

CSF - Mini Grant Final Application

UArizona Sustainability Summit

Grant Type

Mini Grant

Application Type

Final Application

Primary Project Manager

The Primary Project Manager is responsible for completing this application, answering questions posed by the Campus Sustainability Fund Committee, and completing all required reporting on project progress and outcomes. If the Primary Project Manager is a student who graduates in May 2023, the Secondary Project Manager must be a staff or faculty member OR a student who graduates after May 2023.

Primary Project Manager Name:

Lexis Meza

Primary Project Manager Status:

Student

Primary Project Manager Email:

mezal@arizona.edu

Primary Project Manager Department

Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Associated Students of the University of Arizona

Secondary Project Manager

The Secondary Project Manager is the back-up for the Primary Project Manager if they are unable to complete any of the requirements of the Campus Sustainability Fund, particularly completing required reporting on project outcomes. Alternatively, the Secondary Project Manager could be co-facilitating the project with the Primary Project Manager should the proposal require or desire to have two Project Managers.

Secondary Project Manager Name:

Ethan Lin

Secondary Project Manager Email:

ethablin@arizona.edu

Secondary Project Manager Status:

Student

Secondary Project Manager Department

Department of Biomedical Engineering, Associated Students of the University of Arizona

Project Advisor Name:

Projects where the Primary and Secondary Project Manager are both students require the involvement of a staff or faculty member within project's Fiscal Officer's department. The Project Advisor contact must be a staff or faculty member within your department who is responsible for monitoring the project's budget, communicating with the Fiscal Officer, and reporting if both project managers are unavailable. Please ensure you have received consent from this individual to be the Project Advisor for your proposal and have informed them of your proposal's intent and budgetary needs. If this does not apply to you, type N/A for these responses.

Carol Barnette

Project Advisor Email:

carolb5@arizona.edu

Project Advisor Department:

Associated Students of the University of Arizona

Fiscal Officer:

The Fiscal Officer is a staff member within your department who is responsible for financial transactions and who will support reporting by pulling requested expenses against awarded funding and ensuring that funding is spent within awarded categories. Please coordinate with your department to properly identify an individual who is a designated Fiscal Officer. If awarded, this will be the individual who will help you access your project's funding. Please ensure you have received consent from this individual to be the Fiscal Officer for your proposal and have informed them of your proposal's intent and budgetary needs.

Estella Trevers

Fiscal Officer Email:

etrevers@arizona.edu

Fiscal Officer Department Name:

Associated Students of the University of Arizona

Request Funding Amount:

\$2,500 (FY23)

Official Project Name:

Please be specific but concise as this name will appear on reports and our website. Creativity is encouraged!

UArizona Sustainability Summit

Primary Project Category:

Social Sustainability (including Social/Environmental Justice)

Secondary Project Category:

Campus Life (Health & Wellbeing, Behavior Change)

Background and Context:

Please provide any relevant background about your organization/team including your mission and/or expertise. Please also lay out the rationale for the proposed project, focusing on the issue that your project would address. This section is meant to give us more information about you and the context for the project, while the questions below provide space to go into detail about your proposal's specifics.

Response:

Each year since 2020, on or around the week of Earth Day (April 22nd), ASUA's Students for Sustainability program (SFS) has hosted a series of events to commemorate the holiday and conduct major outreach to the UArizona student body and community on issues of the environment, sustainability, and justice. Many of these events focus on fun, playful activities centered around mindfulness (i.e., yoga) and creativity (i.e., plant pot decorating, dance performances) to help students unfamiliar with the environmental space engage with Students for Sustainability as a program and meet some of those involved. However, historically, these events have not provided a strong emphasis on education beyond the surface level of providing sustainability factoids. In addition to this, Earth Day, first started in 1970, and the events surrounding it have long been representative of the environmental movement as whole in that historically privileged, white cisgender women have received the most media attention and praise for their role in pushing sustainability efforts forward. Perhaps as a facet of this, important conversations about environmental injustice, indigenous knowledge systems, and cultural resiliency have not traditionally been amplified. Last year, SFS made a more concerted effort to provide meaningful education for Earth Week participants on topics centered around environmental justice and to amplify voices of BIPOC and those with experience in place-based solutions. In order to do this, we created the Environmental Summit initiative and successfully held a four-hour education-centered event as part of SFS's Earth Week. Although the first iteration of an event is always more challenge-laden than expected, the event was seen as a success by all organizers, hosting six local speakers and fourteen UArizona and Tucson community organizations for tabling -- the largest event that Students for Sustainability has ever hosted. Word of the summit reached a large audience, even being highlighted in a Daily Wildcat article. ASUA's Students for Sustainability is once again planning an education-focused event, this time with the more-encompassing title "Sustainability Summit" with the goal of building on last year's successes and learning from obstacles to reach a larger portion of the student body with important knowledge on environmental justice.

