



## STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

### Funding Application – Step 2

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 Program Advisor, Micah Kenfield, at [kenfield@illinois.edu](mailto:kenfield@illinois.edu)

### General Information

**Project Name:** Environmental Justice is Social Justice

**Total Amount Requested from SSC:** 21,000.

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

### Contact Information

#### Project Lead

**Applicant Name:** Lisa Fay - INNER VOICES Social Issues Theatre  
**Unit/Department:** Counseling Center – Department of Theatre  
INNER VOICES Social Issues Theatre  
**Email Address:** lfay@illinois.edu  
**Phone Number:** 217-244-0212

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

**Contact Name:** #1 Gina Arnold #2 Lisa Fay  
**Unit/Department:** INNER VOICES Social Issues Theatre – Counseling Center  
**Email Address:** #1 glarnold@illinois.edu #2 lfay@illinois.edu  
**Phone Number:** 217-244-0212  
**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             |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Lisa Fay | INNER VOICES Social Issues Theatre   Counseling Center & Department of Theatre | lfay@illinois.edu |

|     |                   |     |
|-----|-------------------|-----|
| TBD | Graduate Student  | tbd |
| TBD | Undergrad Student | tbd |
| TBD | Undergrad Student | tbd |

## Project Description

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

### PROJECT SUMMARY:

INNER VOICES Social Issues Theatre seeks funding to raise awareness and address issues of Environmental Justice through the **creation and production of an original play** with accompanying educational materials and to hold an inaugural **National Call for Scripts** focused on the theme *Environmental Justice Is Social Justice*.

**The project has two distinct phases:**

#### Phase One:

Research, develop and bring to full production an original theatre piece that addresses Environmental Justice issues to be originated and performed by the INNER VOICES Social Issues Theatre ensemble. This newly penned work will have its premiere performance at the Armory Free Theatre and then tour to other locations in the campus community throughout the Fall of 2017. Accompanying educational materials will be developed for distribution as part of the post-performance dialogue and civic engagement piece of the project.

#### Phase Two:

The second aspect of this project is to initiate a National Call for Scripts with the theme of *Environmental Justice is Social Justice*. Selected scripts will then be produced by the INNER VOICES Social Issues Theatre ensemble in subsequent seasons, drawing continued national visibility to the educational and engagement efforts of the University of Illinois, Champaign- Urbana campus.

### BRIEF BACKGROUND of INNER VOICES Social Issues Theatre

**INNER VOICES Social Issues Theatre addresses complex, timely and often difficult social issues** that connect deeply to the university community(ies) and beyond, through performances followed by post- performance audience dialogues.

**Recognizing the event of live theatre as a rare and non-trivial** dynamic juncture in a social space occupied not only by people but also by possibility, INNER VOICES Social Issues Theatre commits itself to the cultivation of this social space for rich civic dialogue vital to the wellness of community.

**With an eye on civic engagement and social justice**, we concern ourselves with where and how change might be made.

**The mission of the INNER VOICES Social Issues Theatre program** is to address contemporary social issues germane to the college experience and more generally to society at large.

Through the design of rigorous courses, cutting-edge performance work and meaningful dialogue we strive:

- To engage the diverse student population at UIUC
- To cultivate among these students critical thinking which contributes to healthy lifestyles and the well-being of all students
- To stimulate ongoing civic dialogue around these issues
- To engender movement toward social justice

**INNER VOICES Social Issues Theatre is sponsored by** the Counseling Center and the Department of Theatre at the University of Illinois.

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**INNER VOICES Social Issues Theatre has a long history** of addressing social justice issues and this particular project, with its focus on Environmental Justice, is an extension of that work. Likewise, in the past we have had funding to run a call for scripts focusing on issues that arise around diversity. That was a successful initiative, drawing a diverse array of voices that brought social justice issues to light. As a result, much of the initial ground work for a call for scripts has been laid allowing us to approach this specific project with a strong sense of the project's requirements. Funding from the Student Sustainability Committee would allow us to do that again with a focus on environmental issues.

**THE GOALS of this project are:**

- To make a substantial impact on students understanding of and engagement with Environmental Justice issues through both engagement opportunities and educational programming utilizing theatre as the core of arts-based civic engagement. (
- To engage a substantial portion of the campus community directly through performances at the Armory Free Theatre, classrooms, and other campus/ community venues. (
- To address and bring awareness to Environmental Justice issues as they impact society generally and often underrepresented populations specifically and to explicitly invite engagement by underrepresented student populations in the project as actors, animatuers, panelists and tech crew. (
- To have an ongoing impact through continuing programming made possible by

the National Call for Scripts, and to continue the National Call for Scripts in the future. (

- Encourage a national discourse among playwrights on Environmental Justice issues.

