

Rooted Remedios-Botanicas x Plant Cruiser

Grant Type

Annual Grant

Application Type

Final Application

Project Manager 1 Name

Dominique Calza

Project Manager 1 Status

Staff

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Adalberto & Ana Guerrero Student Center

Project Manager 2 Name

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Project Manager 2 Department

Women & Gender Resource Center

Project Manager 2 Role

Co-lead

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Project Advisor Department

N/A

Fiscal Officer

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Fiscal Officer Department Name

Executive Office of the President, Dept. 9901

Requested Funding Amount

Only enter this number after completing the budget sheet (the budget template will round up your request).

Mini Grants may request \$250 up to \$5,000.

Annual Grants may request \$5,001 up to \$100,000, and up to three years of funding.

Year 1:

\$100000

Year 2:

Year 3:

Official Project Name

Rooted Remedios-Botanicas x Plant Cruzer

Primary Project Category

Campus Life (Health & Wellbeing, Behavior Change)

Secondary Project Category

Social Sustainability (including Social/Environmental Justice)

Background and Context

Please provide relevant background about your organization/team including your mission and/or expertise. 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 plan and specifics.

Response:

The Adalberto & Ana Guerrero Student Center (GSC) and the Women & Gender Resource Center (WGRC) are two of the Cultural & Resource Centers (CRCs) on campus that aim to provide students with community connections, programming focused on intersectional identity-based learning, and support services to promote student retention and graduation.

The mission of the Adalberto & Ana Guerrero Center is to support Latinx students to achieve academic and personal excellence by shaping a safe and inclusive campus environment through culturally affirming programs and events that cultivate a sense of belonging, build community, encourage critical reflection, and develop students as learners, leaders, and professionals.

The mission of the Women & Gender Resource Center is to serve as a hub for education, programming, collaborations, and advocacy on issues of gender and equity, giving special attention to the need for preventative measures around sexual assault and violence on our college campus. Our work occurs at the intersection of many identities such as race, class, sexual orientation, ethnicity, and ability.

An area that ties the missions of both Centers together is the focus and intention of offering programming focused on health & wellness to our student populations. Currently, we do this by engaging students in mental health support by way of our Site-Based CAPS Counselor, addressing food insecurity by offering free meals, snacks, and food items in our spaces, and providing inclusive programming that addresses students' holistic health and wellbeing.

Contributing grant team members took the American Indian Studies/Mexican American Studies course, Mexican Traditional Medicine 535 and as graduate students in the course, engaged with academic Indigenous medicine and native science texts, assignments, and guided medicine making from Professor and Partera, Dr. Patricia Gonzales and invited guests. Our groups provided medicinal teas and salves as well as cultural and medicinal knowledge of the plants used. The Project Managers on this application serve as Directors of Cultural and Resource Centers on campus, also reflected in the course and grant team are Graduate Assistants who staff the centers who have experience leading traditional and cultural workshops working with plant allies.

Inspired by the intentions of this course and the knowledge presented, both GSC & WGRC established Botanicas (spaces with offerings of Indigenous medicine and teachings) within their Centers and have offered health & wellness programming rooted in indigenous traditional medicine in collaboration with local community herbalists and medicine makers since Spring 2023. This proposed project will provide financial support to work collectively to expand Botanica offerings at both Centers and to continue to work with community medicine makers.

Project Description

Please provide a thorough description and explanation of your project. Be explicit in what your team is proposing. What are the goals of your project? What will your project's outcomes be? Outcomes should be SMART—specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timely. Describe how each objective will be achieved with the anticipated timeframes for each, including any key dates for when certain elements must start or be completed.

Response:

Rooted Remedios: Botanicas x Plant Cruzar is a groundbreaking project with the primary objective of establishing a supportive and educational space for Indigenous medicine and teachings. The project aims to help students gain language and engage in concepts of Indigenous medicinal practices, such as sustainable plant harvesting, social justice, traditional medicine and overall health and wellness by providing access and resources aimed for the benefit of Chicanx, Latinx, Indigenous, multiracial

peoples, and lower income or working class community members.

