

## Sustainability Project Fund Application

**Project Title: The Education Outdoor Eco- Learning Project**

**Budget Requested: \$1850**

**Applicant/Project Leader: Dr. Mindy Carter**

### Contact Information:

Last Name:Carter

First Name: Mindy

Emailmindy.carter@mcgill.ca

Daytime Phone:514-398-3872

Affiliation: (Undergraduate, Post-Graduate, Staff, Academic):Academic

Faculty/Unit: Faculty of Education

Relevant Links (to social media/websites):

**Project theme(s): Garden, Outdoor Eco-Learning, Sustainability, Eco-literacy, Culture, Health and Wellness, Teacher Education**

*Please select any that apply from the list below, as these are used for internal reporting purposes*

*Options: academics, community, energy, finance, food, land, materials, social justice, water, wellness & health.*

### Project Group:

*Please include the names, contact information, and affiliation (student, staff or faculty) of all group members*

**Mindy Carter (faculty), Alexandra Taylor (MA student), Michelle Harazny (staff), Alain Breleux (faculty), Pat Jackson (staff)**

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Please carefully consider the [application criteria](#) before you begin. Consult the [FAQ](#) for further guidance.

Application text may replace italicized instructions below. Length (before any appendices) cannot exceed 4 pages.

Last revised: December 6, 2013

## I. Project Overview

Project summary: This proposed project seeks to fund one masters student to develop and assist in creating the inaugural Faculty of Education Garden and Outdoor Learning space for the Faculty of Education, for Learning and Research in Education. There is currently no allocated outdoor learning space beside the Faculty of Education that Faculty members can use to tie their course work and research to. There are precedents for such spaces at the University of British Columbia and University of Toronto's faculty of education's that are used on a daily basis by students, staff and faculty to explore interdisciplinary content, enabling future teachers to learn first hand how to develop eco-literacy and teach for a sustainable future. We wish to create 4 raised beds beside The Faculty of Education to grow food and flowers to aid in the

development of raising awareness on the significance of preparing future educators in Canada to consider the importance of outdoor learning spaces and gardens. Beyond creating the outdoor garden as a learning space we wish to create a sustainability website for the Faculty and lead 2-3 workshops for Faculty and Instructors on how to tie their teaching content to issues of sustainability while out-of-doors.

- *Provide a brief background, describing the project, and the inspiration for the project. What objectives and outcomes will the project achieve?*

*In the Spring of 2014 18 Faculty, Staff and Students from across The Faculty of Education attended a session aimed at creating a garden beside the Faculty of education. This overwhelming number of interested community members who wanted to create such a space was amazing. However, what we soon discovered was that there were no financial resources available for this undertaking and so despite the critical mass of people who wanted to “get their hands dirty” to create and outdoor learning space, we had to figure out how to fund this project. Since this time, additional students and faculty have been interested in learning about how to on a long term basis, tie their course content to outdoor learning spaces. Since Dr. Carter studied outdoor experiential learning for her Masters in Education, she is very much invested in fostering this interest. However, in order to start workshops on this topic and create a website for the projects long-term sustainability and use, we need to request funds to support this initiative. The objectives of this project are thus to create 4 raised beds beside the faculty of education, develop a website that can house information about how to use the space for teaching and research and to lead several workshops for interested community members interested in learning and research in this space. We believe this project will springboard faculty members teaching future teachers to learn how to develop eco-literacy and think of outdoor spaces and gardening as natural ways to teach content to future citizens of tomorrow.*

Project eligibility:

- *How will the project contribute to building a culture of sustainability on campus? Since the Faculty of Education is far removed from the main campus, we feel that this will foster the building of sustainability by developing a community with the Faculty of Education and the rest of the University. This will be done by creating maps to the Education garden that will be distributed to other McGill students to attend our bi-annual “Harvest Day Celebrations”. What is meant by this is that we wish to hold celebrations in the garden, where art work is displayed and food shared twice a year with everyone at McGill who wishes to be a part of our initiatives, as a way to foster community and possibly future collaborations.*
- *Describe the role SPF funding will play in implementing this project.*
  - 1- *Fund a MA student who will be in charge of setting up the garden’s infrastructure*
  - 2- *Pay for necessary materials to create the garden*
  - 3- *Pay for the proposed website.*

