

Sustainable Action Fund Grant Program

SMALL GRANT FINAL REPORT GUIDELINES

<i>Project Name:</i> Bringing Dr. Vandana Shiva to WWU
<i>Project Team:</i> Anna Kemper, Elle McKitrick
<i>Project Advisor:</i> Lisa Rosenberg
<i>Project Stakeholder(s) :</i> AS ESP, Fred Ramage
<i>Date that project was worked on from start to finish:</i> 2/25/2016 (event)
<i>Awarded Funds from Sustainable Action Fund Grant Program:</i> \$5,000
<i>Actual Project Cost:</i> \$13,500

One of the most important functions of this grant program is to keep track of projects funded by the Sustainable Action Fund and report back to the student population. The information in this final report will provide important feedback/advice for future projects. Please submit this report to the Sustainable Action Fund Grant Program Coordinator upon final implementation of your project.

1. PROJECT SUMMARY

This project was a complete success. Not only did Dr. Shiva make it safely to campus, but each event that was held throughout the day had many students, faculty, staff, and community members attend. Our goal for this project were to bring a speaker to campus who could speak about the intersectionalities tied throughout the sustainability movement, connecting the social, economic, and environmental tenants. Throughout the day, Dr. Shiva spoke to the Women in Energy club, farm workers, students directly, and the community at large about a myriad of subjects and her personal experience. Our goals were accomplished and then some, with nearly 900 tickets being sold for the main speaking event. Throughout this project we worked closely with the SIRC, the ESC, and the WC. Collaboration between these AS programs enabled us to reach out to a diverse group of people.

Overall, this project ran smoothly. One obstacle came during the day Dr. Shiva was here. Dr. Shiva was quite tired from the previous days of travel and requested to go back to her hotel prior to her big speaking event. This was not a difficult challenge to overcome, we rearranged her schedule and everything was back on track.

We changed the ticket price from \$0 for students on the original application submission to \$3 for students. We did this after talking to many people and deciding that students may have more incentive to actually show up and not blow it off if their was a small monetary requirement.

When we applied for the SAF in Fall, the SAF committee did not have regular meeting times. This definitely slowed down the application process a bit- we would suggest keeping regular meeting times like how the SAF Committee met during Winter Quarter.

2. SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

Our goal for the ESP this year was to increase our focus on social and economic sustainability alongside the ecological sustainability aspect we often see in the general environmental movement. This

is an often overlooked aspect that we wanted to represent in our programming this year. To bring Dr. Vandana Shiva to Western was an excellent representation of that- she speaks to many aspects of environmentalism and is especially focused on the social impact of environmental degradation. This event was important because it drew large crowds- especially large crowds of students. We sold a total of 893 tickets, with 562 of those being student tickets. Her talk was riveting but even more importantly it spoke to how every individual audience member can make a difference in their daily lives. The food we consume is a choice- we vote 3 times a day.

Although our project isn't a long term one- it was only one event- it provided each and every one of those 893 people with a long term investment- education. Every person who attended Dr. Shiva's talk interpreted it in different ways, and will be able to take what they learned out into the real world.

3. SAF PRESENCE: The SAF works to reach out to students, staff, and faculty from a range of backgrounds and areas of study.

Both members of the project team work in the AS Environmental and Sustainability office on campus. We work closely with the Office of Sustainability and the Sustainable Action Fund. We learned about the SAF grant program while working closely with the program itself. We pursued the grant through the SAF because of our projects connection to sustainability and serving the student population at large.

4. SAF IDEA LABS: These info sessions, a.k.a. "Idea Labs," are designed to familiarize potential applicants with the SAF grant process, and to encourage them to apply for grant funds.

We did not attend an Idea Lab prior to proposing our project.

5. ONE-ON-ONE MEETINGS WITH THE SAF GRANT PROGRAM COORDINATOR: These meetings were to help flesh out your application, troubleshoot any problems, and strategize for success.

A lot of the work students do in the Associated Students is on their own. We always have our advisors to ask questions too, but most of the work is extremely self-directed. It was really nice to have Nate come every couple of weeks to check in about the SAF project. Since we've never planned a big event, it was great to have Nate's expertise there. We think every two weeks was a good timeframe, especially in the beginning when there wasn't much to report on. The only problem we had was being clear on how the money would be transferred into the ESP account, and there was a panicky moment when we learned the money wasn't in our account- this should have been cleared up earlier on.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

No, our project was a one-time event. We are very happy with how this project turned out- the amount of people who attended Dr. Shiva's talks and workshops exceeded by far what we originally expected. The event was only one day, but it brought lots of recognition to the ESP and the SAF, and we're hoping we'll have some future big-name events promoted by these groups due to the success of this project. It was great to work with so many other programs (The Social Issues Resource Center, the Outback Farm, AS Large Events, the Womxn's Center, the Office of Sustainability), and I think this will be an important event to look back on when the ESP plans future programming.

The SAF staff's presence was very helpful and never overbearing... it was nice to have the input of the SAF Committee, as well. We think we also did very well publicity wise for the event, and since we started the project so far in advance we were able to reach a large audience. This was definitely made possible by the SAF.