The cornerstone of the project involves creating and sustaining botanicas within the Women and Gender Resource Center and the Guerrero Student Center. These botanicas act as focal points for dispensing medicines, accompanied by relevant information and directions. In addition, the project plans to host seasoned practitioners of Indigenous medicine, providing diverse perspectives on various aspects of traditional healing practices. The botanicas, open throughout the semester with seasonal updates to the provided medicines, aim to serve as inclusive spaces for community members.

Monthly speakers and workshops, excluding the first month of the semester, constitute integral components of the project. The student-led initiative, in collaboration with the centers, empowers students to take charge of reaching out to speakers, planning events, and utilizing available resources. This emphasis on student leadership aligns with the broader goal of fostering community-building skills and active engagement.

The core impact of Rooted Remedios lies in providing educational opportunities and a welcoming space for marginalized community members to explore and learn about Indigenous medicinal practices directly from Indigenous practitioners. To gauge the effectiveness of the project, quantitative measures will be employed, including tracking the distribution of medicines through the botanicas and recording event attendance. This data-driven approach ensures a comprehensive evaluation of the program's reach and impact, validating its success in promoting Indigenous knowledge and contributing to community well-being.

Budget Narrative

Use this section to provide supplemental justification for the items you are requesting on your budget sheet. Please break down your justifications into the budget categories: Personnel or operating budget. Do not list out each expense or repeat notes made in the budget template, but instead address why the line items are being requested and the purpose they will serve, providing elaboration when necessary.

If you are requesting funding for personnel, use this section to elaborate on the position you are creating and how the budget and timeline was established for it. If you plan to hire students, describe in what capacity. Describe relevant details thoroughly (wages, responsibilities, duration of job, extent of involvement, how you will solicit/ market these opportunities etc.).

Ensure the descriptions match the line items in the budget sheet.

If matching or supporting funds are secured for the project, identify the source and amount in this section, and detail the impact of the matching funds on your overall budget.

Response:

With the support of the Campus Sustainability fund, the Guerrero Student Center (GSC) would be able to hire a Graduate Assistant (GA) with the primary focus of leading mental health and wellness initiatives and functions of this grant. The Women & Gender Resource Center has two Graduate Assistants, one of which leads WGRC mental health and wellness (MNH) initiatives and would co-lead functions of this grant with GSC GA should we receive funding. Each GA would supervise two undergraduate assistants who would work ten hours a week to support MNH programming, the botanicas and this grant. GSC and WGRC would market the five student positions across our center's newsletters and social media. If necessary depending on the candidate pool, we can also utilize Handshake. The undergraduate and graduate assistants would be responsible for program planning

and execution, marketing, medicine making and stocking botanicas, purchasing and budget/business paperwork as well as program evaluation and data collection. Undergraduate assistants, supervised by GAs, will support program planning, medicine making, and Botanica operations. In our department, GA's receive \$1,500 for Professional Development, as such we'd like to offer this GA that amount to supplement professional development opportunities such as traveling to present and or attend in state or out of state conferences.

For the operational funds we requested, we envision that each center's botanica would host an open house for the grant/botanica and to kick off the Campus Sustainability work. In addition to the open houses, each center would host monthly MNHW hands-on workshops that will be facilitated by Indigenous knowledge keepers through the The Indigenous Alliance Without Borders/Alianza Indigena Sin Fronteras (AISF) Plant Cruzer/Planta Movil and other QTBIPOC-allied activist community medicine makers. The honorariums and material funds would cover the full cost of the MNHW plant expert workshops and all materials for participants and/or production of plant medicine. The LGBTQ+ Institute offers physical support, enhancing the operational funds allocated for MNHW plant expert workshops and materials.

