THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY
CAMPUS
SUSTAINABILITY FUND

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Environment & Natural Resources 2
1064 E. Lowell St., Room N495
PO Box 210137
Tucson, AZ 85721-0137

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Project Description:

Sprouts House is an on-campus sustainability training center designed to provide hands-on experience in sustainable practices, rainwater harvesting, and community engagement. This project is a collaboration between the University of Arizona School Garden Workshop and Sprouts Healthy Community Foundation. It aims to create a living laboratory for sustainability education for UArizona students, K-12 students, and educators Sprouts House, a project that includes the renovation of two UArizona-owned historical houses next to Mansfeld Magnet Middle School into a community classroom and the other into a commercial kitchen.

Additional Sprouts House Sitework will include plumbing for gardens and greenhouse and contracted earthmoving to adjust the grade for passive rainwater harvesting and gardens. We are also proposing garden classroom infrastructure enhancements, which will include a shipping container (including delivery) for tool storage and commercial grade outdoor expanded metal picnic tables to create an outdoor classroom.

Timeline:

Full construction is underway, with a projected finish date of September 10, 2025 for the renovation of both houses. Following the house renovations, transformation of the outdoor spaces will begin, including garden builds, rainwater harvesting infrastructure, and greenhouse construction.

The earth moving and plumbing will happen between now and September 10th as a part of the site work critical to the garden builds. We'd include it in the Chase Construction scope of work that'll happen this summer so we're ready to rock and roll in late September. This is critical to the project and if we can include it in the Chase scope it allows the garden build to be shovel ready as soon as Chase wraps up. It streamlines the project for us and is required before we can break ground on the gardens.

For the shipping container, we've reached out to Mansfeld Middle School leadership to see about placing the container on the school campus next to Sprouts House so we don't have to give up garden space to house it, and so it can be placed before the construction finishes. We don't have tool storage in the Sprouts House footprint so this is critical to the project, and we'll stock the container with tools that will be used in workshops for both K-12 students and university students alike.

For the commercial grade tables for the outdoor classroom they'd be purchased and assembled in late September after the construction company moves out. The tables are critical to the project as they help create an outdoor learning space for learners of all ages.

Outcomes:

Sprouts House will be a transformative addition to the SGW program allowing us to expand our offerings and connect more directly with students, teachers and the local community. 1) We will finally be able to have our own teaching and learning garden for the University of Arizona undergraduate and graduate student internship course. Students in the credit-bearing course will learn how to effectively use garden-based teaching in a hands-on manner in all of the 16 weeks they are in training. 2) Educators will receive professional development training at our own site making it easier to prepare, conduct and clean up after the demonstrations and to have access to a range of resources that are stored *in situ* during the demonstrations. 3) SGW will be able to more easily hold community events at Sprouts House not just during school hours but also into the evening and weekends. As well, being already embedded in a neighborhood, the centrally located site will become a key community asset

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that links not only TUSD to the UA but also showcases a major grocery chain as a committed supporter of the Tucson community.

Feasibility

SGW has a 10+ year track record of working collaboratively in the community, completing and activating garden spaces throughout the community. Approximately $2M towards our $2.3M total has been raised to date, and multiple funding proposals have been submitted to close the funding gap.

Requested Budget: $20,000

Sprouts House Sitework: $10,000

- Plumbing for gardens and greenhouse
- Contracted earthmoving to adjust the grade for passive rainwater harvesting and gardens

Garden classroom infrastructure: $10,00

- Shipping container (including delivery) for tool storage: $4000
- Commercial grade outdoor expanded metal picnic tables with rubber coating: 6 @ $1000 = $6000