PROJECT TITLE: SP0207 Childcare Services for McGill's School of Architecture's Lecture Series

Please answer the following questions and return the completed form to the SPF Staff via e-mail.

Final Report prepared by   Valentina Davila

E-mail   Valentina.davila@mail.mcgill.ca

Actual Project Start Date   Click or tap to enter a date.   Actual Project End Date   Click or tap to enter a date.

Questions

1. Please summarize the project and its key accomplishments to date. In your answer, consider the impact your project has had so far on McGill's campus(es).
   (Unlimited characters, suggested minimum ½ page or approximately 250 words)

 This project offered free, fully insured childcare sessions for the School of Architecture. This initiative allowed parents and caregivers to frequent the lecture series. We teamed up with Le Lion et La Souris, a Montreal based education service which provided play sessions during the allotted time. The attending children received recycled materials to build theme-based projects. The projects that the children assembled included knights' swords and shields, model buildings, large city drawings, collaborative art pieces amongst others. Also, we believe that exposing the children to a school of architecture's environment accomplishes sensibilization towards the profession and extends their understanding of how buildings are conceived and made. Without exception, the children that frequented the activities showed interest for the models and drawings displayed around the school and even received old models to play with. One of the main impacts that this project had on McGill's downtown campus is bringing awareness of childcare responsibilities in the lives of many student-parents. Each kid represented one or two parents who had access to a learning activity who otherwise would've missed it. So far, we've had two requests for information about our project: one from the Faculty of Engineering and another from McLennan Library.

2. Please describe the key successes and challenges of your project. (Minimum of two examples for each)
   (Unlimited characters, suggested minimum ½ page or approximately 250 words)

The main success of our project was to shed light towards the hidden necessity of childcare for student-parents. Hidden because without access to childcare parents would be required to stay home, deprived from that education opportunity therefore perpetuating the invisibility of the situation. Every child that used our service counts as a key success for the project. Another main accomplishment is having childcare and the Sustainability Project Funds announced before every lecture, directly exposing and sensitizing over 200 participants to the need of childcare for special university events and the importance of McGill's Sustainability Office in supporting like initiatives. The reduced attendance was the main challenge our project faced. We believe that the schedule of the lectures (Tuesdays at 6 pm) was a challenging time for parents to reach the school with their kids regarding dinner, transportation time, etc. Also, the school of Architecture is a small department within the Faculty of Engineering and as such does not have the outreach other larger departments enjoy. The childcare sessions were broadcasted using the school resources such as emails, posters and social networks, nevertheless attendance was low. Local architecture collective Kollectif Montreal announced childcare for the School of Architerure Lecture Series in their board and website. Our project also received praise, recognition and publicity in the prominent website/magazine canadianarchitect.com. In general, the project and the initiative to support student/parents was well received, congratulated and acknowledged as seminal for the advancement of society.

3. What key points of advice or *lessons learned* would you give to other SPF teams either regarding your experience managing your project or the project itself?
   (Unlimited characters, suggested minimum ½ page or approximately 250 words)

The main advice I would pass to future project leaders is to advertise your project relentlessly, not only for the participation but for the exposure it will give to the Sustainability Office and to your subject. This is not only about the results but also about showing the community the students and institutions' efforts for the creation of a more

sustainable world. Also, for projects like ours, I would work on alternatives to further include the departments and the school's direction i.e. formal endorsement via email to all the students or permission to display the project in the most visible place of school. In our case, the room we used for the childcare sessions was far from the main entrance of the school and from the Lectures venue. I believe that having the kids in a more visible area would've been beneficial for the project.

4. What recommendations do you have for the future of this project to be continued and are there any opportunities for complementary projects? Who will take responsibility for the project's future and how can interested persons be in touch? The SPF team will also be in touch with this contact for updates on the project's progress in coming years, if ongoing.
   (Unlimited characters, suggested minimum 1 paragraph)

I believe this project should be continued and adapted not only to the needs of the school of architecture but to all McGill's student-parents. One of the main problems, as stated before, was the time of the lectures (complicated for parents and children) but graduate student-parents were looking forward to using it during other events that they must miss due to lack of childcare. More flexible events such as the PhD round table, the graduate forum, and other presentations and lectures aimed toward graduate students are in dire need of an alternative for childcare. Also, I received a number of petitions from fellow student-parents to organize writing-retreats that included childcare, they said that it would greatly benefit they're writing and scholarly work. I propose a bank of available childcare hours per term. This service will be advertised in all major school events such as the Lecture Series and other lectures and if not used it will be offered for writing/study retreats.

5. Would you or your project team member(s) be willing to serve as a mentor to SPF project teams? Please choose one. If yes, SPF Staff will contact you with more information.
   (800 characters maximum)

   ☒ Yes ☐ No

Yes. I'll be glad to serve as mentor to SPF project teams.

6. In your application, you listed the following sources of funding:

PGSS Grant, $800.00.