The operations funds would also support the current MNHW work being done that is currently underfunded. Each center receives five thousands dollars each AY for MNHW initiatives from institutional state funding which is not currently meeting the need and has been supplemented by the centers operating funds when available and appropriate. The WGRC MNHW GA costs and operating budget come from Student Service Fees and the center has just rewarded. The supplemental materials we've provided (job descriptions and materials list) as well as notes in the budget document help to expand the justification for the requests for materials, operations, and professional development.

Project Feasibility and Logistics

The Campus Sustainability Fund will only fund projects that have completed the necessary work to ensure they can succeed, be completed in the grant's timeline, or have an accurate budget.

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 to complete your project (such as from Housing and Residence Life, Facilities Management, Parking and Transportation, etc.)? Please identify them in your response.

If you are making modifications to campus, do you have authorization or official quotes from Facilities Management to accurately identify the cost of labor and supplies?

Response:

Rooted Remedios: Botanicas x Plant Cruzer has taken substantial strides to ensure the project's feasibility, incorporating valuable feedback and garnering support from key stakeholders. The project enjoys explicit support from Dr. Gonzales, the community partner The Indigenous Alliance Without Borders/Alianza Indigena Sin Fronteras (AISF), and the Plant Cruzer/Planta Movil. AISF and the Plant Cruzer/Planta Movil project, with their commitment to distributing plant medicine to Indigenous organizations and QTBIPOC-allied activists, align seamlessly with the project's goals and sustainability principles, emphasizing reciprocity and Indigenous values.

In addition to the foundational support, the LGBTQ+ Institute has expressed wholehearted endorsement, offering tangible backing with a designated backyard space. This space, located at 1533 E. Helen St., provides wheelchair-accessible independent gate access and offers resources like planter beds, irrigation, and initial plants. The LGBTQ+ Institute's commitment to collaboration and

interdisciplinary engagement aligns with the project's ethos of fostering inclusivity and community development.

To ensure meticulous planning, the grant team engaged in preliminary meetings with Plant Cruzer, discussing grant scope, supply needs for the community partner, and workshop ideas. These consultations underscore the collaborative approach and contribute to the project's overall feasibility. The collaborative shopping list, developed in consultation with Plant Cruzer, serves as a comprehensive guide for the project budget, encompassing essential supplies for sustainable plant harvesting and participant workshop incentives. Furthermore, the grant team's dedication is evident in seeking feedback on the grant narrative from the Plant Cruzer team, ensuring alignment with their objectives.

This groundwork, coupled with the explicit support from AISF, the Plant Cruzer/Planta Movil, and the LGBTQ+ Institute, positions Rooted Remedios as a well-considered and feasible project. The collaboration with diverse stakeholders underscores the project's commitment to fostering inclusivity, sustainability, and positive community impact.

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 Guides and Tips page.

Response:

Rooted Remedios: Botánicas x Plant Cruzer is a multifaceted project poised to significantly advance environmental sustainability at the University of Arizona, integrating insights from feedback and supportive letters. The project strategically targets sustainability through four key initiatives. Firstly, Rooted Remedios places a strong emphasis on sustainable harvesting methods for indigenous and local plants, aligning with Indigenous teachings and promoting responsible interactions with natural resources.

Secondly, workshops and guest lecture series, tailored for Chicana, Latinx, Indigenous, multiracial, and low-income working-class community members, will seamlessly incorporate sustainable practices. Recognizing the intersectionality of sustainability, this approach fosters inclusivity in environmental education, ensuring a diverse and engaged audience.

Thirdly, Rooted Remedios seeks to empower students by providing opportunities for university and community engagement, particularly in the establishment and management of Botánicas and collaboration with the Plant Cruzer. By integrating sustainability values into these initiatives, the project aims to instill a sense of responsibility and reciprocity among participants, fostering a deeper connection to the environment.

Lastly, the collaboration with Tucson organizations will extend support for local sustainability efforts, with a particular focus on the cultivation and harvesting of fresh foods, herbs, and medicinal plants. This collaborative approach extends the project's impact beyond the confines of the campus, contributing to broader community resilience and sustainability.

