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Grant for Environmental Waste Art Project

Everyday, people produce garbage waste of about 4.40 pounds (Municipal Solid Waste). These numbers may not mean much to the average American in their daily lives as individuals, but these numbers are much too high. In the United States, in one year alone, we accumulate about 250 million tons of garbage. The level of waste we produce is only climbing, and it is simply not possible for all this garbage to be safely compounded at normal garbage disposal lots. Our levels of pollution have increased dramatically, and the lack of high air quality is a big concern (Noll). Such environmental problems raise many questions about health issues, environmental sustainability, and what solutions are available. Admittedly, as humans, we have not treated our Earth in the best of ways. We have plundered from our lands for so long, that depletion of resources is a serious worry. Our air in many cities is so dirty that it is actually unsafe to breathe in many major international cities, our water has been so abused that it is also unsafe to drink throughout the world, and the amount of toxins from all our garbage is compounding to almost unfixable levels. We have taken a lot of our time on the earth for granted. We have been wasteful with important resources, frivolous with how we dispose of dangerous materials, and have been uneducated about proper methods to do so. More and more scientists are saying that it may be near impossible for us to continue living on this planet after a few more years because of how many natural mechanisms we have disrupted.

Certain parts of the environment may never fully recover from our damage. For the past few years, research on making other planets sustainable for human life, has been underway. But this is not our best solution. We should not just run away to a new land- and possibly ruin that as well. We need to change ourselves.

Perhaps certain animals will never come back from being endangered. Maybe some forests can never be fixed. However, there is definitely a lot we can (and ought to strive) to do so. We need to start immediately, though. We are already in a crisis zone, and we need to start making changes now, before we fully reach the point of no return. Education is key. There is no way we can fix such a large problem on such vast expanses of land, without widespread messages about being more environmentally friendly. We need to start smaller first, by tackling groups of people and different communities. If each community can implement more programs on safe garbage disposal, we can gradually pull ourselves out of the rut we have created. It is very important that we educate more people on the how's and why's (how to dispose of garbage in better ways, and why it is so crucial that we all learn this). After spreading the message, we need to make better disposal systems, and make them actually accessible. For this to actually work, the solutions need to become community wide projects that influence other members of the community and impact the environmental factors. We are all being negatively affected and harmed by the damages we do to the earth everyday, mentally, physically, financially. We need to take more

responsibility for our actions and the world we share with so many other beings. I believe that by taking a community approach, we can solve these problems in an environmentally friendly, cost and time effective, and strategic way. We need to focus on education, and appealing to people's interests (and combining them with the waste disposal projects), in order to spark actual action. My goal is to build an environmental artworks project, by using and maintaining methods that are sustainable and environmentally sound, to highlight the importance of reducing and managing waste within the Evelyn Glen community.

The Evelyn Glen community in Sunnyvale, California is a thriving community with about one hundred residents. It is the perfect community to pilot a proper waste disposal project. The residents are active within the community, and with the right programs, this project will be well implemented into the community. Our goal is to have recycled pieces that would otherwise be trash if they were to be thrown away. Our organization actively uses recycling as a means to teach waste management by holding free seminars for the community on how to better themselves through the arts and waste management.

It would be beneficial to hold a monthly workshop at the Evelyn Glen community center, that parents can sign up their kids for. The goal is to learn about sustainability and create art using reusable waste. Kids will help create art pieces using recycled objects, bringing awareness to waste. The students will make art pieces with things such as water bottles, old furniture, glass, different papers, cans,cardboards. Theses supplies will be collected over time by the

myself as the project organizer and interested students. Waste will be separated and defined by that which can be used again, or that which is completely useless and takes an unnecessary amount of space on our planet, while polluting and exposing toxins into our soil. There will be photo-logs of the waste being collected so there can be awareness on how we can all cut down on waste. Students can help make these photo-logs and brochures. This will help them also be a part of the process and learn about waste, as well as work on their art and photography skills.

I would also like to integrate a summer camp into this project. Our main focus will be on plastics and how they take over a million years to degrade back to nature. We will teach the children how they degrade, what toxins they release into the Earth and into our bodies, and the different types of materials and how they react with each other as combustibles. To cut down on costs, we will have art students and volunteers to teach, rather than staff.

