January 25, 2013

Fees Request for 2013 - 2014 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."

Alex Hill
Preparer’s Name

Solange Guillaume
Co-Preparer’s Name

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Preparer’s Email

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Co-Preparer’s Email

Is your organization an IRS 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit? Yes X 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: X Technical Assistance: Other (List):

Budget

Dollar Amount Requested $ 6525
Total Annual Organization Budget $ 8635
Total Program Budget (apart from General Operating) $ 7035
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 student 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 REPORT

CO-CHAIRS
Alex Hill - 2013*
Solange Guillaume - 2014
Mike Richardson - 2014
Erin Gernaee-Holmes - 2014

OFFICER - GRANT COORDINATOR
Lindsay Hawks

ADVISORS
Kristine Miller - Department Head
Rebecca Kimke - Director of Graduate Studies
Emily Lowery - SDA Co-Founder
Anna Bierbrauer - SDA Co-Founder

PROJECT COORDINATORS AND ADDITIONAL MEMBERS
Don Stark
Shannon Sawyer*
Therese Graf
Elizabeth Appleby
Emily Marti
Liz Hinson
Stephanie Erwin
Nate Bond
Rachel Burand
Nicole Ponath*
Caitlin Dippo
Megan Armin
Kyle Armstrong
Natasha Bogovic
Kali Bruhnke
Sophie Carlsen
Amanda Gentle
Max Hempel
McKenzie Kaiser
Jody Rader
Emily Maris
Lee Anne Mills
Kristin Murray
Travis Rukamp
Abbey Schmidt
Joel Valdez
Gretchen Weber
Emily Osthus
Brook Jacobson

* indicates undergraduate
Section III. Performance Report

Students for Design Activism (SDA) currently consists of ten or more student members at any given time, predominantly enrolled in the College of Design. Weekly meetings are open to all students and draw anywhere from four to twenty 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 2012 and organized by SDA, demonstrate this collaborative nature. Our upcoming events and continuation of ongoing projects further this mission.

SDA has been working on a diverse set of projects that has provided many students within in the College of Design to meet with community members and practicing professionals to work to generate positive, creative and beautiful solutions to community problems. SDA is also organizing events that will provide an opportunity for the U of M community as well as the greater Twin Cities community to engage in the issues our group addresses.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NORTHERN SPARK
Date: Summer 2013, Summer 2014
Location: Minneapolis, Minnesota
Students: at least 5
Description: Students will work collaboratively on an art installation that seeks to transform and further define the meaning of place. This will be a way for the University of Minnesota student body and broader U of M community, as well as the community members of the Twin Cities to ask questions, wonder about and further understand the urban fabric of our cities. The participatory event will allow individuals to interact with each other as well as the installations. We plan to participate this year and next year, developing different installations each year to further enrich the experience for students and the community.

WATERSHED FILM SCREENING
Date: April 2013
Location: Minneapolis, Minnesota
Students: unknown (SDA will have at least 7 members present, as well as previous membeers)
We are in the process of planning an event in our river community, potentially hosted by Mill City Museum. We will screen Watershed: Exploring a New Water Ethic for the New West and host a panel of experts on water issues and how they relate to design and community. This will
begin a conversation that can catalyze a change in the way in which individuals in our community view water rights and ethics.

LABASH NATIONAL CONFERENCE
Date: March 21-23, 2013, Spring 2014
Location: University of Georgia – Athens, Georgia
Students: 3
Description: Students who are able to attend the conference will network with other students and professionals, as well as represent the University of MN on the national level. Furthermore, this will provide an opportunity to enrich the knowledge base of members that were not able to attend the conference in 2011 (the most recent year that SDA had a presence at LABASH). We plan to send students (preferably individuals that have not had the chance to go) every year.

CW LOFTS CHARRETTE
Date: February 10, 2013
Location: CW Lofts Community Room – St. Paul, Minnesota
Students: 10
Community members: at least 15
Description: SDA will host a design charrette for the tenants of CW Lofts to begin generating ideas to transform an open parcel of land adjacent to the site of their residence building. We will not only facilitate the process, but also use our skills gained in school to offer multiple proposals for the transformation of the space.