In alignment with Indigenous teachings, Rooted Remedios will infuse sustainability values such as respect, relationship, responsibility, and reciprocity into its offerings. This integration will manifest through various practices, including the education of participants on the safe utilization of reusable

containers in collecting and storing medicinal medicines. This commitment aligns with sustainability values, promoting responsible resource use.

Additionally, Rooted Remedios pledges to promote and implement earth-friendly products, reflecting responsibility, respect, and a commitment to reduce and repurpose resources in both small and large-scale events. Indigenous knowledge holders will be invited to share perspectives on the use of natural resources, emphasizing the impacts on local ecosystems and the collection of indigenous plants. This educational component aligns with sustainability values, fostering a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness between cultural practices and environmental well-being.

Rooted Remedios: Botánicas x Plant Cruiser emerges not only as a cultural and educational initiative but also as a cornerstone in cultivating a campus environment that actively embraces and integrates sustainability into its diverse fabric.

Social Sustainability Outcomes

Please provide a description of how you expect your project to advance social sustainability on campus. A definition of social sustainability is provided on our Guides and Tips page.

Response:

The work of the cultural and resource centers, GSC and WGRC, are directly connected to social sustainability through the inclusion of Black, Indigenous and people of color, including multiracial, students, staff, faculty and community members. We do so by providing post learning opportunities to engage with root causes of social inequity, operate from the understanding the cultural and resource centers populations (queer, trans, women & BIPOC students) are disproportionately impacted by systemic racism, sexism and health disparities.

The social sustainability goals associated with programming provided by the Rooted Remedios: Botánicas x Plant Cruiser are:

Students will be able to identify the facets of collaboration and use those skills to community build, engage with social justice work and have a greater sense of self autonomy.

Students will gain language and engage concepts in environmental justice, health and mental health, and individual and community sustainability efforts.

The Rooted Remedios: Botánicas x Plant Cruiser project emerges as a powerful catalyst for advancing social sustainability on campus, seamlessly aligning with the fundamental mission of the Guerrero Student Center (GSC) and the Women & Gender Resource Center (WGRC). This initiative is deeply rooted in inclusivity and directly confronts social inequities experienced by Black, Indigenous, people of color (BIPOC), multiracial students, staff, faculty, and community members. Through a series of workshops and events, Rooted Remedios aims to foster collaboration and community building, empowering students with the skills to actively engage in social justice initiatives. Participants will develop a sense of self-autonomy, navigating social justice work with confidence and contributing to the dismantling of systemic racism, sexism, and health disparities.

Moreover, the project seeks to provide students with language and concepts related to environmental justice, health, and mental well-being. By engaging with Indigenous teachings and Plant Cruiser workshops, participants will gain a nuanced understanding of these critical topics. This linguistic empowerment is a crucial component of creating a campus community that actively participates in conversations surrounding individual and community sustainability efforts. Rooted Remedios actively promotes awareness about the interconnectedness of social and environmental

sustainability, fostering an environment where participants engage with concepts in environmental justice and mental health. Through its comprehensive approach, Rooted Remedios not only addresses the unique challenges faced by marginalized communities but also cultivates a foundation for lasting positive change within the University of Arizona's campus community.

Student Leadership & Involvement

Please provide a description of how your project will benefit students on campus regarding the creation of leadership opportunities or student engagement. What leadership opportunities exist within your proposal? If you plan to seek student involvement, include relevant details thoroughly and how you will solicit/ market these opportunities.

Response:

The Rooted Remedios: Botanicas x Plant Cruiser creates culturally relevant, life-affirming, meaningful experiences for marginalized students that allows for the development of leadership skills and participation in hands-on Indigenous medicine-making experiences.