Project Description:

Please provide a thorough description and explanation of your project. Describe the objective(s) and what will be accomplished. Describe how each objective will be achieved (listed as steps or goals, with anticipated timeframes for each). Explain how the project will be implemented (who does what?). Finally, please identify the core goals of your project and how you will measure the degree of its success includes the metrics you will track to measure the success or impact of your project (e.g., number of kWh saved, gallons of water saved, number of student training hours, etc.). Responses are limited to 3,000 characters including spaces.

Response:

The Sustainability Summit is a four hour long educational showcase on environmental justice and the pinnacle of Students for Sustainability's Earth Week event programming. The Summit will take place on Wednesday, April 19th from 10 am to 2 pm with two parts:

1. a tabling event on the UArizona Mall with booths hosted by various environmental and justice-focused groups from across campus and the greater Tucson area, and
2. a speaker series in the Kiva Room of the Student Union Memorial Center.

The themes for the event include:

- environmental justice,
- climate impacts or
- research,
- non-traditional resource management,
- cultural conservation, and
- place-based insights; both speakers and tabling organizations will be related to these themes.

The speaker series will begin promptly at 10 am.

- The first hour will be a coffee hour for speakers to check in and mingle with each other as well as any UA community members who join.
- Then, there will be an hour of plenary speakers (four 15-minute talks including questions).
- The third hour will be a panel discussion, with 10 minutes for three speakers each to discuss their background and position on a topic, and then 20 minutes of questions from both a moderator and the audience.
- The fourth hour will be another final series of plenary speakers. We will aim to provide roughly 10 minutes of transition time between the panel and speaker series in order to allow students to transition between the indoor and outdoor portions of the event as well as leave for class with minimal disruption.

The core goal of the summit is to provide a fun and accessible atmosphere for education on environmental justice to both those in the “sustainability choir” and outside of it (i.e. those wandering by on the mall) and for students to leave the event, even if they only stay for an hour, with a greater understanding of the importance of justice-oriented and place-based solutions to the climate crisis. The success of the summit will be evaluated by the number of attendees from the university population that engage with the programming. Attendees will be counted via clicker. Upon visiting the check-in table at the front of the tabling on the mall (circular arrangement to facilitate engagement at each booth and create a streamlined entrance/exit point), they will be handed a stamp card which they can exchange for a raffle ticket once completed (3 table stamps + 1 speaker stamp) for a chance at winning a raffle prize.

Project Summary Snapshot:

Please provide a short summary of your project. This summary will be used on our new website and other Office of Sustainability materials, if approved. Think of this as a hyper-concentrated summary to capture your project's scope and impact..

Response:

The Sustainability Summit is fully planned, run, and led by students and is a four-hour event that will serve as the pinnacle of Earth Week, an annual week-long celebration in April run by Associated Students for the University of Arizona (ASUA)'s Students for Sustainability program. This event will include a series of talks by local speakers on topics ranging from place-based solutions to the climate crisis to environmental justice to ecological resilience, and tabling on the UArizona mall from a variety of environmental and justice-focused organizations from across the UArizona and Tucson community. This summit will provide a sustainability-focused educational experience to the University of Arizona's student body as well as provide exposure for local community organizers and businesses.

Project Feasibility and Logistics:

Please provide a description of the work that has been completed so far to make this project feasible. Have all relevant partners been contacted/coordinated with? Have you received consent or authorization from relevant departments or offices to complete your project (Housing and Residence Life, Facilities Management, Parking and Transportation, etc.)? Please identify them in your response. For example, have you received reasonable quotes for supplies? What research has been completed to lay the foundation for this project?