PAST EVENTS

PRAIRIE OAKS INSTITUTE (POI) MEETING AND TOUR
Date: January 7, 2013
Location: Prairie Oaks Institute – Belle Plain, Minnesota
Students: 2
Description: POI is an environmental/leadership educational institute and retreat center looking for some help with their campus and circulation design. Two students that will take the lead on the project visited the site over break. They worked with the institution to being generating ideas and gain a better understanding of the site and their needs on the site.

CW LOFTS MEETING (INITIAL MEETING WITH CHAIRS OF LANDSCAPE COMMITY)
Date: December 10, 2012
Location: Rapson Hall – UMN Twin Cities Campus - Minneapolis, Minnesota
Students: 6
Community members: 2
Description: SDA met with the two chairs of the CW Lofts Landscape Committee. We took this opportunity to gain a better understanding of what our role will be in transforming a space that CW Lofts has newly acquired.

WATERSHED FILM PRE-SCREENING
Date: December 3, 2012
Location: Rapson Hall – UMN Twin Cities Campus - Minneapolis, Minnesota
Students: 15
Description: Members of SDA we able to pre-screen the movie and raise questions about water ethics in the United States and around the world. After the movie we brainstormed ideas about the way in which we would facilitate the process of starting a community wide conversation about water rights and water use. Furthermore we took the opportunity to begin the process of establishing how we would bring in panelists and professionals to speak about water related projects.

MEETING WITH CLEVELAND NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOC.
Date: November 14, 2012
Location: Minneapolis, Minnesota
Students: 1
Description: An SDA member had a meeting with the Cleveland Neighborhood Association to gain an understanding of how our group can help that community tackle some of its design opportunities: public domain vacant space, empty lots, a network of empty houses.

SDA KICK-OFF TABLE EVENT
Date: September 9, 2012
Location: UMN Twin Cities Campus - Minneapolis, Minnesota
Students: 3
Description: SDA set up a table to generate new interest in the group and recruit new members. This event was extremely successful and increased membership by over 100%.

ONGOING PROJECTS
- Three Ring Gardens (www.threeringgardens.wordpress.com)
- Starling Project (http://starlingproject.com/)*
- LRT Green Infrastructure Proposal
- POI Institute
- CW Lofts

* In partnership with other students or one or more other organization
Section IV. Reserve Accounts

Students for Design Activism holds no reserve accounts as of this time.
Section V. Fees Request

Students for Design Activism (SDA), requests a total of $6525 for the 2013-2014. This is the second time SDA has requested Student Service Fees. 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 Northern Spark project, Cleveland Neighborhood Association partnership, Prairie Oaks Institute, LRT Green Infrastructure, and CW Lofts projects. Students currently involved in these projects will continue their work.

SDA believes that we have had a significant impact on both the U of M community as well as the Twin Cities communities. We feel that an increase in allocation of student services fees will provide us the funds to further our current projects and provide the opportunity to hold and participate in programs that will benefit the entire student body as well as the surrounding communities at the University of Minnesota.

Our request for an increase in student services fees is based on several factors. The three main reasons SDA has a need for greater funding are co-chair and project lead salaries, travel expenses, as well as our intent to participate in the 2013 Northern Spark event. Officers of our group take on project lead positions and spend a significant amount of time on administrative duties and generating designs. Although we are non-profit and choose to do this work for the practical experience and benefit to the community, a small yearly salary of $100 per co-chair is extremely reasonable for the amount of time spent on furthering our groups mission and contributing to the U of M community.

The communities and groups we serve are not always local and we wish to expand our reach of impact. Achieving this will require additional funds for travel, and our partners do not always have the funds to reimburse us for expenses.

The Northern Spark event will explore the features of the east and west banks of the Mississippi River, using landscape architecture as an artistic medium to encourage students and attendees at the festival to explore their campus and its relationship to the river. This will be an art installation and demonstration that will take a significant amount of time and resources. The ideas we have decided to move forward with will cost around $5,000 to build. SDA is asking for $3,500 from student services fees and we will cover the remaining costs through internal/external grants.

Any carry-over funds from the previous year (2013-2014) will be used toward operational expenses and result in a lower request for student services fees in 2014-2015.
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 negligible. Most of our programs are run without significant cost, so student involvement should not be hindered. We may just simply draw less people to our events and meetings for lack of sufficient food.