From its inception, this project has been, and will continue to be, a student-led initiative to meet the needs of students in our campus community as well as off-campus beneficiaries of the UArizona Cultural Resource Centers (GSC and WGRC). Both centers serve students with collective efforts in building community and supporting the mental health and wellness of marginalized students on campus. Students who visit the centers are already engaged in mental health and wellness programming. The Rooted Remedios: Botanicas x Plant Cruiser will serve as an additional toolkit for student support available during the academic school year. This project promotes personal and group wellness and allows for 100% student engagement and participation per UA's mission and values.

The two centers are additionally supported by student workers (undergraduate and graduate) and student volunteers. The project's sustainability will rely on student staff leaders who will partake in planning logistics, programming, maintenance, and upkeep of each botanica. For example, student staff will head up planning events and workshops, reaching out to guest speakers, and coordinating logistics. This project also gives students valuable experience in networking and community-building with other marginalized students, staff, and community members. Additionally, this program will allow student staff to collaborate with other non-university organizations, like the Indigenous Alliance Without Borders, a local grassroots org in Tucson.

We propose hiring one graduate assistant for the Guerrero Student Center and 4 student workers under federal work study to be supervised by the graduate assistants. Lastly, through this program, we are also passively engaging students in exploring their identities and thinking of alternative ways to support their mental health and wellness and ultimately help students achieve their academic and career goals.

If awarded this grant, GSC and WGRC would hire four undergraduate student workers whose job duties would be explicitly tied to the grant funds. We would advertise these positions on Handshake, Center newsletters and social media channels. We would offer students wages to serve as apprentices and assistants to graduate assistants, full time staff and community guest workshop presenters as well as to craft, stock and supply the botanicas in GSC and WGRC. The positions would

be for the 25AY. We would prioritize Pell grant qualifying students requiring student workers to have Federal Work Study, however, we would budget for making exceptions for marginalized undocumented, DACA and international students who are not Pell eligible.

Job descriptions included as supporting docs.

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, particularly beyond the "sustainability choir?"
Please provide a description of how you expect your project will communicate its impacts to the campus community.*

Response:

At its core, the Rooted Remedios project focuses on social sustainability by addressing access to culturally-specific health and wellness practices, creating a sense of community, encouraging participation, and building social capital for BIPOC students. As it relates to environmental sustainability, the Botanicas will prioritize the use of locally-sourced plants and products and reusable containers, all information which will be made publicly available at the botanica stations, which will be housed at the GSC and the WGRC and will be used not only to promote cultural-specific healing but also sustainable practices. The project will provide not only the knowledge, but the materials to engage hands-on with certain traditional practices that can be carried on for future generations.

The idea of the project is to reach communities of color and working-class communities in order to provide a safe space to learn about traditional medicine. Also, because the people that are usually credited for preaching sustainability are middle to upper class individuals, sometimes their ideas prioritize buying new sustainable things or engaging in high-cost environmental practices, it can make it harder for impoverished communities to engage in these sorts of practices. The project highlights cultural practices that already exist surrounding sustainability but that are not given the same recognition as the movements by mainstream non-BIPOC organizations by providing accessible and culturally-relevant access to health and wellness by utilizing Native/Indigenous approaches. It also teaches the cultural importance of sustainability by allowing students to reconnect with their cultural background by engaging in culturally-rooted healing activities. This project will invite Native/Indigenous healers for people to learn directly from individuals in these communities, which not only supports these communities that do not receive the same support as organizations or spokespeople for the mainstream sustainability movement, but also allows them to continue preserving and passing on these practices.

GSC and WGRC both have dedicated spaces where the botanicas will be made available to all students, faculty, staff, and community members who visit the centers. Both centers will publicize their Botanicas on their social media and will reach out to affiliated educational units (i.e., Mexican American Studies, American Indian Studies, Gender and Women's Studies, and the other Cultural and Resource Centers on campus) to distribute information through various avenues. Additionally, both GSC and the WGRC will be holding events and workshops that showcase the Botanicas to the

campus community, allowing all attendees the opportunity to engage in conversation around these practices and build community with each other within a space which acknowledges the social and cultural contexts surrounding this knowledge and practices to continue on with new generations.