Students for Design Activism

January 20, 2012

Fees Request for 2012 - 2013 Academic Year

89 Church Street SE 144 Rapson Hall Minneapolis, MN 55455

“We acknowledge that the Fees Committee does not award actual dollars, but rather a penny fee that earns dollars based upon student enrollment levels. Any differences between anticipated and actual income resulting from changes in enrollment are the responsibility of the student organization, not of the Fees Committee.”

Anna Bierbrauer
Preparer’s Name

Erin Garnaas-Holmes
Co-Preparer’s Name

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Preparer’s Email

erin.gh@gmail.com
Co-Preparer’s Email

Is your organization an IRS 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit? Yes ________ No ________

If yes, please provide proof of your organization’s 501(c)(3) status. Please note we are a Campus Life Program and therefore we do not have our own 501(c)(3) status but qualify under the University’s.

Funds are being requested for (check all that apply):

General Operating Support: X
Start-Up Costs:
Capital:

Project / Program Support:
Technical Assistance:
Other (List):

Budget

Dollar Amount Requested $ 4,300.00
Total Annual Organization Budget $ 5,000.00
Total Program Budget (apart from General Operating) $ 4,000.00
Section I. Narrative

In April of 2010, several graduate students in the Department of Landscape Architecture began talking about wanting to have more opportunities outside the classroom to apply our developing design skills. After a couple of brainstorming sessions, a faculty member stepped forward to offer her mentorship and the department offered their approval and support to help organize a student group. Shortly thereafter, Students for Design Activism (SDA) became an official Campus Life Program with the mission to apply our design education with innovative design-build projects that address cultural, environmental, and political issues with additional goals of brainstorming ideas, developing concepts, and supporting community events related to the use of the landscape, art, and human interaction and to create an open-minded, engaged arena for the practical application of studio knowledge with the intent of gaining a better understanding of how our ideas can serve the public.

Since our inception, Students for Design Activism has collaborated with several other organizations, including Greenlight and the Student Chapter of American Society of Landscape Architects – MN. Both groups are housed within the College of Design and bring students of like-minded ideas together. Their work complements our group’s mission and activities by offering opportunities for focus specifically on sustainability in design and professional networking, respectively. SDA is uniquely important to the CDES design education because it offers students a chance to exercise design abilities, leadership skills, and community engagement outside the comfort of academia. Not only do students involved in SDA engage in professional-level design problems ranging from small, temporary projects to large, long-term projects; but they also have the opportunity to present new projects and ideas to the group network. Student members both respond to community need and present individual ideas – our work is both responsive and generative.

For further information about our specific activities and projects as well as student involvement in our programs, please see our Performance Report (Section III.).
Section II. Organizational Chart
STUDENTS FOR DESIGN ACTIVISM
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

CO-CHAIR
Anna Bierbrauer ’12
Derek Schilling ’12
Emily Lowery ’12

CO-CHAIR ELECT
Erin Garnaas-Holmes ’14

MEDIA TEAM
Amber Hill ’14 (chair)
Solange Guillaume ’14
Elissa Brown ’14

RESEARCH TEAM
Solange Guillaume ’14 (chair)
Mike Richardson ’14
Solange Guillaume ’14
Elissa Brown ’14
Kristen Murray ’12

ADDITIONAL PROJECT COORDINATORS
Liz Hixon ’13
Alex Hill ’13*
Ally Czechowics ’13
Kevin Clarke ’14
Sarah Ash ’14
Nathan Bond ’12*
Prescott Morrill ’14

*undergraduate student

Section III. Performance Report
Students for Design Activism (SDA) currently consists of twelve or more student members at any given time, all enrolled in the College of Design. Bi-weekly meetings are open to all students and draw anywhere from four to sixteen students.

The goal of SDA is to both create opportunities for design students to utilize their skills to perform real design work as well as to engage in meaningful projects in the Twin Cities community. Events and projects organized by SDA involve both student members (from multiple disciplines in the College of Design) and members of the community. The following small events, held in the Fall Semester and Winter Break of 2011 and organized by SDA, demonstrate this collaborative nature.

SDA organized 5 main events last semester that provided the opportunity for almost 50 students in the College of Design to meet with over 50 community members and practicing professionals to work to generate positive, creative and beautiful solutions to community problems. SDA is also currently working on several projects on an ongoing basis.