**(THE SPECIFIC TANGIBLE OUTCOMES INCLUDE (**

- The creation and full production of an original theatre piece addressing Environmental Justice issues originated at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. (

- The creation of a collection of pertinent educational materials, resources and study guides that (accompany the original theatrical work and can be used to supplement the post-performance dialogue (and civic engagement piece of that Environmental Justice work.

- Housed at the University of Illinois, a cannon of contemporary theatre works that address Environmental Justice issues that can be readily (drawn upon for continuing to address the issues through the dynamic medium of theater followed by (post performance dialogue.

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- A new national network of playwrights and other cultural workers who address Environmental Justice issues within their cultural/artistic work, with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign becoming a hub of network activity.

- The opportunity for a substantial portion of the University of Illinois population of undergraduates, graduates, faculty and staff to engage with the project as researchers, creators, performances, audience and civic engagement participants.

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

Through theatre followed by post performance dialogue, this project works toward improving sustainability on the University of Illinois Campus and beyond by:

- raising awareness
- offering concrete strategies to address sustainability
- considering environmental injustice from multiple lenses
- challenging our campus community
- providing education resources pertinent to the topic

On a deeper community responsibility level the project works to intentionally bring together new groupings of people concerned with environmental issues and to establish new nodes within the campus community of students and staff working together to address environmental issues as social issues.

The national scope of the Call for Scripts brings visibility and attention to the efforts of the Student Sustainably Committee at the University of Illinois laying groundwork for future potential projects and gatherings of concerned students on a national or regional scope.

**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.**

This project is realized in several distinct locations of varying scale.

- First, research and development for the original theatre piece will take place in a theatre laboratory / studio setting on campus. This is a hybrid educational/artistic space where engagement with learning is necessary to the creation of the new theatre piece. Several open studios will be held, inviting the campus community to engage with the developmental educational/artistic process.
- The Premier performances will take place in the Armory Free Theatre, a black box theatre located in the Armory. The piece, designed to tour, will then tour across campus including performances for and (where able to do so) in classrooms, conferences, and other appropriate spaces such as Ikenberry Commons. Because the post-performance dialogue is integral to our work we balance the size of the audience such that engaging post-performance civic dialogue sessions can take place. Based on past work, for a single play we will do a run of 15 performances reaching over 2000 attendees. This may include excerpts and lecture-demonstrations of the piece for conferences. This is the basic model that will be used for the original work as well as the performances of selected scripts. We estimate that through this project in its entirety we will reach upward of 5,000 people through live performances and other media presentation.
- Finally, the project will have a national reach and visibility through our national call for scripts.

**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.**

The primary sponsors of the INNER VOICES Social Issues Theatre program are the Counseling Center and the Department of Theatre at the University of Illinois. As Student

Affairs and Academic Affairs departments each respective sponsor has a particular stake in the outcomes of the project. Likewise each of these units is inter-connected with other larger departments, i.e. the College of Fine and Applied Arts and the Office of the Dean of Students.

In addition to the students who participate directly in the project through researching, creating, performing, and leading post-performance dialogues, our primary audience is the general University of Illinois student population. The INNER VOICES Social Issues Theatre program is intentional in our programming with a concerted effort to reach and engage students of color and other underrepresented populations within a predominantly white campus. This project is an extension of that sensibility. We extend our programming reach by inviting professors to take advantage of our theatre work as a unique educational opportunity available for their students to engage with and work with them to design ways in which to make performances accessible to their classes. Likewise, we are intentional about promoting our work through student affairs, including collaborating with such units as Housing, the Office of Inclusion and Intercultural Relations and other academic units such as the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities. Finally, we are often invited to present our work at conferences and other special events held on campus. We imagine that additional such opportunities will arise with this project.

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

**Students will be deeply involved in the project in several ways:**

- A graduate student works with the INNER VOICES Social Issues Theatre program coordinator in the summer 2017 to begin research and script development.
- A graduate student works with the INNER VOICES Social Issues Theatre program coordinator to oversee Call for Scripts coordination.
- Undergrad and Grad students serve as writers, actors and production crew performing and working on production of INNER VOICES Social Issues Theatre piece addressing Environmental Justice issues - fall 2017
- Undergrad and Grad students serve as readers and panelists selecting scripts from the National Call for Scripts - winter 2017-18
- Undergrad and Grad students serve as actors and production crew performing and working on production of INNER VOICES Social Issues Theatre addressing Environmental Justice issues selected from National Call for scripts - fall 2018
- Additionally, students are audience members and engage in post performance dialogue.