Timeframe/Milestones:

- *Indicate the anticipated project timeframe, providing key milestones for deliverables. Please specify projected project start and finish dates.*

*(Depending on Funding announcements the start date may be a little later)*

*April 2015: Ideally, we would like to hire an MA student in April 2015 to begin plans for the garden site (construction) and to assist in developing resources for the website (we would like the website to be live by the end of April)*

*May 2015: We wish to start and complete the construction of the outdoor garden space by the end May and to lead at least 1 workshop on using this space at this time*

*June 2015: At the start of June we wish to invite all interested in take part in planting this garden and to attend several workshops about how to use this space for teaching and to help faculty/staff develop their eco-literacy*

*\*The funding requested to support this project will thus be used April-June 2015. However, additional milestones will continue through the summer as our Indigenous teacher education program and masters in teaching learning students all begin their courses in July. It is our hope that this space can be a place where students may also have a change to “plant their own hopes” for their teaching careers so that this place of opportunity because a metaphor place of individual and collective growth for all students*

- *What performance indicators may be used to gauge the success of the project?*
- *Number of Faculty who tie their teaching to this space*
- *Research opportunities that emerge*
- *Qualitatively, observing the shifts in the Faculty of Education culture as student learn about this space and consider how it can be used as a “classroom” when designing their assignments*
- *How will the outcomes be shared with the community?*
- *Website*
- *We would love to write an article about this initiative for the McGill news*
- *Through our bi-annual community events open to all McGill students/faculty/staff*

Stakeholders:

- *Other than the project team, who will be have a stake in your project? Please list the other individuals, groups or departments affiliated or affected directly or indirectly with your project.*
- *As mentioned, 18 faculty, staff and students expressed interest in this project and wanted to volunteer on creating an outdoor garden space in he Spring of 2014*
- *3 staff/instructors attended a meeting Fall 2014 to learn how they could use an outdoor garden space in their current courses.*
- *In what capacity will they be involved? How they will be contributing to the project, i.e. immediate funding, future/ongoing funding, technical expertise, in-kind donations, etc. Letters of commitment may be attached.*
- *As volunteers who are interested in working in the garden and who will use it for teaching/research*
- *Who will be otherwise affected by the project? Have they been consulted? Please summarize their reactions. Letters of support may be attached.*
- *WE have sent in a proposal to the Dean of Infastructure to ensure this space can be created*

## II. Project Implementation

Tasks and Responsibilities:

- *Indicate clearly all activities associated with the proposed project, the person responsible and the length of time each task is expected to take. Use the table below (expanded as required) to summarize this information.*

Type of Activity – Task	Estimated Time Required	Group Member in Charge
Create the garden, lead planting etc.	50 hours	Alex Taylor
Create Website	10 hours	Hire external expert
Lead Workshops	10 hours	Mindy Carter

## III. Financials

- *Critical Date: Please state if there is a critical date by which funding is required*
- *Please provide details of the budget that is being requested in the tables below (expand as required).*

*We would like to request that funding be in place for the start of April 2015*

**Detailed expenses:**

Expense Description	Estimated Cost
Materials to create 4 raised beds, fill them with dirt and then plant in them	\$750
Hire MA student to create the raised beds and lead the planting	<p>\$23/hour *50 hours=\$1150</p> <p>*Note: Alexandra Taylor, the MA student I propose to hire to create the garden space has been working as an intern at a local elementary school for the past year. In this role she set up a larger garden than the one proposed. She was directly consulted to estimate the cost of materials for this project and “man power” hours to see that the project is developed and successful by the spring of 2015</p>

Website Designer	\$250
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**Detailed revenues:**

<b>Revenue Source</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Confirmed?</b>
Sustainability Projects Fund	2150	No

**IV. Additional information:**

- *Provide supporting information regarding the qualifications and/or related experience of the project leader and other project members*
- *Any other pertinent information may be appended (e.g., detailed budget, detailed timeline, survey results, examples of similar projects, confirmations of funding, etc.)*