



Campus Sustainability Fund Final Report

1.0 - Project Report

1.1 - Project Title:

PAX + SDGs + UVic = Sustainable Community (Fall, 2020)

1.2 - Report Prepared by:

Please indicate which leader is the main contact person

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1.3 - Key Accomplishments

Please describe your projects key accomplishments.

We hosted three workshops (Nov. 18, Nov. 25 and Dec. 2). The topics included were Zero Hunger, Good Health and Well-being, Sustainable Cities and Communities, Responsible Consumption and Production, Peace, Climate Action, and Water) and how they are related to our University Community.

Each workshop was facilitated by a professional who is a member or friend of the PAX collective. Facilitators provided key themes and opened the conversation to reflect on the key SDGs. Each one of the three-workshop developed differently and had exciting dynamics. But, all the number of attendees as expected.

The key accomplishments are as follow,

Workshop #1 "Sustainable Cities & Communities and Responsible Consumption & Production"

The workshop's highlight was **the connection, connection, connection**. The participants connected so well. Future alliances came after the workshop. Indeed, a couple of community initiatives beyond UVic got to know each other at the workshop. They established a connection to collaborate and future opportunities. We were happy to see that this connection already came to practice throughout a collaboration to offer food boxes with fresh food from responsibly, fair trade, and regional producers. They are including families from UVic to get benefits with a produce box. Primarily, these initiatives are looking to support food security. It provides food to UVic international families from African-descent, low-income households, and immigrants experiencing an ongoing decline in the accessibility, affordability, and availability of nutritious and fresh food, amplifying the pattern of food apartheid that existed before the pandemic.

Workshop #2, "Zero Hunger, Good Health, & Well-being." The workshop's highlight was **community strengthen through knowledge exchange**. This workshop was recorded and shared through social media with the alliance of a non-lucrative civil society organization that is led by the speaker, Alvaro Alarcón

Tabares. The workshop was more like a lecture, and it has some challenges because of the speaker's language barrier. We tried to balance this, and we presented short videos and a PowerPoint presentation. The moderator also played a crucial role in expanding the conversation to reflect on how the themes related to our communities around Victoria B.C.

Workshop #3 "Peace, Climate Action & Water." The workshop's highlights were **reconnection and activism through the co-creation of art. It was an international, multicultural, and creative virtual space.** This workshop was an online gathering between creators and like-minded people. Together, they reflect on creating social change through arts and culture focusing on themes around peace, water and climate change as an urgent matter that requires collective efforts and actions. It was a rich conversation that showcases past work between UVic artists from different faculties and disciplines and artists from Mexico. A video clip of 12 minutes was launched at this workshop before it went to social media through the PAX Collective and others' official channels. Also, it was rewarding to have a lot of audience from UVic, but also internationally. Likewise, some key international authorities came to the workshop and expressed their support for this type of initiative and the PAX collective work (e.g., attendees from the Consulate of Mexico in Vancouver and a collaborator of the Minister of Tourism in Mexico, Baja California Sur State).

1.4 - Student Learning:

Please describe how the expected student learning opportunities were realized.

Workshop #1 "Sustainable Cities & Communities and Responsible Consumption & Production." Students and participants were able to talk about the micro-cosmos at Uvic. We discussed opportunities to make UVic a sustainable community with responsible consumption and production within the ring. Critical voices were heard, and good reflections and potential solutions came as part of our conversation. For example, students reminded when Starbucks came to campus and displaced the salt spring café and local business. Also, it was highlighted the vital advocacy work that UVSS and GSS have done in the past. We recognize the critical position of significant UVic initiatives like the food bank, free store, community cabbage and the community garden. However, this last one is usually is limited in spaces for new members, and a waiting list can take a year or more. Lastly, there was a meaningful conversation about the green spaces at UVic and how they can be used with native plants, Indigenous gardens and food security approaches. A participant mentioned/questioned that for UVic, it shouldn't be difficult to establish more production-consumption cycles inside the campus. Is it possible? Another student commented that with so much land and personal, this and other initiatives that involve soil, food and community connections can be possible inside the ring. Finally, some comments raised attention to UVic policies and how the current policies are encouraging or limiting the creation of a sustainable community with responsible consumption.