Response:

Since this is Students for Sustainability's second iteration of the Sustainability Summit, we have learned from past challenges and are striving to make this event as successful as possible. For the tabling portion of the event, a mall reservation was made and has guaranteed 9 am - 2 pm access to the entire B1-C4 section of the mall across from the Student Union; this time window will ensure time for set-up and takedown, and the location will ensure maximum visibility

by a wide cross section of the student body. A special event request form has been submitted to Facilities Management for 30 six-foot tables and 60 foldable chairs and we have received confirmation on labor costs. We are requesting that attendees supply their own tent if needed and minimize waste by using digital promotional materials. We plan to arrange the tables in a circle or rectangle shape to facilitate attendance of all booths, and to make it easier to track students going in and out of the tabling area. A call for tabling organizations has been made, and our respondents include UA clubs/programs, local organizations, and local chapters of state/national organizations, such as Outdoor Rec, Sierra Club, and UArizona Divest. For the speaker series portion, the Kiva Room in the Student Union was reserved from 9 am - 2 pm; this room is in a stepped half-circle shape for a speaker and audience-style event and can hold up to 100 people. It comes equipped with a drop-down screen and video projector for including any virtual speakers or participants, as well as a podium and microphone for the in-person component of the week. We intend to provide light refreshments through the Arizona Catering Company, as this is the required vendor for all events held in the Union. Volunteers from Students for Sustainability and the Coalition for Sustainability and Justice will help run the event day by:

- coordinating check-ins,
- counting attendees,
- coordinating with catering,
- supporting tabling organizations,
- moderating the panel discussion, and
- introducing speakers.

There are already roughly 15 students guaranteed for this effort and SFS credit hours will be offered to incentivize additional support from the program.

Environmental Sustainability Outcomes:

Please provide a description of how you expect your project to advance environmental sustainability on campus. A definition of environmental sustainability is provided on our Resources webpage.

Response:

The Sustainability Summit aims to provide educational outreach and promote awareness of environmental justice and other themes such as climate impacts research, non-traditional resource management, cultural conservation, and place-based insights. Awareness of pressing issues such as cultural conservation and unjust exposure to climate caused health hazards helps encourage students to change their habits to be more sustainable as well as improve their attitudes towards environmental health. These steps towards more green resource management will be communicated by experts in this field and opportunities to become involved will be offered by tabling from clubs around the city. Guest speakers will discuss current research and solutions in environmental justice. Having a diverse group of experts, including confirmed individuals from Sky Island Alliance, Pima County Department of Environmental Control, Sierra Club, and Tucson Environmental Community Partners, will give unique personal perspectives that can help connect a wide range of students to the importance of environmental issues while being solution oriented. The previously mentioned themes highlight specific areas of challenge to address. Beyond promoting individual changes, the speaker series provides critical insight into why adopting environmentally friendly habits is critical to ensure future generations will have the resources we have today. Tabling of clubs and organizations from the UArizona campus and Tucson will showcase changemaking opportunities, enabling students to take action both on a personal level towards more sustainable practices and on an institutional level through advocacy. Previously, groups such as Ecological Restoration Club, Mycocats, and UAZ Divest have participated. This year, Students for Sustainability will partner with the UArizona Coalition for Sustainability and Justice (CSJ) to bring in more organizations related to the summit's themes, like Green Guides and Women in Medicine and Science. Discussions with CSJ have assisted in gaining insight on what to look for in the summit, as well as providing resources for further outreach. Furthermore, the CSJ will be tabling at the summit to educate students on their purpose and encourage participation. Additionally, all tabling groups will be requested to minimize waste by using QR code pamphlets and reusable engagement tools. These groups give insight into current projects being done regarding sustainability and addressing the climate crisis, provide resources for students to get involved, and encourage students to think deeper about environmental justice to make both conscious and ethical sustainable decisions. The pairing of expert speakers and organization tabling will help advocate, teach, and enable UA students to incorporate sustainability into their lifestyles. With a focus on environmental justice, the Sustainability Summit will prove effective in fostering environmental sustainability.

