



Eco-Initiatives Form: Above \$500

Name: [REDACTED]
Date Submitted:
Contact Email or Phone: [REDACTED]
Club or Group Affiliation(s): International Relations Student Association (IRSA)
Amount Requested: \$750
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: The 15th Annual IRSA Winter Benefit Gala
- Objective or Purpose: To benefit Kinbrace, a refugee relocation organization that is based in Vancouver. Kinbrace also provides transitional housing, day to day care, education and helps newly relocated individuals find jobs to support themselves. We partnered with them last year and are pleased to continue this partnership.

- Brief Description: The Winter Benefit Gala will focus on feature guest speakers from around Vancouver and from Kinbrace. We will also be having a sit down dinner with entertainment from the UBC Jazz Cafe Club and UBC Acapella Club. We are having a silent auction of donated goods, with all proceeds going to Kinbrace.
- Project Date(s): This year's gala will be on February 3rd, 2018 at the Jack Poole Hall in the UBC Alumni Centre.
- Expected Attendance: We are expecting to sell 140 tickets to the event.

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

With IRSA hosting our annual Gala for over a decade, this event ultimately has a broad reach across both the UBC and Vancouver community. Our previous Gala last year set a precedent for the future of the event with it being “zero waste” through our choice of catering, and we are confident again that we can continue this. We want to make this event as sustainable as possible, and as such we are using electronic tickets to also eliminate paper waste.

As one of the most well-established and active student groups on campus, our Gala attracts a diverse range of students, UBC faculty, and community members. Through highlighting our commitment to sustainability on a large scale, this event has the capacity to change the culture of how events on campus are run. Not only will we be highlighting to all 140 guests that sustainability is a key pillar of the event, but it will show how sustainability does not have to be compromised within large-scale events. We aim to continue to be an example for the UBC community to model themselves after.

Since holding elections for a sustainability officer, we aim to work directly with them this year on ways to make our event more environmentally friendly. They are directly involved with the planning of the Gala and we look to them for guidance with these topics.

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)?

One of the major successes for this project will be the increased awareness regarding refugees in Vancouver. We aim for our speakers to spark a conversation regarding refugees and their struggles, which the attendees of our event can then share in their lives. By the open dialogue about their culture and ours, we hope that we can increase tolerance and understanding about the stigma regarding refugees.

One of the challenges that I foresee for this project is donations. We are currently in contact with businesses all over Vancouver to secure donations for us to auction off. However, with the large cost of securing a venue and catering, we need to finance our costs associated with our event through external grants and sponsorships.

I see this event aiding future environmental initiatives as the relocation of refugees causes a change in perspective on issues in refugee affected regions. The large migration of people due to conflict or other environmental events such as drought can cause the degradation of relations between the resident populations and the refugees. By hosting this event we wish to host a conversation on refugees but more specifically the environmental effects of these population movements and the effects on natural resources and responses to emergencies in those regions. Displaced persons affect their environment tremendously due to the competition that arises when many people seek survival in one situation. With this event serving as a way to discuss these issues, we believe that we can create a trickle down effect where the attendees of this event can become more knowledgeable about the environmental issues experienced by refugees and take this new knowledge into the community for change.

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.

For other external funding, we are working on securing several grants from both UBC and outside the universities. For UBC based grants, the Liu IR Community Fund can sponsor us with up to \$1200, the Global Fund can sponsor us up to \$2,000. Outside of UBC, we are applying to the Maclean's Grant, which can potentially provide us with another \$1,500 in funding. These grants will be put toward the costs of the venue and catering for our event.

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

This funding will be put specifically toward the cost of decorations and speaker rentals for the entertainment.

Signed (Your Name):

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. You are also welcome (but not required) to attend our weekly meetings¹ to present your project idea to our group. However, we would appreciate an email informing us of this intent at least 48 hours in advance. 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, SEC will reimburse you for the specified purchases and expenses. You must provide our Treasurer with receipts and/or proof-of-purchases. Reimbursement usually takes about 5 business days and can be picked up from the AMS offices on the 3rd floor of the AMS Student Nest. Please bring a valid ID when you go to collect the reimbursement. 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, and we are unable to fund honorariums. Should you have any questions regarding the Eco-Initiatives Funding and what could be funded, please contact feel free to get in touch with us using any of the aforementioned methods.

¹Mondays 5-6 PM in the Resource Groups Lounge (Room 2102)