## **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

**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?**

No.

**Please note that SSC provides funding on a case by case basis annually and should not be considered as an ongoing source of funding.**

**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.**

No additional direct sources of funding are being sought at this time. Additional resources needed in order to assure the success of the program, such as rehearsal space, administrative and professional support are already secured through the INNER VOICES Social Issues Theatre program acting in effect as matching funds necessary to complete this project.

## **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.**

### **EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES:**

#### **FOR THOSE ENGAGING DIRECTLY WITH THE PROJECT AS PARTICIPANTS**

**The project** offers numerous ways to directly reach and engage students on the UIUC campus. Tangible learning outcomes by those directly involved in the project include:

- Learning how to organize and run a “Call for Scripts -- a transferrable and complex organizing skill.
- Identify, discuss, and critique plays and scripted materials for effectiveness on stage as they relate to the theme of environmental justice as social justice.
- Demonstrate formal approaches to creating effective social issues theatre that explicitly addresses environmental justice issues.
- Demonstrate research methodologies integral to creating effective social issues theatre pieces that explicitly address environmental justice issues.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the artist as “cultural worker” and the facility of theatrical expression and of the theatrical event to promote positive personal and community development and civic engagement.
- Gain an in-depth understanding of environmental justice issues as social justice issues.
- Demonstrate methods of facilitated discussion that encourages and promotes critical thinking about and engagement with environmental justice issues.
- Demonstrate confidence in facilitation and leading groups in intentional civic dialogue.
- Be familiar with campus and local resources to further educate and assist community members with the impact of environmental justice issues.

#### **FOR AUDIENCES**

**As an educational outreach program we intend to inspire positive individual, community and institutional change, explicitly concerned with addressing environmental justice,** through theatre followed by post performance dialogue. This includes:

- raising awareness
- offering concrete strategies to address sustainability
- considering environmental injustice from multiple lenses
- challenging our campus community
- providing education resources pertinent to the topic
- thinking together through civic dialogue



We have a commitment to reaching underrepresented students populations and imagine that the theme of this series will speak to these communities as well, within the larger campus community. Additionally, through this project we hope to develop networks of not otherwise connected student groups. For instance we imagine connecting the *ECO-Study group* at Allen Hall with *INNER VOICES Social Issues Theatre students* and the *Academy of African American Arts* in order to realize one of the selected call for scripts.

**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 use a survey form, which is offered to each audience member after each performance, to evaluate the effectiveness of our programming. This evaluative survey includes questions related to theories of change models as well questions that measure our programming learning objectives.

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

We have extensive publicity lists that we utilize for our shows. These lists include individuals, organizations, units, newsletters, and other media outlets. Additionally, we will work closely with faculty and staff such that they can utilize the performances to supplement their own curriculum. Finally, we do a lot of word of mouth publicity work as well making sure that we are visible in our local community through beautiful posters as well as electronic billboards.

**What are your specific, measurable outreach goals? How will these be measured? Specific measurable goals are as follows:**

- We would like to work with 100 students directly in the course of bringing these theatre pieces to the stage.
- We would like to reach over 2000 students through live performance followed by post performance dialogue. Additionally, each audience member receives a list of educational and other resources pertinent to the topic such that they can follow up. These include other organizations and environmental justice events.
- We would like to see at 75% of these audience members fill out post performance evaluations.
- We would like to reach over 5000 students with the project in live and mediated (video, website) engagement opportunities.
- We would like the Call for Scripts to reach all 50 of the united states such that we have a unique collection of scripts addressing environmental justice concerns of specific regions.
- We would like to see 250 submissions to the Call for Scripts.

- We would like to have one completed original theatre work made by INNER VOICES Social Issues Theatre available to tour locally to campus events.
- Nationwide we hope to inspire three one-hour long pieces and six ten- minute plays of exceptional quality.

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

**At the time of our original application I wrote:**

**The United States Environmental Protection Agency defines Environmental Justice as:**

“Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

EPA has this goal for all communities and persons across this nation. It will be achieved when everyone enjoys:

- the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards, and
- equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work.”

- <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice>

Since we submitted the first step of the application we are aware of major changes taking place at the national level that directly impact years of work done to address environmental justice in relation to social justice. It seems that there has been no more critical time to undertake this project as we have outlined it in this proposal. That this project speaks to environmental concerns through a lens of social justice is paramount to environmental education, sustainability and the future health of all of our students and campus community.