Social Sustainability Outcomes:

Please provide a description of how you expect your project to advance environmental sustainability on campus. A definition of social sustainability is provided on our Resources webpage.

Response:

The main purpose of the Sustainability Summit is to create awareness of and encourage action on environmental justice. The topic of environmental justice is defined by the unjust exposure of marginalized communities to climate change. This can be due to a number of issues, whether it be due to the historic effects of colonialism, the inequity of resources to combat climate-related issues, or the lack of accessibility of mitigation and solutions. This hybrid event combining expert speakers and tabling aims to increase visibility on how the environmental crisis disproportionately affects certain social and cultural groups. At the event, we'll be hearing from a broad range of speakers, from Mexico Project Manager of the Sky Island Alliance Zach Palma to individuals from Saguaro National Park, and tabling groups like the Tucson Environmental Justice Task Force and individuals from Biosphere 2. Knowledge and understanding are the first steps towards addressing social issues stemming from environmental injustice. Having experts communicate current information on environmental justice, cultural conservation, and place-based climate solutions is critical to understanding the disparities marginalized communities experience and the current research and action being done to combat them. We also have curated a diverse group of guest speakers for this summit. Other confirmed speakers include individuals from Borderlands Restoration Network and the Environmental Quality sector of Pima County Government. Voices from these groups help showcase local and first-hand experiences with environmental injustice and aid in further understanding the social aspect of sustainability. We'll also be compensating the speakers for their fifteen-minute talks with a \$50 honorarium along with free parking via a parking reservation to better accommodate any transportation needs. The tabling of organizations from across campus and Tucson provides further accessibility towards social sustainability issues. With these groups being present on the mall during the summit, thousands of students will have access to learning about opportunities to advocate and get involved with justice-oriented climate solutions. Organizations such as AZ AANHPI Students for Equity and Women in Medicine and Science provide connections to local efforts to address environmental justice issues. The openness of the tabling gives students the ability to ask questions and become more knowledgeable on their own time and creates a low stakes environment to get more involved in local social sustainability efforts. With more students engaging in these efforts towards combating climate change, the campus and Tucson community will also benefit from long-term effects. This includes improved individual physical and mental health due to empowerment through education, and the presence of more engaged civic-minded students in local environmental justice efforts.

Student Leadership & Involvement:

Please provide a description of how you expect your project to benefit students on campus regarding the creation of leadership opportunities or student engagement. What leadership opportunities exist within your proposal? If you plan to hire/ or involve students, please describe in what capacity. For example, if you plan to hire students, create an internship, or seek student involvement, please describe relevant details thoroughly (wages, responsibilities, duration of job, extent of involvement, how you will solicit/ market these opportunities etc.).

Response:

The Summit is an entirely student-planned and student-run event involving a team from Students for Sustainability and the Coalition for Sustainability and Justice (CSJ). The primary student planning team is open to any students with an interest in community activism and sustainability, and it is ever growing and changing, but currently it consists of 15 members across both Students for Sustainability and the CSJ. This is an increase from last year's summit in the quantity of student leaders who have taken the initiative to plan and prepare this event. Students will plan the event agenda, work with Facilities Management and external vendors to provide infrastructure and food, organize and communicate with speakers, and emcee and run the event -- through this, they will gain valuable experience in project and event planning. Tabling opportunities also allow for student leaders of other organizations to become involved in existing environmental awareness efforts on campus and showcase their organizations' work at the Sustainability Summit. Student organizations that have collaborated with the Sustainability Summit in the past have included:

- Mycocats,
- AZ AANHPI Students for Equity,
- UAZ Divest,
- Ecological Restoration Club,
- Compost Cats, and
- The Students for Sustainability Retrofit Project.

Tabling will also allow students who are interested in beginning their sustainability journey, or simply expanding the list of sustainability and community activism groups they're involved with, to get in touch with and join the organizations that will be present at the event. The Sustainability Summit hosted by Students for Sustainability in the Spring of 2022, then known as the Environmental Summit, reached roughly 345 people during the four hours allocated to the event. The student involvement goal for the upcoming Spring 2023 Sustainability Summit is to reach roughly 500 people in the same timeframe. This event is being held on the UA Mall; this central campus location will bring further awareness of the event to students who may not be regularly involved in sustainability discourse, breaking past the sustainability choir. The addition of more student and community organizations tabling with the Sustainability Summit allows students to discover different avenues of sustainability and increases awareness of ways to be involved on and off campus. The event this year will also make a much more concerted effort on marketing and publicity, with an early and strong outreach campaign across the university community. This increased awareness will hopefully contribute to increased involvement.

