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Vancouver, BC, V6T 1Z1
enviro@ams.ubc.ca

Eco-Initiatives Form: Above \$500

Name: [REDACTED]
Date: September 19 th 2015
Contact Email or Phone: [REDACTED]
Club or Group Affiliation: Salish Sea Spiritual Ecology Alliance (SSSEA); Zen at UBC, UBC Meditation Community
Amount Requested: \$1,300
TREASURER USE ONLY:
Approved Modified Denied
Submitted as of:
Notes:

1. Describe your project and its purpose (approximately 200 words)?

Our project: Place Based Activism and Spiritual Practice, is an event series that takes UBC students and the general public on a pilgrimage through the four domains of our landscape: ocean, forest, farm and city. In short, we are holding an event in each of these spaces. At each event we facilitate an activity which allows participants to connect to each unique place, and then through a variety of facilitators and discussions, we talk about how we can be an activist in each place. We want people to experience meaningful connection to the land, and then translate their wonder and respect for the natural world into meaningful action. UBC and Vancouver is home to many people of different faiths and spiritual cultures. However, it is not enough for us to meditate on our cushions or pray in isolation. The goal of our Convergence is to get active by thinking about

what we consume and how we stand up in our communities and by connecting our spirituality to action. It is an ambitious event series that includes many facets, including a mindful canoe paddle through Point Grey, food based activism at the UBC farm with Slow Food Canada, dancing to end social isolation in the city, foraging for food in the forests of Pacific Spirit Park, working to turn the Salish Sea Bioregion into a protected marine sanctuary and much more... Read more here! <http://spiritualecologyalliance.org/2015-convergence-2/>

2. Outline how your project pertains to the environment and sustainability at UBC (approximately 200 words)?

UBC is working hard to implement sustainability initiatives within the institution. But try as we might to have convenient “Sort it Out” bins, encourage reusable containers, and vegetarian options... these initiatives have yet to be embraced by many members of the student body. This is only because there is a lack of connection to the land, to those involved in creating products, and to the consequences of our daily actions. Spiritual Ecology is about changing your ways out of love and connection to the land, not out of fear, or guilt. I think this connection is the key to change and this is what we are espousing at our Convergence. We are also an actively inter-faith group. There are many religious and spiritual groups on campus, but they do not necessarily connect with each other, or connect their faith to environmental action. The convergence seeks to encourage this.

3. How will you document the successes and difficulties of your project? In what ways do you foresee this documentation aiding other SEC Eco-Initiatives (approximately 200 words)?

We will – and have been- documenting our event series on our website and on our facebook page. Additionally, we were just interviewed by the Ubyyssey about the Convergence. The fact that our event is well documented definitely has the potential to aid and spark other SEC Eco-Initiatives. SSSEA is creating something very unique at UBC that aims to inspire students to connect their faith, their spirituality, or their connection with the land to their actions, their purpose in life, and the way they use their time.

Again, we are a community of inter-faith environmentalists who are always trying to include and support the work of others. We would certainly promote and support SEC at our upcoming events.

- 4. For most requests of funding of this amount, the SEC would like to see other funding sources contributing to the financing of your project. Are you pursuing any other sources of funding? If so, what sources, and for what amount? (SEC Treasurers can help you identify other sources of funding.)**

We have currently obtained \$4,500 from AMS Sustainability. We thought that this would be enough to cover our costs, but we now realize that it is not. Expensive permits, space rental and honorariums have set us back. It was really important to us to make this event series virtually free to UBC students and the general public and we want to stay true to this. However, we are now scrambling for last minute funds.

- 5. What aspects of your project (purchases, bookings) will SEC funding be used for?**

For Forest Day, we require:

\$394.94 to cover the cost of sandwiches from Choices. They are organic, vegan and vegetarian (participants were asked to bring their own containers).
\$151.20 for tent rental
\$43.01 for hot water urn rental

For Farm Day, we require:

\$110 for plate/bowl/cloth napkin rentals
\$50 for kitchen rental at UBC's Food Nutrition and Health Building
\$200 for honorariums

\$50 for locally made jams purchased at the Farmer's market (these are given to speakers who are not receiving honorariums)

City Day:

\$300 for food. Will be vegetarian/vegan, organic with limited packaging.

Signed (Your Name): Maya Graves-Bacchus

SEC Treasurer

Name:

Signature:

SEC Chair

Name:

Signature:

A note about Eco-Initiatives Grants

If your project is approved, the SEC will reimburse you for the purchases made. You must provide the SEC with proof-of-purchase. If you have any questions regarding the Eco-Initiatives Funding, please contact SEC Treasurers. Arrangements can be made to provide students with funding before purchasing if they cannot afford to make the purchase for their project and then receive compensation. Reimbursement usually takes about 5 business days. Eco-Initiatives Grants can fund a wide variety of projects; any projects related to the environment or sustainability, and involving members of the UBC student body, will be considered. However, requests for funding for projects undertaken as part of coursework at UBC, or individual volunteer projects, must illustrate a connection to the wider student body at UBC.

Completed forms should be emailed to enviro@ams.ubc.ca. Alternatively, we welcome you to drop your form off at our office, Room 245B of UBC's Student Union Building. The Treasurers and other active members of the SEC would love to help you formulate your project, and will be glad to assist with the project's development and applications for funding.
