# *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:** Sonified Sustainability Festival 2016-17

**Date of Report Submission:** 8/25/2017

**Project Purpose:**

To offer a series of sustainability-themed educational engagement programs celebrating ecological music and arts, including an all ages festival with live music featuring original instruments made from found and repurposed materials, accompanied by an information fair providing greater visibility of local projects, programs and organizations working towards a sustainable future.

**Detailed Accounting of Expenditures to Date:**

SSF 2016-17 – Expenses to date

Artist Fees: $9200.00

Production Fees: $4088.11 (sound mixing incl.)

Student Interns: $2298.46

Documentation: $600.00

Advertising (printing): $410.93  
Advertising (display): $937.50

Total: $17,535.00

Please see attached spread sheet for detailed expenses.

**Project Progress to Date:**

Sonified Sustainability Festival (SSF) offered a wide range of sustainability-themed programming that engaged with over thirteen hundred audience members and participants from campus and community.

The only SSF artist in Fall 2016 was Eric Leonardson, presented in concert and three engagement programs. The inventor of the Springboard, an electroacoustic instrument made from found materials, Leonardson performed with his trio in the Sudden Sound concert series on October 20, 2016 at Krannert Art Museum for an intimate audience of 28. Prior to the performance, all three musicians introduced their work and accompanied 11 UI students in a dance improvisation class. The following day, Eric Leonardson led sound walks and sound exploration activities for 81 first grade students representing three classes at Dr. Williams Elementary. This was followed by a KAM BAM engagement performance for 54 elementary students, 7 teachers and 5 staff members at Krannert Art Museum.

In Spring 2017, SSF presented a diverse set of twenty programs featuring five artists and two film screenings from April 17-28. New York City-based instrument maker Cooper-Moore was a resident SSF artist featured in six educational engagement programs and a Sudden Sound concert from April 17-20. His first program was held at Allen Hall, a performance demonstration for 23 students and community members. On the following two days, Cooper-Moore appeared at Franklin Middle School and three elementary schools (South Side, Dr. Williams, and MLK) performing on his handcrafted instruments made from repurposed materials for over 500 students. On April 20, Cooper-Moore introduced his music, accompanying 24 UI students in a dance improvisation class, followed by his performance in the Sudden Sound concert, attended by 52 students and community members.

SSF continued on Saturday, April 22 from 2-5pm with Earth Day Celebration featuring live music by New York City-based artists / instrument makers Terry Dame, Bradford Reed and Geoff Gersh and information fair at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. University and community organizations that participated included Arts 299 Fashion Design, UHS Sustainability Club, KAM, Gadget Garage, SSC, The I.D.E.A. Store, iSEE, Fresh Press and Anita Purves Nature Center. While attendance was smaller than expected, an estimated 85-100 came to the performance and participated in the fair. Low attendance can be attributed in part to conflicting events such as the Illinois Marathon, March for Science, and EbertFest.

On Sunday, April 23, SSF continued with a film screening of “The Epic of Everest” with a live original score performed by Reel Orchestrette, a duo featuring Reed and Gersh. Twenty-nine folks attended this silent film screening recounting the 1924 Mallory and Irvine Expedition, documenting the third attempt to reach the summit.

On April 24-25, Terry Dame presented four educational engagement programs showcasing her sculptural electronic music controllers made from found materials for 330 students at three elementary schools (Leal, Yankee Ridge, and Dr. Williams) and 38 community members at the Urbana Free Library. These engagements were followed on the evening of April 25 by a screening of “Koyaanisqatsi,” celebrating the 35th anniversary of a seminal environmental film by Godfrey Reggio featuring music by Philip Glass. The film screening was attended by 18 viewers.

SSF concluded with six scheduled soundwalks led by Eric Leonardson, who also serves as the executive director of the World Listening Project and founder and co-chair of the Midwest Society for Acoustic Ecology. On April 27 sixteen participants were led on three soundwalks in Meadowbrook Park. Unfortunately rain on April 28 kept many of the 20+ registered participants away from our scheduled walks at Busey Woods, but nine participants still attended the three soundwalks, which were adjusted for the weather.

While we were hoping for larger audiences, the programming for SSF 2017 proved to be more diverse than last year, with great success in community engagement programming at local elementary schools. Feedback from community members included the following:

“This was amazing. I wish more people could have experienced it. Wow.” Frank Horger, post on Facebook regarding Epic of Everest.

“Thanks to Eric for leading us on this adventure through sound in our own backyard at Meadowbrook, and to Jason Finkelman for his creative programming, a very special experience. I highly recommend it.” Amani Ayad, post on our Soundwalk Facebook event.

A short video representing the events and activities of SSF 2017 is currently in production. Plans to edit this video over the summer were pushed back due to unforeseen circumstances that resulted in our editor being unavailable. We are aiming to have this completed by December 2017. This document will resemble the one we produced for SSF 2016, which is available to view here: <https://youtu.be/IsHeax7Sa6Y>. Once the video is complete, we will be able to submit a final report.

**Student Involvement and Outreach to Date:**

Three student interns were hired in Fall 2016 and cleared for employment on October 19, 2016. As SSF production assistants they each focused on different areas of the festival – event coordinating, marketing, and educational engagements. In Fall 2016 they developed connections with related organizations in and around campus, and regularly attended SECS meetings. These student interns were essential in creating the promotional materials, coordinating with teachers for the educational engagements, and with local and campus programs that set up tables at our information fair.

As mentioned earlier, a few SSF programs were presented directly to UI student audiences, namely the Allen Hall performance / demonstration by Cooper-Moore, and the two engagements with the dance improvisation class. All six principal SSF events were offered free and open to the public, with a variety of on campus, print and social media publicity targeting student audiences.

Our efforts in generating greater student involvement through SECS for our Earth Day Celebration program fell through after SECS scheduled their annual camping trip on the same weekend. While this was disappointing, we were successful in promoting a few student run initiatives through our information fair. I’m hopeful that future SSF events will be presented with increased student involvement.

**Marketing and Promotion Efforts to Date:**

SSF produced many levels of marketing and promotion through postcard handouts, flyers, bus ads, and buttons. Attached please find PDFs of a few of these promotional items.

Press included the following Illinois News Bureau article by Jodi Heckel:  
“Ecology and the arts are focus of Sonified Sustainability Festival”

<https://news.illinois.edu/blog/view/6367/488997>

We also released the aforementioned 2016 Sonified Sustainability Festival video on the youtube, which informed viewers that more events would be scheduled in April 2017.

With the forthcoming 2017 Sonified Sustainability Festival video, our efforts in introducing and promoting sustainability in the arts will be prolonged.

**Additional Comments:**

I would like to thank SSC and Micah Kenfield for the support making SSF a reality over the past two years. While I was unable to submit a program proposal for 2017-18, I plan to maintain a small series of programming under this banner, and would welcome collaborative efforts to work directly with SSC and other stakeholders. I look forward to completing the last component of this funding cycle and to continue to curate programming that aligns with the mission of SSF and Student Sustainability Committee.