Education, Outreach, and Behavior Change:

What opportunities does this project provide for members of the campus/ community to learn about sustainability? How will your project educate the campus community and/or incorporate outreach and behavior change? How are you reaching beyond the "sustainability choir?" Please provide a description of how you expect your project will communicate its impacts to the campus community. What is your plan for publicizing your project on campus? How visible and accessible will your project be to the general campus population?

Response:

The UArizona and Tucson communities are diverse, however this diversity is often not displayed in environmental discourse and fields related to environmental sustainability and education. Despite a lack of significant representation in environmental spaces, research shows that it is primarily people of color and lower income communities that feel the effects of environmental justice issues. To combat this lack of inclusivity in environmental spaces, the UArizona Sustainability Summit will be hosting a wide range of speakers and community organizations. The purpose of the tabling component of this event is to provide an open and accessible way for all students who walk through campus to get involved and learn more about sustainability. This supports increased awareness from students that are not already involved in the fight against climate change. These organizations will then enable students to learn about their objectives while providing opportunities to contribute. Guest speakers will provide additional information under environmental justice, cultural conservation, and other mentioned themes. These sessions are open to anyone, with multiple speakers across four hours. Also, tabling on the mall can also encourage students to attend the speaker series. These speakers will be from the Tucson community, which gives students a direct connection to the issues and their importance. They are also experts in these fields so the information will be communicated effectively and oriented by current challenges and solutions. With this ethos and pathos, attendees will be more inclined to act upon these issues and have their behaviors towards these issues changed. To garner more attention beyond passersby, the summit will be publicized through an Earth Week social media campaign in the weeks leading up to the event. This will likely be through the Students for Sustainability Instagram, reaching our 2,135 followers. We will also collaborate with related departments and campus organizations, such as the Coalition for Sustainability and Justice, UAZ Find Your Environment (formerly Green Guides), and the Student Health Advocacy Committee to publicize the summit via their platforms, attracting students beyond environmental fields. Social media posts and emails will be shared regularly leading up to the event, to spread awareness and build anticipation among as many students as possible. Participating organizations and clubs will also be asked to publicize in their circles. These combined methods should gather a diverse body of students both experienced in and new to the field of environmental justice but all interested in working towards climate solutions.

Timeline:

Please describe the timeline of your project. The timeline may be estimations at the point of this Preliminary Application but providing this is especially important if your project is a time-sensitive event. Funds may not be used as reimbursement for projects already completed, therefore a realistic amount of lead time should be given in order for proposals to be eligible for review. Please describe when your project will take place, key dates for when certain elements must start or be completed by, or any other known dates. Timeline extensions will be granted on a case-by-case and limited basis.

Response:

The timeline of this project consists of various aspects including marketing, coordination, and outreach, all to be completed before Wednesday April 19, the date of the Sustainability Summit. Planners have already initiated outreach to potential

speakers and potential tabling organizations. On February 23, event planners and UArizona Coalition for Sustainability and Justice (CSJ) decided against planning small collaborative events in the weeks leading up to the summit due to their current limited capacity, but they have and will continue to be included in all calls for volunteers. We are finalizing our last few speakers now and have extended our tabling application deadline to March 17. The planning committee has confirmed food vendors and UArizona Facilities Management to organize needed equipment and placement. They will continue to communicate with them as well as speakers/presenters to build a speaker schedule, and the SFS marketing chair to create marketing materials. The Earth Week marketing campaign will begin in March, and tabling organizations will receive an acceptance email sometime between March 20 - March 24. That same week, summit planners will construct a volunteer sign up form to all CSJ and SFS members. Two weeks prior to the summit, on or around April 3, participating organizations, speakers, presenters, and vendors will receive emails with all necessary event information, such as table placement, parking locations, marketing materials, etc. One week prior to the summit, on or around April 10, all volunteers will receive an email with day-of instructions.