



The Student Environment Centre

Student Resource Group
University of British Columbia

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Eco-Initiatives Form: Above \$500

Name: Amanda Mah		
Date Submitted: November 23, 2017		
Contact Email or Phone: (403) 926-4386		
Club or Group Affiliation(s): UBC Social Enterprise Club		
Amount Requested: \$3,500		
TREASURER USE ONLY:		
Approved	Modified	Denied
Submitted as of:		
Notes:		

1. Please fill in the fields below to give us an overview of your project:

- Name of Project: UBC Social Enterprise Conference 2018- Shifting Gears: Drive the Change
- Objective or Purpose:

The mission of Social Enterprise Club is to build a community of changemakers by educating, inspiring and empowering students to become catalysts for sustainable and positive change in the world. Our annual UBC Social Enterprise Conference strives to realize this mission by bridging the concepts of business, innovation, and social impact to inspire conference delegates, while simultaneously executing the most sustainable possible conference. Building on the success of the past three conferences, we are confident that ours will continue to be another highlight conference on campus.

The UBC Social Enterprise Conference will connect hundreds of UBC students directly to social entrepreneurs in Vancouver. This will generate a variety of opportunities for students to get involved with these organizations and further their careers in this field. Within four years, the Social Enterprise Club has established a network of over 500 students and engaged thousands across UBC. This conference will serve as another opportunity for students to engage in discussions surrounding sustainability and social impact, while connecting them with like-minded individuals who share a mutual passion for change. As we plan and execute our conference, more than ever, we are taking into account sustainability and opportunities to better the earth. Each year, we generate bigger and better ideas to improve the sustainability of our conference.

- Brief Description:

This is our fourth year hosting the Social Enterprise Conference at UBC. It will be held on March 10, 2018 at the AMS Nest on the UBC Campus under the theme “Shifting Gears: Drive the Change.” This year’s conference aims to build upon the tools students have gained through their education and through past SEC events, and provide the them with the opportunity to apply their learning and begin the drive for change. The 300 student delegates of the conference will be a diverse group of UBC students from all faculties across campus. They will range from students who are new to the idea of social enterprise, to those who are already deeply engaged within the field. The delegates will hear from speakers who have created immense, scalable change within their respective fields, as well as fellow students who have started their own social ventures through our efforts to further showcase and involve student leaders. Delegates will have the chance to participate in workshops, be inspired by our speakers, and network with social entrepreneurs. Our goal is to create an opportunity for students to build and grow their passion while learning how they may generate a sustainable social impact.

- Project Date(s):

March 10th, 2017

- Expected Attendance:

290 student delegates

26 speakers

80 networking professionals

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

Our ultimate goal is to execute a zero-waste conference. To achieve this goal, we will exclusively use compostable cutlery at our conference, while also encouraging our members to bring their own reusable SEC tumblers, which have already been distributed to SEC members. Next, we would like to shift away from the traditional conference, where delegates are distributed paper programs, by moving to a downloadable PDF easily accessible via tinyurl on mobile or laptop. Another example of our pledge toward a zero-waste conference, is our continued collaboration with Zero Waste UBC, who will assist us in ensuring any food waste is composted accordingly. In addition, if food remains left-over, we will organize that it be given to an external food bank/organization who can redistribute it.

Economically, we plan to fill delegate bags with products that have a long-term use. One example of items we will include are seeds from My Green Space that delegates can plant in their gardens. We are also working on finding re-usable cutlery to distribute, such as Light My Fire reusable spork-knives, in order to encourage our delegates to stop using plastic spoons and forks.

Socially, our club stands for advocating and bringing light to controversial topics, which we reinforce through an open dialogue. Such topics include mental health, global warming, poverty, homelessness, and many more. We believe that openly discussing these topics is important, so that we can look at meaningful ways to combat them through social enterprise. In addition, we hope that we can inspire our delegates to become changemakers who actively seek to better their communities. Finally, we hope that our partnership with the Student Environment Centre will encourage us to constantly improve in terms of our sustainability and push us to reach our goal of hosting a zero-waste conference.