Please confirm if you received this funding in the space below. In your response, please list the actual amount (in dollars) that you received. Note: If you received funding from a McGill Department or Unit, please attach a letter from its Financial/Budget Officer confirming the actual amount of support.
(1,800 characters maximum)

Yes, I received $ 800 from PGSS. Please see confirmation email attached.

7. Did you purchase equipment or make an installation on campus? ☐ Yes ☒ No
   If yes, please briefly describe how these items will be maintained and used in the future.
   (1,800 characters maximum)

No.

8. The following Key Success Indicators were indicated in your project application and selected for tracking. Please indicate the actual results that you have achieved in the "Actual" column.

Selected Key Success Indicators	Target	Actual

# of participants using childcare at events	8/event	2/event
# of announcements regarding childcare	10	20
% satisfaction rate in questionnaires distributed to participating parents	100%	100%

If there is a significant difference in the target numbers and the actual numbers achieved, please explain. If you have any additional information to share about these success indicators, please also include it below.
(1,800 characters maximum)

As stated above participation was not as expected. Although many students voiced their interest in participating many explained that the scheduled time of the event was challenging for parents with young kids.

9. Please report on your progress with the standard SPF Key Success Indicators in the "Actual" column.

Standard SPF Key Success Indicators	Actual
# of volunteers directly or indirectly engaged in the project	2
# of people (student, staff, or other) trained in the context of the project	2
$ raised for project activities subsequent to SPF funding	
# of tons of GHG emissions reduced by your project	0
# of partnerships or collaborations developed between the project team and other McGill administrative units, student groups, community groups, other universities, and/or other groups/organizations.	3

Regarding the last Key Success Indicator, please list the groups and/or organizations that you counted.
(Unlimited characters; point form acceptable.)

Graduate student association and the new (2019-2020) Lecture Series administration

If you have any additional information to share about the Standard SPF Key Success Indicators, please include it below.
(1,800 characters maximum)

We received a lot of positive feedback and interest in the availability of childcare for McGill events.

10. Please indicate the McGill stakeholder groups that were involved with your project as a team member or collaborator/partner. Choose all that apply.

☐ Undergraduate ☒ Postgraduate ☐ Administrative Staff ☐ Academic Staff ☐ Alumni

11. Please rate your project team's overall satisfaction with the support provided by the SPF Staff. Choose only one response.

☐ Very Dissatisfied ☐ Dissatisfied ☐ Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied ☐ Satisfied ☒ Very Satisfied

12. Please provide any feedback or recommendations regarding your team's experience with the SPF
(Unlimited characters, suggested minimum 1 paragraph)

We were very satisfied with the resources and attentiveness of the SPF staff. The follow ups were timely, kind and helpful. I found the process supportive and overall great.

13. If there is additional information you would like to share about your project, please use the field below.
(Unlimited characters)

I believe the possibility of childcare at McGill is extremely important as a social equalizer. Also, the activities offered by competent companies such as Le Lion et La Souris benefit children and parents.

14. Has involvement in this SPF project positively impacted your team in the area of <u>professional growth</u>? Please choose one. If you would like to elaborate, please use the field below.
   (800 characters maximum)

   ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Prefer Not to Share

Yes, I learned from the project organizational skills and leadership.

15. Has involvement in this SPF project positively impacted your team in the area of <u>personal growth</u>? Please choose one. If you would like to elaborate, please use the field below.
   (800 characters maximum)

   Yes ☐ No ☐ Prefer Not to Share

I believe that participating in this activity has granted me with extra strength to continue with the student-parent advocacy at McGill.

16. Which of the following skills or attributes has your team improved through involvement in your SPF project? Choose all that apply.

   ☐ Budgeting   ☒ Networking   ☐ Systems Thinking
   ☒ Communications   ☒ Planning   ☒ Teamwork
   ☐ Conflict Resolution ☒ Problem Solving   ☐ Technology
   ☒ Leadership   ☐ Project Management   ☐ Time Management
   ☐ Listening   ☐ Public Speaking   ☐ Writing
   ☐ Mentoring   ☐ Stakeholder Engagement   ☐ Other (Please specify in
   ☒ Negotiating   ☐ Stakeholder Identification   the field below)

Other:

17. Since starting your SPF project, has your team improved its knowledge of sustainability? Please choose one. If you would like to elaborate, please use the field below.
   (800 characters maximum)

   ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Prefer Not to Share

Yes!!! Now I think of every project in terms of sustainability and how to improve our carbon print. Also, it has expanded my understanding of what constitutes a sustainable project.

18. (Optional) If applicable, please list the total number of team members voluntarily self-identifying as members of marginalized communities:

Please identify the represented communities below. (e.g. women, Indigenous people, people of colour, LGBTTQI, student parents, members of ethnic minorities, immigrants, people with disabilities)

(1,800 characters maximum)

Women, people of color, LGBTTQI, student parents, immigrants

THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING YOUR FINAL REPORT!

Please e-mail your report to the SPF Staff attaching any additional information that you would like to share about your project (e.g. other reports, research, documents, photos, etc.). Please note that this Final Report will be shared publicly on your SPF project's webpage.