# *Thank you for your commitment to green initiatives at the University of Illinois. One of the ongoing requirements listed in the terms of the funding agreement for your project is the submission of semesterly reports with key information about your project. In addition to this form, please provide additional financial documentation and/or progress photos if available.*

# *Please be as accurate as possible in describing the project (including possible setbacks or challenges in meeting the initial goals of the project). Not fully meeting your project's goals will not disqualify you from making future funding requests as long as your reports are as complete and accurate as possible. If you have any questions, please contact the Student Sustainability Committee, at* [*sustainability-committee@illinois.edu*](mailto:sustainability-committee@illinois.edu)*.*

**Project Name:** The Hip-Hop Xpress

**Date of Report Submission:** 9/15/2020

**Project Purpose:**

The goal with this funding was to sustainable energy sources (solar panels, batteries, and generators) and education to the existing (and still under construction) Hip-Hop Xpress project. The Xpress is a modified school bus turned into a mobile music and technology lab. The bus purchase and most other retrofitting costs are covered by a different grant from the University President.

**Detailed Accounting of Expenditures to Date:**

We are ready to spend funds, but we had to pause our project at the time we would have started purchasing and installing equipment in March 2020. At this time, we have not begun spending this grant funding.

**Project Progress to Date:**

Our original schedule began in January 2020 and intended to complete demolition, construction, and installation by June 2020. We did complete the steps of finishing the exterior vinyl wrap on the bus, demolition of interior seating, community-informed design steps, and development of schematics. We also completed additional research into our solar power options for both powering the community events that the Hip-Hop Xpress will offer and including sustainable energy education in these programs. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our purchasing and construction plans halted in March 2020. We are ready to purchase equipment and begin construction on furnishings, electric wiring, audio equipment, sustainable energy components, etc., but we have not had access to our workspace (the Architecture Annex) nor have we been able to gather the team of students, faculty, and community members who have been working on the bus. We hope to get our team back together as we regain access to our equipment, purchasing/shipping/supply lines are operating fully, and we can safely gather groups in close proximity. Bus construction is difficult to do within social distancing recommendations, but we hope to start working in small groups again this fall.

**Student Involvement and Outreach to Date:**

Undergraduate and graduate students from Music and Architecture (roughly 30 in total) have been heavily involved in the design plans for construction on the bus as well as programming. They have met with community experts and a youth mentoring organization to gather more knowledge and inform our process. They have done additional research on energy options for the bus and have been instrumental in making recommendations for our eventual purchases. Students from Music and Architecture will continue to play vital roles in the construction of the mobile lab moving forward.

**Marketing and Promotion Efforts to Date:**

Students from Music and Architecture developed social media sites for the project and have been populating the sites with content since January. The Hip-Hop Xpress has run a couple of local beta-testing events include appearances at community gatherings (e.g., Juneteenth) and mobile recording sessions for the “What’s Going On?” tour.

**Additional Comments:**

Looking forward to being able to get our team back together and continue the work!