

## BUDGET PROPOSAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Department Name: Center for Student Involvement

Create Date: 12/19/2024

Due Date: 02/07/2025

Submitter Name: Clare Tupper

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Phone Number: 2536925869

Department Head Approval:

Department Head: Conor Leary

Requested Amount: **\$126,123**

## Departmental Information

### STUDENT UTILIZATION

The Giving Garden is asking for continued funding that will allow us to grow food for students, further partner with faculty in integrating the Giving Garden in classes, and connect with the UW Tacoma community through educational and service-oriented events. If requested student and staff hours are approved, we may intend to expand garden operations in the Court 17 courtyard to provide more food for students and liven up the space. ASUWT and Court 17 both approve and back this expansion and staffing requirement.

The Giving Garden is requesting funds for three student positions. The third position was approved for a Fall Special Allocation as a temporary roll. We believe the Giving Garden is in need of a permanent third student assistant. Three positions with consistent hours will benefit those students

We also request the professional staff position (Giving Garden Coordinator) to become a full-time position. In addition to their current responsibilities, an additional five hours will allow the Coordinator time to focus on grant writing to further support the program. This position has allowed for better collaborations and organization for this role, ensuring future stability, and significantly improving student/community benefit. (See supplemental document)

The Giving Garden is also requesting funds for tools and materials to maintain and improve the program. These funds will benefit students by providing food, leadership opportunities, access to greenspace, engaging them in their food system, and experience working with difficult issues like food security and health equity.

### CORE VALUES/MISSION ALIGNMENT

Students, Goal 2:

The Giving Garden was created in part to support the well-being of students by providing them with fresh produce and access to green space on campus. As our garden grows, we provide more food and an inviting/comforting environment for students to engage with food systems and nature.

We strive to grow foods that students want to see in the Pantry. We have a survey students can fill out to help provide feedback, so we are always supporting student's specific wants and needs.

This year we are also working on a proposal to utilize the kitchen space in the Dawg House for food preparation demonstrations, both hands-on with students and virtual. The goal of this project would be to increase student's capabilities and confidence in utilizing our harvest which may not always be familiar to our students. We plan to incorporate items found in the Pantry so students can better utilize the free food services available to them while engaging with their food systems and their UW Tacoma community in the process.

Communities, Goal 3:

The Giving Garden Coordinator is a recurring staff member of our sustainability committee; the garden is involved in the planning and implementation of events that incorporate the community and community establishments. The garden is also open to all community members both during our hours of operation and volunteer opportunities.

During Summer months when there is less need for our harvest on campus, we partner with local shelters and food banks to ensure every bit of our crop is being utilized. In 2024 we donated 100lbs of fresh produce to Beacon Youth Shelter. We intend to continue this relationship in the future

Local organization affiliations: Emergency Food Network, Harvest Pierce County, UW TMSL program, Grit City Carnivore Project, City of Tacoma's Urban Green, Hip Hop is Green, Beacon Youth Shelter, The Puyallup Tribe of Indians Language Department, and local high schools, Zeolite Composites LLC, Boys and Girls Club

## SAF-FUNDED PROGRAM OR SERVICES GOALS AND OUTCOMES

### Expand Course Collaboration

Interactions have included: Hands on class projects, directed research courses, mini field trips to the garden, guest speaking in a class, classes incorporating volunteering as part of their curriculum, course labs, professors using the garden as an example/practice for final projects, and interviews with students for class assignments.

See the supplemental (2024 Annual Report) for some examples

### Increase Student Engagement/Recognition of Garden Space and Services

The GG team continues to participate in new student orientation and each quarter's Involvement Fair to increase awareness. From these events, we see a spike in followers on our socials and questions from students on how to get involved. Our Dubnet page continues to gain members each quarter.

### Increase Harvest

This year we donated 441.5lbs of produce to the Pantry and local shelter, surpassing our record harvest of 411lbs in 2021. This drastic increase can be credited to our increased greenhouse utilization, consistent student employment, volunteer efforts, and environmental conditions.