Our goals are to teach awareness on waste management to the youth, to foster creativity through creating art from recycled pieces, and to lessen trash within the community by creating recurring programs within offices. We want this to be helpful for the students, as well, so we will help them receive something in return when we can, such as volunteer hours for school. We will auction off the pieces the children make to show them the value of recyclables, and to send our message out to the broader community. It will be helpful to have them engage with us and see what we are doing with art and sustainability. Our final

objective is to donate art pieces that do not get auctioned off to the community's infrastructure or small galleries to further open up the community's interest and get the message out more. The auction money will help us run our organization.

Children who are part of this program will get to experience a new outlook on waste and will learn to create a world with less waste. We will provide a space where cheap products are flushed out and recreated into quality products with cheap prices. There will be bi-weekly meetups for the committees to plan our projects and look over budgeting. Children from age 7-12 will be welcome in the summer for a week long half-day summer camp program. Each day will consist of planning our what projects are to be made of and going over the environmental problem we will focus on for that day. After teaching the students about the materials we are focusing on, and having a small presentation about that day's issue, we will have three hours of project time.

I would like to integrate some waste management projects into the educational system. It would be most beneficial to do certain projects in the school environment. We would first discuss methods with the school. Afterwards, we would talk to parents about appropriate ideas for different classrooms. We could organize to put boxes outside of classrooms and communal centers for reusable materials to be dropped off. To encourage this, we can have competitions between students, and between schools, to see who makes the best reusable pieces. We can award art students with scholarships. We need to set up

meetings with the general managers of nearby businesses, and talk to principals, deans (of nearby community colleges and universities), and libraries to create programs for students to sign up for.

Another goal we would like to resolve with the help of our art students is our objective of making proper waste disposal more accessible. It has been shown that the placement of garbage cans influences where and how people dispose of their waste (Andrews). Proximity really matters. If people do not see a trash can nearby, rather than holding onto their waste until they do see one, the majority of people would simply litter. And when confronted with recyclables, most people will not recycle unless they are reminded to do so (Andrews). We need a higher number of bins to put waste in, and we need them to be much more accessible.

A common problem that most people tend to oversee is that not all recyclables are the same. It is actually unsafe to rid of all plastic materials together, as different materials interacting with each other can cause combustion and the release of hazardous toxins (The Facts). A project we could combine with the art projects being done in classes or the summer camp, is we could help art students make new reusable bins for the community. We can educate artists on different materials that are safe for bins, and they can build the bins with reusable materials, paint on them, and we can put them around the community. People do not know the differences between materials (Trudel). We need clearer messages on bins that tell people what to dispose of in each bin, and why, in

order to spread the message (Rigoglioso). The art students can help with this as well, by helping to make signs that clearly indicate what can be disposed of in each bin. This will help to educate the populus on different recycled goods, such as plastics, glasses, metals, papers, and compostables. Trash disposal and littering is a huge problem, not just on the streets, but especially at big events like festivals and concerts (Have Fun, Recycle 90 Percent). We hope to increase the amount of reusable item bins, and reduce the amount of trash cans. We believe this will encourage more people to dispose of their waste correctly, and perhaps even adjust how they do it in their homes.

Furthermore, we realize that the disposal of art materials is a huge problem in itself. Many artists do not know how to dispose of their paints and lead materials that contain bio-hazardous toxins. Pouring paints into sinks or garbage cans causes erosion of pipes and release of toxins. This is actually illegal, but many people continue to do it because of a lack of informations (Grant). We will teach our art students how to dispose of such materials properly, and influence other art schools as well.

We seek support in terms of building and program locations. We have several options. We can seek out private institutes or buildings, or lease and rent properties. We may also ask for smaller expenses (for hotels, transportations, supplies, etc.) also possibly some type of bundle of the above expenses.

For our case of support, our document would give potential donors information about why the organization should be supported, how our funds will

be used, and future goals and objectives. We can appeal to individuals, businesses and corporations, and foundations, for our fundraising.

To go about our solicitations, we would accept donations in exchange for recognition from local businesses in the Bay Area, which we would obtain through marketing and networking. We would have a good image on social media, and obtain business connections through sites like LinkedIn, Yelp, and Facebook. Partnering with local businesses and organizations to support and promote each other is always a priceless form of making connections and fundraising. We would also accept supply donations, such as art materials and donations of reusable items.

We would complete documents of our Request Letter, and Receipt of Charitable Donation. All of our workshops and art classes will need waiver forms to be filled out.

