

# The Green Initiative Fund

University of California, Berkeley

## TGIF Mini-Grant Application Fall 2013

**Project title:** The Ohlone Ethnobotany Garden within the Grinnell "Natural" Area:  
Acknowledging the presence and influence of indigenous peoples in the Strawberry Creek watershed and the San Francisco Bay Area

**Total amount requested from TGIF:** \$800

**Amount Requested as:**  Grant  Loan (Estimated payback period of loan in \_\_\_ months)

**Sponsoring Organization/Fiscal Agent:**

Strawberry Creek Collective

**Project leader(s):**

<b>Name</b>	Ariel Cherbowsky
<b>Year &amp; Major/ Title &amp; Department</b>	Senior, Conservation and Resource Studies Undergraduate in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management
<b>Phone</b>	(760) 419-3457
<b>Email</b>	ariel.cherbowsky@berkeley.edu

**Project Details**

**Describe the overall goals of the project:**

The Ohlone Ethnobotany Garden project aims to work with the Ohlone community and other interested people to create a gathering-space landscape in an area upland of Strawberry Creek within the Grinnell Natural Area of the UC Berkeley central campus that educates the public and the UC Berkeley community about the traditional ecological knowledge of the Ohlone peoples regarding their indigenous land management practices and uses of native plants.

The project also aims to foster higher public awareness about the presence of past and present Ohlone communities in the region and hopes to help establish relationships that will encourage and facilitate the continual participation of interested members of the Ohlone community in the ongoing ecological restoration of Strawberry Creek-one of the many ancestral creeks of the Ohlone peoples in the East Bay region of the San Francisco Bay Area.

**How will the project be implemented? Describe the steps.**

Preparation of the site by the removal of invasive plants will continue in the form of volunteer events hosted by the Strawberry Creek Collective. Four volunteer events involving 115 UC Berkeley students in invasive plant removal were already hosted in October of 2013 around this area.

Initial conversations with members of the Ohlone community concerning the potential aspects of the project have already begun. Continued outreach to members of the Ohlone community, as well as other potentially interested people like members of Native American

# The Green Initiative Fund

University of California, Berkeley

student organizations on campus, is an important priority in order to establish the native community as the foremost leaders of this project.

Interested people will be included in discussions regarding, for example, the site design, the finalized planting palette, the design and text of the educational on-site signage (for example, about the cultural uses of each of the plants), and the creation of an educational brochure or booklet containing supplemental information.

Then, the selected native plants will be purchased from local nurseries or grown from seed in the Strawberry Creek Native Plant Nursery. Advice on successful planting and garden design will be sought out from local gardens, such as the horticulturalists at the UC Botanical Garden. Planting days will then be publicized and community members will be invited to plant the garden.

The educational material such as informational signs will be installed after the planting is completed. Later after the planting, a ceremony to dedicate the garden will be held.

The communally made, downloadable and printable brochure or booklet that accompanies the Ohlone Ethnobotany Garden will be posted to the Strawberry Creek Collective website and other relevant online sites. The booklet could include additional information the Ohlone community wishes to include, an overview of the project process, and more information that couldn't be fit into the educational signs onsite at the garden, such as detailed descriptions of the historical ecology of the region.

The Strawberry Creek Collective, along with other interested student organizations and community members, will work to maintain the site by weeding any returning invasive plants, watering the native plants, leading tours of the garden, and more.

## **Which aspects of campus sustainability will your project tackle? What are the quantitative and/or qualitative sustainability metrics?**

This project works towards habitat restoration on the campus by planting a diverse mix of California native plants that are culturally relevant to the Ohlone community in an area upland of Strawberry Creek where plants such as exotic grasses have invaded and grown.

The educational value of this project encompasses various important themes that concern sustainability; the project will support learning about indigenous management of the land that persisted for thousands of years, the environmental history of land-use changes in the East Bay, the ties between biodiversity and cultural diversity, the problems associated with exotic species invasions and native habitat loss, and more.

Quantitative sustainability metrics could include the amount of invasive plants removed compared to the number of native California plants established.

Qualitative sustainability metrics could include evaluating the environmental education provided by the guided walks or presentations given regarding the garden.

## **How will you measure the sustainability and environmental benefits?**

The survival of the California indigenous plants along with the suppression of invasive plants that have been targeted at the site will provide one way to measure the environmental benefit of the native California plant habitat provided.

# The Green Initiative Fund

University of California, Berkeley

## What is your plan for publicizing your project? Do you have any specific outreach goals?

We will work to publicize the project in UC Berkeley campus media such as the Daily Cal and the newsletters for a variety of relevant campus organizations. The upcoming newsletters of the Strawberry Creek Collective will include updates about the progression of the project.

Local media, including news organizations like the Berkeley Daily Planet, Berkeleyside, and indybay.org, will be informed of the project. Publications, such as *News from Native California* (headquartered in Berkeley), will be informed as well.

Outreach goals include involving as many members of the Ohlone community, the UC Berkeley Native American community, and other interested professors, staff, students, student organizations, and members of the public to participate in the design and implementation of the project.

Furthermore, the instructors of university classes like the Medical Ethnobotany class in the department of Integrative Biology or other classes in such departments like Ethnic Studies, Environmental Science, Policy, and Management, and Anthropology, will be contacted to discuss the potential of including the Ohlone Ethnobotany Garden in their curriculum.

## Project Approvals Needed:

Project Approval from Tim Pine, Environmental Protection Specialist at the Office of Environmental Health and Safety.

## Budget:

List all budget items for which funding is being requested under the appropriate category. Include cost/item and total amount/item requested. Please be as detailed as possible.

Item	Cost per Item	Quantity	Total Request
<i>Equipment and Construction Costs</i>			
Culturally-significant California native plants for the Ohlone Ethnobotany Garden (ex: avg. \$10 per 1 gallon potted plant X 50 plants = \$500)	variable		\$500
<i>Publicity and Communication</i>			
Educational Signs for the Ohlone Ethnobotany Garden (I'd like to include a note about project flexibility regarding the \$300 for signage: Considering that there will be a printable informational booklet garden guide and signage can be made from free/re-used/donated material, if funds for this are not available the \$500 for plants will suffice.)	variable		\$300
<i>Personnel and Wages</i>			
<i>General Supplies and Other</i>			
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$800</b>

# The Green Initiative Fund

University of California, Berkeley