### Install More Sustainable Infrastructure

- Next year we plan to work with faculty Dr. Heather Dillon on a capstone project to install solar power for our greenhouse to allow for heating and lighting in the winter months and potentially a cooling system for the peak heat season. These additions will significantly increase our harvest.
- We worked with Assistant Professor Dr. Nara Almeida, her Construction Engineering class, SET, and local company Zeolite Composites to install the first section of permeable pavement in the garden that will increase our "rain garden" effect and increase accessibility to the garden. This year we will continue this pathway and install permeable concrete slabs in our seating area.
- We have installed an additional compost system to lessen our waste and produce our own compost

### Enhance the Accessibility/Beauty of the Garden

We are continuing our work to add more community space around the garden with tables, chairs, and benches. A discussion with the Mechanical Engineering department head, Professor Dr. Heather Dillon, has occurred about working with students to create a gazebo with "classroom" abilities

### Efforts to Collaborate with Other Campus Offices

We have continued a partnership with the Pantry in the CEI and often work with Husky Volunteers and HSF for volunteer opportunities and special projects. The Giving Garden coordinator is also a recurring staff voting member of the sustainability committee who reaches out to many departments within UWT for events and other projects.

We are looking to work with other departments at UWT as well. Last year we worked with the UWT Library and have been discussing a collaboration on a seed library.

### Increase Educational Outreach

Last year we incorporated a weekly educational post on our socials highlighting various topics around gardening, urban green spaces, food security, and environmental justice called Food for Thought Thursdays. With a third student, we would increase our reels to create more engaging educational content and volunteer opportunities.

## STUDENT UTILIZATION (COMPARISON OVER PAST 2 YEARS)

### Student Utilization 2022:

- Donated 160lbs of food to the pantry and CSI office for pick up. These numbers are much less than previous years due to a very bad growing season region wide, a new rabbit problem and being short staffed for a good portion of the year but we are confident we will be able to mitigate those issues to get back on track with our previous numbers.
- Hosted a volunteer event each quarter, two additional work party events to work on a pathway throughout the garden, and one welcome week event to promote the garden and provide a greenspace for students to enjoy their community with food, games, art and music.
- 275 volunteer hours logged with 65 participants (We did not record unduplicated students at this time)

### Student Utilization in 2023:

- 407lbs donated to the Pantry and local youth shelter nearly reaching our record of 411lbs.
- Hosted a volunteer event each quarter including our Earth Day event where we earned a Sustainability Impact Award for our community painted mural and participation in Day of Caring
- Students often use the garden as a topic for assignments or a field area for research.
- 217 volunteer visits (We did not record unduplicated students at this time)
- Roughly 35 attendees at Welcome Days event
- 351 volunteer labor hours from events and open volunteer hours

### Student Utilization in 2024:

- 337lbs donated to the Pantry, Nourish Mobile Food Bank, and directly to student volunteers. 451.5lbs total including donations made to local youth shelter (see supplemental document)

### Volunteers (including reoccurring)

- Students: 85 participants, 171 volunteer hours
- Community members: 29 participants, 51 volunteer hours
- Weekly volunteer hours: 82 participants, 160 volunteer hours
- Special events: 32 participants, 60 volunteer hours

### Event (volunteer/social) student attendees (non-reoccurring) FROM AUGUST 2024 when we started using DUBNET

- 59 students
- 53 undergraduate
- 6 Graduate

Four classes utilized the Giving Garden for class projects and informational sessions (see 2024 Annual Report)

## COLLECTION OF FEEDBACK & IMPROVEMENTS

Using the surveys conducted with The Pantry, we receive feedback on which fruits and vegetables students will benefit the most from.

These surveys also provide us with information regarding which culturally significant foods are the most sought after at The Pantry and whether the Giving Garden can provide those foods.

To track students' benefits we document volunteer hours, event attendance, and the amount donated to The Pantry as a means of measuring engagement.

Based on participation numbers in previous years, we are trying to focus winter quarter volunteer hours on infrastructure projects to increase the level students can engage with the garden when there is limited crops.

Based on feedback from professors we have engaged with we are also focusing on outreach to faculty to increase awareness of the garden and collaborative opportunities

## SERVICE BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

According to UW Tacoma Faculty Dr. Christine Stevens who has been conducting research on food insecurity on our campus since 2018, as of 2021, 48% of uwt students met low food security, greatly surpassing the national average numbers of one out of three university students. These statistics align with national studies (Goldrick-Rab, Sara, et al. Still Hungry and Homeless in College. Wisconsin Hope Lab. 2018) on food insecurity and show a need to assist our students.

The Giving Garden is already addressing this need by providing fresh produce to The Pantry. Fresh food and produce are a big request of students accessing The Pantry, according to their surveys. In 2024 the garden donated 337lbs donated to the Pantry, Nourish Mobile Food Bank, and directly to student volunteers. 337lbs donated to the Pantry, Nourish Mobile Food Bank, and directly to student volunteers. 113lbs were donated to local youth shelter and Hiltop Urban Garden. Continued student employment, increased numbers of volunteers, and with our greenhouse to be heated next year, we expect those numbers to continue to climb.