Fig 1: Budgeting: \$2,600 budget per Workshop servicing 100 families

Expenses	Cost
Facilities Rental	\$2000
Marketing	\$100
Materials	\$500
Total	\$2,600

Fig 2. Materials Budget for Workshops

Item	Description	Item Cost	# of Units	Total
Scissors	3-4 inch blade	\$7.99	14	\$115
Adhesive material	Glue, tape, ect	\$10	14	\$140
Paper towels	Paper towels (12 pack)	\$8.99	6	\$50
Cleaning Supplies	Everyday 356 Hand Soap (1 gal)	\$9.99	2	\$20
Chairs	(Costco) Folding chairs	Donated	24	-
Snacks	Fruit snacks, chips	\$14.99	3	\$45
Miss. Supplies	Plastic ties, super glue	\$130	-	\$130
TOTAL				\$500

Fig 3: Sustainability Through Art Camp Schedule

Day	Hour	Activity
Monday	9:00	Welcome/ Organize Station
	11:00	Plan art project blueprints
	11:45	Clean Up
	12:15	Pick-Up
Tuesday	9:00	Assemble Project
	11:00	Sustainability Lesson I: <i>Conservation</i>
	11:45	Clean Up
	12:15	Pick-Up
Wednesday	9:00	Assemble Project
	11:00	Sustainability Lesson II: <i>Recycling</i>
	11:45	Clean Up
	12:15	Pick-Up
Thursday	9:00	Assemble Project
	11:00	Sustainability Lesson III: <i>Reduce/Reuse</i>
	11:45	Clean Up
	12:15	Pick-Up

Friday	9:00	Project Presentations
	10:30	Clean Up
	11:00	Project Awards and Sustainability Certificates
	12:15	Pick-Up

We believe that art is the best course of action to start a waste disposal project. Art will allow us to learn about different materials in a more hands on sense. Furthermore, art will preserve the lesson. We will create reusable items that will be permanent reminders of what we can do with our waste. We also believe in educating children as a long-term strategy to changing our views and practices of consumption.

With the help of children across the community, we hope to not only beautify the community with their art skills, but we also hope to educate children and the wider community. We hope to create art and lessons that can be taken home and reused. We want to implement citywide workshops, that are free, so that waste disposal lessons are accessible to all. We want to rid the community of so many trash cans, and replace them with bins for correct disposal, in more closer proximity to events and activities. We want to implement some courses in schools and art universities that teach students to dispose of waste (and art

materials) safely. We hope to start our summer camp that teaches children the importance of sustainability, art, and healthy living.

We hope this grant persuades whom it may concern of the urgency of the nature of this matter. It is truly crucial to implement such environmentally friendly programs, as soon as possible, because we are really running out of time. The sooner children are educated and involved, the quicker we will be on our path to sustainability and healthier living.

Works Cited

Andrews, Ashley, and Mary Gregoire . “Comparison of recycling outcomes in three types of recycling collection units.” *A. Andrews et al. /Waste Management* vol. 33, no. 3, 2013, pp. 350–353.

A study done in the United States to show how people recycle and throw trash when bins are set in place. How the difference of distance of bins affect how people recycle and dispose of trash. Also the study of contaminations that occurs when recycle materials are put together and the toxins that combust. To see what bin types comply with the necessary measure to recycle each reusable materials.

Bonatti, Valeria. (2018). Taking out the garbage: Migrant women’s unseen environmental work. *European Journal of Women's Studies.*, 25(1), 41-55.

This is a piece of work focusing on the efforts of migrant women who deal with gender inequalities, expressing commitment to keep their neighborhood clean and recycle. This takes a look in to migrant life and how they influence recycling to the West. I think this is very important because we see day to day migrants picking up recyclables and trying to make a difference. I think this would be interesting because I have not seen an article based on migrant women and their impact to their community. Something that is not recognized unfortunately.

“Everything You Need to Know About Paper Recycling.” *Earth911.Com*, 14 Sept.

2016, earth911.com/business-policy/business/paper-recycling-details-basics/

Business of Art focuses on EPA and how many colleges and art students are not handling art materials safety and how laws are being broken by mishandling of items. Miss conception of how “big factories” make chemicals but not paying attention to home chemicals and the chemicals we deal with day to day. How schools need to be more responsible how they handle waste because the school produces graduates that follow the same behavioral patterns.