3. How will you document the successes and challenges of your project? In what ways do you foresee this documentation aiding future environmental and sustainability initiatives (approximately 200 words)?

In terms of our delegates, we view one form of success as leaving a lasting impression and igniting a drive for change in attendees. If delegates walk away having learned that collective impact is crucial in the process of creating systemic change, they can find within themselves the ability to take the next steps toward impact. Whether it be advice from the panel, or a one-on-one conversation with a professional, we view every opportunity delegates have to realize their potential as a success.

In addition, we have created our own sustainability pledge: a guide to ensure that we have maintained our objective to be as aware as we can to minimize our

environmental impact. With this pledge, we are ensuring that we are providing food that is organically grown and non-GMO fair trade, utilizing locally produced food and beverages wherever possible. Unlike the previous conference, we hope minimize the need for cutlery by serving wraps or sandwiches, however will be using BSI plates and cutlery if needed, and only the necessary amount.

With a detailed checklist of items, we will document success based on how whether we have fulfilled on the items on the list.

With our conference, we hope to set a standard for not only future SEC conferences, but become a model for other organizations striving to hold sustainable, zero waste events.

- 4. For most funding requests of this amount, SEC would like to see other sources contributing to the financing of your project. Are you pursuing any other sources of funding? If so, what are those sources, how much are you expecting to receive from them, and what will those funds be put toward? (We can help you identify other sources of funding.)**

Yes, we are pursuing other sources of funding. While we have primarily applied for grants within the UBC community, we are also looking to reach out to businesses and corporations that share our vision and align with the values of our club. We have applied to grants such as the CUS Special Projects Fund for \$10,000.00, the majority of which will be used towards speaker fees, and the AMS Sustainability Fund for \$5,000.00 which we will put towards the costs associated with stage rentals, VIP reception, delegate goodie bags and speaker gifts. Additionally, we have applied to the UBC Global Lounge Global Fund for \$2,000.00, the UBC Club Benefit Fund for \$1,500.00 and the Walter Gage Memorial Fund for \$2,000.00. These funds will primarily be put towards the operational costs of our conference, and those involved with marketing and promoting the event.

- 5. What aspect(s) of your project will SEC funding be used for? Be as specific as possible with the allocation of funds.**

The SEC funding will be used for lunch for our delegates. Upon perusing resources the Student Environment Centre offers on the website, we have chosen to use Potluck Cafe as catering for the conference. We have been in

contact with Potluck Cafe, and they have quoted us at \$10.88 per head for the lunch. Including networking professionals and delegates, our conservative estimate of 320 individuals leads us to our request for \$3,500.00 in funding for these services. The quote given covers our request sandwiches and wraps, as we hope to serve foods that eliminate the need for cutlery and greatly reduce plastic waste.

In total, we hope to be funded a total of \$3,500 from the SEC.

Signed (Your Name): Amanda Mah

SEC Treasurer

Name:

Signature:

SEC Chair

Name:

Signature:

How to Submit the Funding Application

Completed forms can be emailed to sec.ubc@gmail.com (preferred) or dropped off at our office, Room 2106 of in the AMS Student Nest, during office hours¹. You are also welcome (but not required) to attend our weekly meetings² to present your project idea to our group, though we would appreciate an email informing us of this intent at least 48 hours ahead of time. The executive team and other active members of SEC would be happy to help you formulate your project as well as assist with its development and applications for funding.

If your funding application is approved, the Student Environment Centre will reimburse you for the specified purchases and expenses. You will then be referred to our Treasurer, whom you must provide with receipts and/or proof-of-purchases. Reimbursement usually takes about 5 business days. In the event that a student is unable to make the necessary purchase(s) to start their project, arrangements for advance funding can be made.

A Note about Eco-Initiatives Grants

Eco-Initiatives Grants can be used to 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, funding requests for projects undertaken as part of coursework at UBC, or individual volunteer projects, must

illustrate a connection to the wider student body. Should you have any questions regarding the Eco-Initiatives Funding, please contact feel free to get in touch with us using any of the aforementioned methods.