Workshop #2, "Zero Hunger, Good Health, & Well-being." The learning opportunity about this workshop came at the end of the workshop with intense and deep reflections about equity and the influences of social determinants of health the well-being. It was highlighted the concerns about affordable housing and the interconnections of it with good health and well-being. The GSS is currently working on a proposal to explore a co-op housing project for grad students and their families for the long term. UVic is working to increase dorms for undergrad. There should also be alternatives for graduate students and their specific needs. Naloxone training, Multi-faith programming, UVic food bank and family housing food market was mentioned as successful initiatives.

Workshop #3 “Peace, Climate Action & Water.” This workshop was very interactive and artistic. The themes were covered through short videos, photography, and artwork related to the concern of climate change worldwide. But, especially for BC and Vancouver Island, it was commented about precise cuts and the deforestation. Besides, the collective highlighted the opportunities to continue having these conversations in our communities to inspire positive social change. The discussion covered themes of social justice, activism, decolonization, and resistance. Finally, it was highlighted the crucial role of women and their voices to be heard as part of the work to co-create communities of peace and environmental work such as climate action. UVic has a great community of researchers and students. There is a huge potential to create interdisciplinary projects to implement art-based projects, knowledge mobilization programs and social campaigns towards sustainable development social-climate action in our UVic community.

1.5 - Goal Acquisition:

Was the project goal achieved? In answering please describe the how the project effected the relevant stakeholders and where the project is currently.

The project goal was achieved. The three workshops had the number of attendees as expected. The participants were engaged and actively participated collaboratively during the events and even after through collaborations for other similar projects. It was fantastic to see that these workshops promoted new relationships and connections to like-minded people, leading to future alliances. Indeed, our stakeholders' work (e.g., UVic Graduate Students' Society, UVic Social Justice Studies, UVic Human rights volunteers' group) played a crucial role in planning and implementation and reaching out to participants that care about sustainability. Participants came with an open mind and heart to participate in the conversation and the potential positive changes in our communities.

The Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability was always very supportive during all the stages of this project. They helped to create a website to promote the workshops, and it was super helpful.

Currently, the project will continue working toward the promotion of sustainable goals with an arts-based approach. We valued the human capital that is continually growing. We want to keep working because we know that climate action is an ongoing project. We are aware of the urgency of making real changes collectively. We want to be part of social change through our expertise in creating and sharing arts. We believe that knowledge mobilization is critical to inspiring and educating others in our communities. We seek to keep growing as a community of artists and people like-minded along with stakeholders.

1.6 - Long Term Consequences:

How will this project be continued and its accomplishments carried forward?

Learning resources were shared per each theme covered per workshop. The third and last workshop of the series was exceptional and showcased the power of collaboration and co-creating. The Global Pax Collective is an excellent example of a multicultural group working together towards a sustainable and peaceful community. The collective and this project believe that sustainable work is essential, a world where we can thrive as humans who care about the environment and human and climate rights. We hope to keep collaborating in projects inside the campus and other advocacy groups and

with researchers and other academic opportunities. We aim to explore a collaboration between students from Theatre, Sociology, Public Health, and Interdisciplinary Studies to develop a potential arts-based research project that involves intersections between well-being and climate justice/action at UVic and beyond.

1.7 - Lesson's learned:

What advice would you give others attempting similar projects through Sustainability Fund?

Working with stakeholders has been essential to have a more robust network of potential participants. Especially during the pandemic, some students and members of our community may experience Zoom fatigue. However, if you reach out to the right people that care and connect with the themes you are covering, that will make a difference. For example, it was important for our project to reach out to participants who wanted to engage in social justice and climate justice themes. Participants appreciate the invitation. They are usually eager to attend and connect with others working on similar projects.

1.8 - Timeline:

Please provide the *actual* project start and end dates

Start Date: November 18th, 2020

End Date: December, 2nd, 2020

1.9 - Feedback

Do you have any feedback for the Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability or the Sustainability Fund Application Review Committee regarding your experience with the Fund?

N/A

2.0 - Project Financials

2.1 – Budget

Please provide a completed final budget describing how the budget provide was actually spent. Please provide receipts for any expenses that have not yet been claimed through the Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability.

Speakers honorariums as follows,
Ariel Reyes Antuan \$200
Sarai Berenice Gomez Lugo \$150
Olvie Lee \$150
Lindsay Delaronde \$150
Matilde Cervantes Navarrete \$300 (\$150 for graphic design and promotions and \$150 for the International speaker, Alvaro Alarcón Tabares).

Total: \$950 CAD.

Please submit completed forms electronically to sustcoord@uvic.ca