either a single total opinion of cost, or identifiable value ranges of components anticipated.
 - Anticipated share of professional service consultant fee: 10%
- **Messaging Action Plan** - Forging a communication plan and message development initiative will support the owner in building consensus, unifying positive public opinion, strengthening capital campaign efforts, and promoting a positive campus image. The structure, content and support can clearly identify primary goals and objectives, target selective audiences, methods of delivery and detailed elements including national trends, statistics, process descriptions, quality control measures, participant testimonials and market success measures.
 - Anticipated share of professional service consultant fee: 5%
- **Project Delivery Methodology Recommendation** – The system used by an agency or owner for organizing and financing design, construction, operations, and maintenance services for a facility by entering into legal agreements with one or more service providers. If the various service providers are segmented, the owner has the most control, but this control is costly and may not give each provider an incentive to optimize its contribution for the next service. If there is tight integration amongst providers, each step of the delivery is undertaken with future activities in mind, resulting in cost savings, but limiting the owner's influence throughout the project.
 - Anticipated share of professional service consultant fee: 5%

Environmental, Economic, and Awareness Impacts

How will the project improve environmental sustainability at the Urbana-Champaign campus? If applicable, how does this project fit within any of the [Illinois Climate Action Plan \(iCAP\)](#) goals?

In conducting a high-impact feasibility study, OIIR will be well-positioned to outline the estimated carbon, water, waste, and energy savings this project could institute in the long-run, by way of creating a structure that harnesses renewable energy and reduces waste. Components of the feasibility study, which are in close relationship with the iCAP, shall include:

- Identifying the highest achievable energy standards for a new building.
- Intentional integration of renewable and clean energy sources, as well as stormwater reuse, throughout the building's design.
- Dedicated space for the reduction of waste, including a composting station, waste compostable toilets, and a modified, ecofriendly kitchen.

As previously discussed during the most recent working group meeting, much of the co-curricular work conducted by both OIIR and our partnering academic units is currently conducted in a patch-work manner – despite our coordinated efforts – due to a lack in upgraded, up-to-code space. This factor therefore increases our usages of non-renewable energies and products, and curbs our ability to fully engage in sustainable programmatic praxis. This project advances environmental stewardship at UIUC, as it also provides us with additional space to *further* participate in work which centers the intersectionality of environmentalism and culture.

We intend to account for classroom and ritual space, for instance, where courses such as “Contemporary Issues in Indian Country” can take advantage of hands-on opportunities to explore theorizations surrounding ceremonial practice and sacred landscapes. We also aim to engage our international partners in providing students with educational opportunities to operationalize tactile experiences as they explore prospective career trajectories and examine components of environmentalism utilizing a global perspective. Green space would be created and utilized to emphasize the connections between holistic wellness and our environment. The strategic usage of natural lighting will offer energy relief, create additional culturally relevant space on campus, and will offer students with natural remedies for symptoms associated with mental health concerns. In other words, such a structure would institute wrap-around supports and educational opportunities which highlight the inherent connection between social justice education and environmental stewardship.

How will you monitor and evaluate the project's progress and environmental outcomes? What short-term and long-term environmental impacts do you expect?

Some examples include carbon emissions, water conservation, green behavior, and reduced landfill waste.

In order to monitor project development and outcomes, the team will:

- Thoroughly detail our sustainability objectives and review them with the architectural firm;
- Center our sustainability objectives throughout the data collection process;
- Engage in continued follow-up on environmental justice benchmarking throughout completion of the feasibility study; and
- Evaluate our progress at the conclusion of the feasibility study.

We will measure our findings against the preliminary outcomes we drafted with the firm and outline nascent conclusions in the final report. We shall also provide continuous opportunities for constituents to engage in the assessment of affiliated projects upon building completion. For instance, OIIR will maintain a virtual dashboard which highlights programmatic progress. Further, we imagine this dashboard will be tied to utility monitors in the building, which we aim to place in visible spaces. We expect to utilize these monitors to capture data on resource usage (e.g., electric, water, etc.), data which can be used as an educational tool on social responsibility and to inform our constituents' decision-making.