The immediate benefit to students participating in the Giving Garden is access to fresh, nutritious food that they grow and a sense of service in supporting their fellow students. Beyond that, they have an outlet to be in nature and interact with the natural world without having to leave campus. Exposure to nature and fresh air have been shown to reduce stress and anxiety which is critical for busy students trying to balance their studies, work, and life. (Capaldi C, Dopko RL, Zelenski J. *Frontiers in Psychology*. 2014).

The Giving Garden also starts a career of community leadership with students, helping them learn about food security, equity, and the possibilities of growing your own food, even in an urban environment. The Giving Garden's harvests benefit every student who uses The Pantry and is exposed to fresh produce. Without ever attending an event or visiting the garden itself, students are impacted by what we do. The garden also provides opportunities for students to work on campus in a leadership capacity while aligning them within their community. It allows the students to engage in a professional setting while giving them tools and connections for their future. Courses that utilize the Giving Garden grounds also give an opportunity for students to step foot outside of the classroom, allowing them to learn through a hands-on approach while connecting amongst their peers and building their community. The garden is becoming more and more intertwined with the campus through its partnerships with The Pantry, Professional Development Center, faculty and their curriculum, and Facilities Services. Access is a core value of the University of Washington Tacoma and the Giving Garden serves this value through access to food, education, community, green space, and student growth.

## Staff Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
Classified Staff <sup>2</sup>	<p><b>Giving Garden Coordinator (40 Hours/Week) (Eligible for pay increase after six months) The Giving Garden Coordinator will work with student assistants to manage the garden's 50 raised beds, greenhouse, fruit trees, native plant walk, S.H.E.D., and grounds. The Giving Garden Coordinator will help deliver produce to The Pantry, host open hours at the garden, and coordinate student events. The Giving Garden Coordinator will work to manage the gardens documents and funding sources.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">E001</p>	
	Classified Staff Wages:	<b>\$58,000</b>
	Fringe @ 30.3%:	<b>\$17,574</b>
Student Staff <sup>3</sup>	<p><b>Giving Garden Assistant (15 Hours/Week) (12 Weeks/Quarter) (\$16.66/Hour) (Eligible for pay increase after six months) The Giving Garden Assistant will work with the Giving Garden Coordinator to manage the garden's 50 raised beds, greenhouse, fruit trees, native plant walk, S.H.E.D., and grounds. The Giving Garden Assistant will help deliver produce to The Pantry, host open hours at the garden, and coordinate student event, and post on social media</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">E002</p>	
	Student Staff Wages:	<b>\$11,996</b>
	Fringe @ 23%:	<b>\$2,759</b>
Student Staff <sup>3</sup>	<p><b>Giving Garden Assistant (15 Hours/Week) (12 Weeks/Quarter) (\$16.66/Hour) (Eligible for pay increase after six months) The Giving Garden Assistant will work with the Giving Garden Coordinator to manage the garden's 50 raised beds, greenhouse, fruit trees, native plant walk, S.H.E.D., and grounds. The Giving Garden Assistant will help deliver produce to The Pantry, host open hours at the garden, and coordinate student event, and post on social media</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">E003</p>	
	Student Staff Wages:	<b>\$11,996</b>
	Fringe @ 23%:	<b>\$2,759</b>
Student Staff <sup>3</sup>	<p><b>The Giving Garden Senior Assistant will work with the Giving Garden Coordinator to manage the garden's 50 raised beds, greenhouse, fruit trees, native plant walk, S.H.E.D., and grounds. The Giving Garden Senior Assistant will help deliver produce to The Pantry, host open hours at the garden without supervision, and coordinate student events. Student Assistants will assist in creating and posting consistent content on social media platforms.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">E004</p>	
	Student Staff Wages:	<b>\$12,536</b>
	Fringe @ 23%:	<b>\$2,883</b>
PERSONNEL TOTAL:		<b>\$120,503</b>