LABASH NATIONAL CONFERENCE
Date: March 25-26, 2011
Location: Purdue University
Students: 11
Description: Students from both American Society of Landscape Architecture – Student Chapter and Students for Design Activism co-authored a Student Activities Grant to help offset registration fees for the Landscape Architecture National Student Conference. Students were able to attend the conference, network with other students and professionals, and represent the University of MN on the national level.

ZERO+ DESIGN CHARRETTE
Date: March 25, 2011
Location: Rapson Hall
Students: 45
Community members: 8
Description: Working with Greenlight, Students for Design Activism applied for Student Services Fee money co-hosted a charrette to re-design the area around Rapson Hall to be more sustainable and energy efficient. The charrette produced a design that was presented to and approved by the University Planning Commission and is currently in process of being constructed.

FANTASTIC FUTURES BIKE TOUR: GORDON PARKS HIGH SCHOOL
Date: October 15, 2011
Location: Gordon Parks High School, 1212 University Avenue West, Saint Paul,
Students: 6
Community members: 20
Description: SDA collaborated with Rebar Art & Design Studio in San Francisco to present SDA’s Three Ring Gardens project to community members participating in a two-day bicycle
tour of the central corridor and exploring future possibilities for ways in which art can shape the future of the area. Read more about the tour: http://www.knightarts.org/community/stpaul/abike-ride-across-the-central-corridor-to-plan-the-future-of-the-arts

**STARLING PROJECT DESIGN CHARrette**
Date: October 21, 2011
Location: Abandoned storefront, 2401 University Avenue, Saint Paul, MN
Students: 27
Community members: 10
Description: SDA collaborated with several Urban and Regional Planning graduate students to host a design charrette where planners, architects, landscape architects, interior designers, business owners and community members brainstormed ways to use abandoned storefronts along the Central Corridor to engage pedestrians and potential business owners.

**DESIGN CHARRETTE FOR GRACE UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**
Date: October 26, 2011
Location: Grace University Lutheran Church, 324 Harvard Street SE, Minneapolis
Students: 7
Community members: 10
Description: SDA members were asked by Grace University Lutheran Church to organize a charrette for design students to meet with practicing landscape architects and architects to brainstorm possibilities for Grace’s expansion onto University-owned land.

**MEETING WITH CENTRAL CORRIDOR DESIGN CENTER**
Date: December 6, 2011
Location: Riverfront Corporation, 25 West Sixth Street, Saint Paul
Students: 3
Community Members: 4
Description: Students met with practicing professionals to discuss possible projects to implement along the new LRT corridor in Saint Paul. Students are now drafting proposals for these projects, and hope to see them through in the coming years.

**MEETING WITH WALKER ARTS CENTER OPEN FIELD**
Date: January 14, 2012
Location: Walker Arts Center
Students: 3
Community Members: 7
Description: SDA members were invited to meet with staff of the Walker’s Open Field project and other design professionals to explore a new project/program exploring relationships between food, design and community, which will be implemented this summer.

**ONGOING PROJECTS**
- Three Ring Gardens ([www.threeringgardens.wordpress.com](http://www.threeringgardens.wordpress.com))
- Starling Project ([http://starlingproject.com/](http://starlingproject.com/)) *
- LRT Green Infrastructure Proposal
2012-2013 Student Organization Student Services Fees Request
University of Minnesota – Twin Cities

Students for Design Activism

- Planning assistance with Bottineau LRT *
- Fraser School Playground with Architecture for Humanity *

* In partnership with other students or one or more other organizations

Section IV. Reserve Accounts
Section V. Fees Request

Students for Design Activism holds no reserve accounts as of this time.
Students for Design Activism (SDA) requests a total of $4,300 for the 2012-2013. This is a first time request. Please see the attached spreadsheets for information regarding the allocation of these funds.

During the summer of 2013, our group will remain operational. We will have several projects running throughout the summer, based on students’ interest and initiative, including the Starling Project, Three Ring Gardens, LRT Green Infrastructure and Walker Open Field projects. Students currently involved in these projects will continue their work.

Section VI. Description of Impact of a 10 Percent Reduction in Fees Request
Should our fee request be reduced by 10%, we would reduce our operational cost to adjust. We currently have a very small budget, and a 10% difference would be manageable. Many of our smaller programs are run without significant cost, and we are always looking into alternative funding (grants), so student involvement should not be hindered by a 10% reduction. We may just simply draw less people to our events and meetings for lack of sufficient food.