Graduate Student Project Funds Application: Entry # 1756

Requestor Information

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jlam2

Name of Requesting Student:

Jenny Lam

Requesting Organization:

Palo Verde Organic Garden

Contact Email Address:

jenny.lam@uci.edu

Contact Email Address (repeated):

jenny.lam@uci.edu

General Program/Event Information

Program/Event Name:

Expansion of the Palo Verde Organic Garden

Description of Program/Event:

The purpose of this project is to expand the existing Palo Verde organic community garden to double its current size. Currently, 50 residents are interested in obtaining a garden plot. This expansion will provide approximately 35 new individual plots for Palo Verde resident gardeners and will dramatically reduce the wait time to receive a plot from over one year to only one to two months.

The Palo Verde Organic Garden is open to residents of the Palo Verde Housing community. Residents join the community garden for a number of different reasons: stress relief, saving money on groceries, and environmental and health benefits are often cited. Ongoing expenses for our community garden, such as compost and replacing shared tools, are covered by annual membership fees. Membership in the community garden ranges from $10 to $25 annually depending on the size of the gardener’s plot. The membership fee is kept low due to the limited budget of many of the student gardeners.

The Palo Verde Community Garden represents an important contribution to sustainability on campus for two key reasons: (1) all our gardeners abide by organic growing principles, establishing and cultivating a productive micro-ecosystem rather than relying on synthetic chemical fertilizers and pesticides; and (2) food is produced locally, therefore mitigating the energy required in the (form of fossil fuels) to ship fruits and vegetables from other states or countries. How will your project benefit the UC Irvine campus community? Because we are currently operating a small community garden in the Palo Verde housing complex, the benefits are already clear: over 30 Palo Verde residents are able to grow healthy food for themselves and their families.

The Palo Verde Organic Garden provides UC—Irvine graduate students with an opportunity to meet and mingle with their
peers in a low-stress, nonacademic environment. Due to the large amount of time consumed by graduate studies, the community garden represents an uncommon occasion to meet fellow students outside one’s own academic discipline and develop a shared interest growing and nurturing their own food. Further, the community garden allows young families an opportunity to teach their children where healthy food comes from. In total, there are 6 children under the age of 10 years old with access to homegrown food because of the existing community garden. The expansion of the garden will allow for more young families to educate their children about food.

The Palo Verde administration is fully supportive of this project, and the development of our expanded garden has been approved by the University Design and Review Team. Palo Verde administration has set aside a tract of land on PV property for use in the expanded garden. Once water lines and gravel sidewalks are installed, the expanded garden will be ready for use.

**Location of Program/Event:**

A tract of land on Palo Verde Apartments' property

**Date of Program/Event:**

09/01/2015

**Start Time of Program/Event:**

01:00 am

**Expected Attendance**

**Number of UCI Graduate Students Expected to Attend:**

175

**Number of UCI Undergraduate Students Expected to Attend:**

0

**Number of UCI Admin/Faculty/Staff Expected to Attend:**

0

**Number of Other People Expected to Attend:**

200

**How are you predicting the attendance numbers listed above?**

The Palo Verde Organic Garden maintains a record of all past and current gardeners. The number of primary users of the expanded garden is necessarily limited by the number of garden plots available. This expansion project will add approximately 35 new plots, bringing the total for our community garden to approximately 70 plots. Based upon historical garden usage and the length of the current wait list, all the new plots are expected to remain at 100% usage permanently. Thus, this grant would allow approximately 35 additional UCI students and their families to enjoy healthy fruits and vegetables while also contributing to UCI’s culture of sustainability.

Typically, a primary gardener will share his/her plot with his/her spouse or roommate/labmate/friend (aka another graduate student), and occasionally a child. Average turnaround is 2 years. For the 35 new plots that will be added, we
expect to accommodate 75 new members at a time (35 grad students, 35 partners, 5 children) for a total of 375 people over the next 10 years. However, 10 years is an arbitrary number, as the garden will benefit generations of graduate students and their families for as long as the garden remains open.

This number is somewhat conservative. In comparison, our current garden consists of 22 full size plots, 8 of which have been subdivided into half, thirds and even fifths. The subdivisions allow us to accommodate 32 families (instead of just 22). So similarly, if we subdivided the new plots to accommodate the growing demand, we would be able to easily double this number.

**Planned Methods of Advertisement:**

Our garden has signs that are readily visible to people walking by, so they can sign up for a plot. The expanded garden will be advertised in the PV Press, Palo Verde community's newsletter as well.

**Request and Budget**

**Amount of funding requested from AGS Project Fund:**

$1500

**How much do you expect the event to cost in total?**

$10,427.74

**Are you receiving other funding for this event?**

Yes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Palo Verde Residents Council</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palo Verde Housing</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slow Food Orange County</td>
<td>1200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Itemized Budget for Program/Event**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items w/ Description and Quantity</th>
<th>Cost (in dollars)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Waterline installation (vendor: campus facilities)</td>
<td>4000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fencing (vendor: Lakeland Fence Corp)</td>
<td>5840.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gravel (vendor: All Valley Sand and Gravel)</td>
<td>547.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 all-weather signs (vendor: buildasign.com)</td>
<td>40.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gardening shed</td>
<td>800.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gardening tools</td>
<td>200.00</td>
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</table>

**Has your organization received AGS Projects Funding in the past?**

No