## Other Budget Requests

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Category	Details	Amount Requested
Contracted Services	Workday fee S001	\$300
	Seedtime garden planner annual subscription Would take over for our current garden planner that is more expensive and provides less S002	\$84
Non-Food Supplies & Materials	Viagrow Horticultural Vermiculite 1 Cubic Foot. Decrease number of starts that die from poor moisture distribution and help create stronger starts that will produce more food. S003	\$35
	Frost cover cloth Allows us to expand our growing season and help prevent pests S004	\$32
	Biodegradable soap. Basic food safety practices. Biodegradable because we need to dump our water on the ground S005	\$15
	Giving Garden promotional items (Tote bags and stickers based on last years totals) S006	\$1,400
	Phifer Bronze 4ftx50ft Bright Bronze Copper Screen Mesh. We lose a significant amount of plants from slugs. This is a very common and effective prevention. Mesh should cover the perimeter of all beds S007	\$427
	Garden Safe 4-lb Diatomaceous Earth Crawling Insect Killer. We lose a significant amount of plants from slugs, roughly 10%. This is a very common and effective prevention S008	\$16
	44 Pack Pint Green Molded Pulp Fiber Berry Basket The Pantry cannot redistribute our bulk berry donations. This allows us to harvest more berries and distribute to more students S009	\$20
	annual seeds S010	\$350
	Zeolite pathway sign 36"x24" We want to educate people on the benefit of the material and showcase the company and class. S011	\$350
	Rain Barrel Sign 36"x 24 To add informational value to the garden. We have similar signs for our compost bins and native plants S012	\$345
	Potting soil \$12.98x30+ tax and shipping (pallet) S013	\$520
	Two variety of potato at \$25 S014	\$50
	20 Tomato starts at \$6 Tomatoes are one of our most high yielding and popular crop. We don't have the equipment needed to effectively produce tomatoes from seed S015	\$120
	Medicinal herb seeds. To complete project and in collaboration with Hilltop Urban Garden (HUG) A community collaborative project that will provide ongoing benefits to UW and HUG S016	\$50
Equipment	Oscillating Multi-Tool. We will be able to cut materials our circular saw can not. We have had difficulty cutting plastic in the past to the point of breaking it. S017	\$115
	Karaoke machine + 3year protection. Our speaker does not reach the whole garden for events. A microphone will significantly help with large events S018	\$85
	Table for kiwi trellis. Add classroom and community event capacity. Once completed this area of the garden will be a great outdoor study space S019	\$320
	Long scrub brush for cleaning rain barrels and greenhouse. To prevent algae build up and keep water clean. S020	\$25
	Outdoor watering can Only method of watering in the winter and we only have one S021	\$40
	Bolt Cutters We often need to cut thick metal and have had to rely on borrowing from facilities S022	\$33
	Extended fruit picker Access more fruit and support safe practices S023	\$20
	Rain coats and bibs X3 Outdoor work. Student employees often come or go directly to class from a shift. This work is done in the rain and often causes clothes to get dirty. S024	\$215
	Pole Saw We prune our fruit trees ourselves. a pole saw would allow us to prune high branches without the difficulties of accessing them from a ladder. Safety concern S025	\$163
	Storage shelving unit. The shed floor is very cluttered and often becomes difficult to access items we have stacked. This frequently causes the shed to become disorganized and even unsafe to maneuver around S026	\$330
	S027	

4-Cell Handheld Soil Blocker	S027	<b>\$41</b>
20-Cell Handheld Soil Blocker UW Farm uses this method. Easy transplanting, stronger root systems, stronger root systems, less transplant shock, increased air flow, conserves space, cheaper	S028	<b>\$47</b>
Craftsman 20-Piece 1/4" Drive SAE & Metric Socket Set. Our solar power system requires socket wrench. General tool often required	S029	<b>\$20</b>
Rocky Mountain Goods Wheelbarrow Wheel 16" Air Filled Broken and needs replacing	S030	<b>\$41</b>
Corona Sharpening Tool	S031	<b>\$11</b>
SUPPLIMENTAL TOTAL:		<b>\$5,620</b>

PERSONNEL TOTAL:	<b>\$120,503</b>
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:	<b>\$5,620</b>
<b>COMPLETE PROPOSAL TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$126,123</b>



## Supplemental Documents



### **ONE PAGER**

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Basic overview of program impact



### **2024 ANNUAL REPORT PT.1**

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Document highlighting our program's stats and impact



### **2024 ANNUAL REPORT PT.2**

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Document highlighting our program's stats and impact



### **HARVEST TOTALS**

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Date, Produce, Harvest Location, and Donation Location



### **VOLUNTEER HOURS**

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Event type, volunteer type, date



### **GIVING GARDEN COORDINATOR FTE TESTIMONY**

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A request for FTE and explanation



### **STUDENT TESTIMONY COURT 17 EXPANSION**

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Court 17 resident statement on Court 17 expansion. Two other statements of intent were expected from Ryan Davidson and ASUWT, however, they were not received in time to be added