The long-term environmental impact of this project is abundant. First, the construction of a design reaching the highest LEED standard allowable on campus will continue to herald expectations surrounding sustainability-driven new construction/refurbishment projects across campus. Second, this effort demonstrates a thoughtful, skilled method to addressing environmental justice by way of an interdisciplinary approach. Specifically, the successful completion of this project will provide institutional partners with tangible examples for ways we might prioritize underserved communities within institutional priorities; with this regard, identifying various ways to center minoritized voices within campus sustainability efforts, across student services and academic affairs. Third, we intend to utilize this structure as an entry point for underrepresented students to engage with the Student Sustainability Committee and the Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment, where they might practice informed autonomy in exploring sustainability and environmental justice through a critical lens. We will encourage SSC collaborations with affinity groups and invite intellectual/programmatic collaborations to develop – and live – within the Diversity and Inclusion Center. In total, this project will connect a nuanced exploration of environmental justice and sustainability with populations traditionally underserved at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

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

For programs, courses, meetings, etc. taking place in the Diversity and Inclusion Center, OIIR will highly encourage the use of recyclable materials and aid constituents in making considerations for promising praxis in environmentalism utilizing a global perspective. In addition to researching contemporary intercultural issues in domestic settings, we hope to inspire change at UIUC through the implementation of programmatic curricula which fully capture the relationship between culture and environmentalism around the world. We shall continue to investigate the global implications of sustainability as it relates to social inequity, with the acknowledgement that what happens at UIUC impacts communities around the world.

As previously indicated, long-term savings will result from lessened waste, but we also wish to account for the educational impact this collaborative will have as a coordinated change agent on campus. The Diversity and Inclusion Center will stand as a structured cooperative, where the resulting wellspring of joint resources will deliver nurturing experiences, as well as comprehensive access to external partnerships, including foundation grant funding. As a collective, our units will contribute towards the institution's positionality as an innovative flagship, where we intend to set the stage for designing and implementing promising praxis in interdisciplinary education throughout the Big Ten, and potentially, across the globe.

Regarding outreach, the committee will conduct focus groups with various constituents, including students, registered student organizations, staff, faculty, alum, and community members in order to assess programmatic needs. With consultation from the firm, the committee will draw ties between established programmatic needs, the iCAP goals, the OIIR mission, and the Illinois Strategic Plan. The project committee will also engage student committee members, publish report results on campus media, and offer presentations of our findings to the varied tiers of our constituency. Findings emergent from the feasibility

study will also be presented to Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Leadership, VCSA Directors/Department Heads, the Office of the Chancellor, and the University Office of Capital Programs and Real Estate Services.

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

Universally, social injustice has had a detrimental, negative impact on underserved communities and the environment, where a causal connection exists between societal inequity and environmental destitution (Collins and Bilge, 2016). Even as we press on in the midst of a global pandemic, many of our recent discussions within OIIR have included the influence environmental factors have had on minoritized populations, where people of color are more likely to pass away from COVID-19 (Ray, 2020; Thebault, Tran, & Williams, 2020; Thomas & Anoruo, 2020). This trend is closely tied to environmental justice as mass deforestation, for instance, has increased our exposure to deadly pathogens (Robbins, 2016; Seghal, 2010; Zimmer, 2019). The increased likelihood of human contact with disease coalesces with the underlying illnesses underserved populations must combat; disease brought on by a dearth in access to medical care, healthy food options, sustainable housing, and communities free from waste and toxins (Wright & Bullard, 2012). It is within communities of color and impoverished communities where the greatest degree of disenfranchisement and inequity exists (Ray, 2020; Wright & Bullard, 2012). Our cooperative is fully aware of these issues and through the advancement of this project, we expect to make a substantial contribution towards lessening the impact of social and environmental injustice on vulnerable communities.

In a predominantly White, U.S. context, we recognize the need for dedicated physical space on campus to further complicate the confluence of culture, identity, and sustainability. Our coalition will therefore utilize the Diversity and Inclusion Center as a think tank for research, publications, and programs centering the way culture is woven into our global ecosystems. For instance, we will examine how (1) colonial powers have systematically removed Indigenous folks, and other minoritized peoples from their lands; (2) corporations have been incentivized to plant themselves squarely in impoverished communities; (3) the most vulnerable populations throughout the world are still without full access to clean air, water, and energies; and (4) illnesses related to poor living conditions disproportionately impact impoverished communities and people of color. With environmental justice at the core of our programmatic framework, this feasibility study will assist us in ratcheting up our efforts to engage the Illinois community in exploring all aspects of social inequities and their correlation to environmental issues around the world.