Graddy, Sarah E. “Creative and Green: Art, Ecology, and Community.” *Creative*

and Green: Art, Ecology, and Community, Green Museum,

web.archive.org/web/20160419185814/http://greenmuseum.org/generic_content.php?ct_id=239.

An artist who is passionate about environmental art, how to convey a message about preserving our environment is through art. How to bring a positive message and get people to react. She emphasizes how we are all part of the natural ecosystem and we need to help and work together to thrive and a healthy unit.

Grant, Daniel. "Environmental Safety in Art Schools." *American Artist*, vol. 68, no. 746, Sept. 2004, p. 77.

Schools, colleges all have toxic waste. When I was attending an art class last Fall, we would pour paint down the drain, it is not the correct way but that is the only way my teacher knew how to dispose paint. There is a lack of knowledge and lack of funding for disposing of toxic chemicals. EPA needs to have stricter enforcement of laws and fines should be applied. Teachers of all subjects should require to watch a short movie on how to dispose of dangerous chemicals.

"Have Fun, Recycle 90 Percent." *Biocycle*, vol. 37, no. 1, Jan. 1996, p. 57.

This articles focuses on collecting, sorting and patterns in recycling. Enforcement on recycling in huge festivals where there is a large amount of waste that is left. How festivals did not start recycling until recently. Budgeting in what goes to bins and how much should be invested amount how many people are attending. Goes in to the partners you need to carry out a large scale recycling event. How to get people involved and making recycling fun.

"Municipal Solid Waste." *EPA*, Environmental Protection Agency, archive.epa.gov/epawaste/nonhaz/municipal/web/html/.

This source was helpful in providing what the definition of waste and what materials most waste in the landfill consist of. Presents percentages of examples of waste generated such as woodclippings, bottles, newspapers. New information about what sustainable materials management (SMM), a program where there is access to keynote speakers can be brought in for future educational guest speakers and plenty on topic information regarding environmental conservation.

Noll, K. E., et al. "Recovery, Recycle and Reuse." *Journal of the Air Pollution Control Association*, vol. 36, no. 10, 1986, pp. 1163–1168.

This is an overview of waste management in the United States, how there is a growing number of increase toxins entering the environment, with the global production increasing with industries catering to over consumptions and how they can help reduce waste. With the help of manufactures we can find ways to strip metals and find ways to recycle and reuse. Different types of recycling facilities needed and what materials that are metals that can be reused. Source provides information regarding industrial waste that is being accumulated over a period of years and lists of day to day materials that are responsible for creating toxic residual waste. There are procedures industries have to conduct to provide non-toxic steam entering the atmosphere. I learned that the first waste exchange program was

started in 1972, in Western Europe. Waste change programs are important, it is to keep the waste intact so recovering waste in possible.

Rigoglioso, Marguerite. "How Do You Encourage Recycling?" *Stanford Graduate School of Business*,

www.gsb.stanford.edu/insights/how-do-you-encourage-recycling

How can I make someone recycle? Well this interesting article talks about what scenarios people would recycle in. The positive consequences in recycling, how people want to recycle to feel good, to make a positive impact if they know the negative impact if you do not recycle. I found this article to be too short, but useful information.

"The Facts." *The Movement*, Plastic Pollution Coalition ,

www.plasticpollutioncoalition.org/the-movement/.

This organization is made up with a committed group of individuals who are committed on bringing the end of plastics. We learn the destructions of what plastics do, how only certain plastics can be recycled and what we can do to cut plastic consumption. Plastics are toxic to animals, humans, environment and affecting our global climate. Website shows scientific evidence of environmental impact and how you can take action to make a change with the benefit of free educational information.

“The Movement.” *Plastic Pollution Coalition*, www.plasticpollutioncoalition.org/.

The website shows make links that directs you to a page called Plastic Free Times, it offers so many stories, videos, updated law policies that are helpful to keep you up to date. I don't think the Movement webpage friendly to navigate.

Trudel, Remi, et al. “Trash or Recycle? How Product Distortion Leads to Categorization Error During Disposal.” *Environment and Behavior*, vol. 48, no. 7, 2015, pp. 966–985.

One of the major key issues is knowing what to recycle, where to put it and what is for trash. Most of the things that end up in the garbage fields are capable of being recycled. This journal gives us a look in to experiments used to see how people react to trash or recycling and how we can see their behavior and help understand what we can do so our future generations can know how to recycle and what to dispose.