

KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Combined Grant Subcommittee
of the Board of Supervisors and
Special Board of Supervisors
Meeting
Monday, August 22nd, 2022
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/93675999679>

Grant Subcommittee Meeting Agenda

Call to Order

1. Preliminary Matters

- a) Introductions
- b) Additions or Corrections to the Agenda
- c) Adoption of the Board Agenda

2. Public Comment

3. Grant Subcommittee Items:

Member Jurisdiction Grant Program Items

5:00 pm – 5:15 pm

Close outs:

- 1. Young Women Empowered – Nature Connections – Healthy Food Initiative
- 2. Villa Comunitaria – Salsa de la Vida

Regional Food System Grant Program Items

5:15 pm – 6:00 pm

Guest Attending: Talia London from The Common Acre to discuss amendment approved at the last meeting

Close outs:

- 1. Washington Water Trust, FF00089, Dry Farming
- 2. South King County Food Coalition/FAACT

Board of Supervisors Special Meeting Agenda Items

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

1. Unfinished Business

- a) Strategic Planning Workshop -Tevin Medley – Athena Group (Information Discussion)



King Conservation District Member Jurisdiction Grant Program Grant Agreement Close Out

Grant Summary Information

Recipient: Young Women Empowered

Project Title: Y-WE Nature Connections - Healthy Food Initiative

Project Description:

In our Y-WE Nature Connections program, we will deliver a healthy food initiative serving members of communities of color in South Seattle. Growing out of community feedback in current KCD-supported activities, we will deliver an expanded approach to support community members in growing and accessing healthy food in diverse locations. We will provide community-based training and support focused on healthy food production, land access, green career skills and empowering cultural narratives.

Funding Source and Year: 2019 KCD-Seattle Community Partnership Grant Program

Start Date: 07/01/2020

End Date: 06/30/2022

Date Awarded: 12/10/2019

Grant Budget Summary

Returned Funds:

Payment Summary

Award Amount:

\$75,000.00

Amount Returned:

\$n/a

Amount Paid to Date:

\$58,947.11

Amount Spent:

\$75,000.00

Date Returned:

n/a

Final Payment: Date:

\$16,052.89

Amendment Request Summary:

Yes N/A Notes:

Scope of Work Revision:

☐ ☒

Budget Revision:

☒ ☐

Revised to reflect actual expenditures

Completion Date Extension:

☐ ☒

Copies of Work Product (check box or describe below)

☐ Designs/Plans

☒ Brochures/Publications

☐ Curricula

☒ Photos

☐ Video

☐ Sign Mock-Ups

Other:

KCD Acknowledgement:

The King Conservation District grant is warmly acknowledged whenever we speak about the generous funders and partners who make our Y-WE Nature Connections program possible. We mention KCD frequently in meetings with partner organizations, in grant reports, in program summaries, and in conversations with other funders.

In our published materials, we have acknowledged KCD in ways such as the following:

On our website partners page: With gratitude, we're honored to highlight our incredible supporters and partners. Thank you for your commitment to Y-WE! KCD's name, logo and a link to the KCD website are listed at the top. Here is the link to that webpage: <https://youngwomenempowered.org/our-partners/>

In our annual report: See p. 23 of our 2021-22 report where we thank the champions who make Y-WE possible. KCD is listed alphabetically under grantors. Here is the link to our Impact Page – scroll down and click on the annual report to view the full report:
<https://youngwomenempowered.org/our-impact/>

We have excerpted the cover and acknowledgement page that thanks KCD, and uploaded it here.

In our public event and fundraiser programs: We thank program partners and funders by thanking them in our event programs. We have acknowledged KCD by name in the programs of several of our public events, which are attended by 150-300+ people.

Site Visit Description:Date: **8/10/22**N/A: ☐

KCD staff visited Marra Farm (Liz took photos in addition to the amazing photos Y-WE sent us) and saw all of the wonderful changes that had been made to the Y-WE plot since we visited in 2020. We had the opportunity to meet 4 Y-WE interns and talk with them about their experiences working with Y-WE.

They've added several raised beds in response to soil contaminant testing. They've built worm bins and implemented other composting techniques to manage farm waste. They've held several learning and community events at the farm combining hands-on experiences with community building and learning about all things gardening and food justice. They've learned about the history of the land that is now Marra Farm and what that means for them going forward. They've connected with many other KCD-grantee organizations to learn from them, share information about each other's farms and organizations. They've experienced the trials and tribulations that go hand-in-hand with growing food in the urban environment and worked together with organizations and farmers with neighboring plots at Marra Farm to help each other out and share knowledge (including fellow grantee Villa Comunitaria's Salsa de la Vida farm plot).

Planting Projects:

Maintenance/Monitoring

Completed: ☐ Ongoing by Y-WE with other funds: ☒**Reporting Summary:**

Yes

No

Notes:

Progress Reports:

☒☐

Expense Reports:

☒☐

Final Reports:



Project Accomplishments and Successes

The Y-WE Nature Connections (NC) program had many accomplishments and successes with our Healthy Food Initiative during this grant period in which we served 179 non-duplicated Y-WE youth (original target 50), 30 non-duplicated Y-WE youth interns (original target 4), 43 Y-WE mentors (original target 20), and 359 community members (original target 150).

Side by side with mentors, young women engaged in environmental learning and became environmental stewards. Through urban farming and habitat protection, we integrated STEM learning in real-world contexts. We recognize that environmental and food injustice are inseparable from systemic racism, and this program provided ways for community members to take action for change. NC participants engaged in food systems learning and food production while developing skills through a wide range of environmental health/food activities, being active outdoors and exploring pathways to green careers. Because of COVID-19, we had to cancel planned in-person activities at certain times, during which we continued to offer remote activities and support such as providing healthy food to community members. Below are selected examples of accomplishments and successful program activities.

Throughout the whole grant period, young women engaged in urban farming and environmental stewardship at Marra Farm in South Park. Between 7/20-12/20, some food grown in Y-WE's garden plot was donated to Providence Regina Food Bank to support community members in need. Participants gained environmental knowledge and farming skills, while engaging in: learning about pollinators and medicinal flowers, composting, weeding the garden plot, clearing land for planting, discussing environmental racism and the history of Indigenous people and other BIPOC folks in the area, Hamm Creek restoration and stewardship (e.g. planting native plants and removing invasives), learning about soil health, gaining gardening skills, harvesting produce (e.g. beans, zucchini, lettuce). Young women of color deepened their connection to nature as they engaged in late season gardening – harvesting, overwintering crops, and putting the garden to bed.

Farm activities included pickling radishes with Shanelle Donaldson, founder of Percussion Farms, feeding the farm's chickens, and caring for cold-weather plants like kale. Youth learned about medicinal plants with Xochitl Garcia who grows herbal medicine with Villa Comunitaria. Youth engaged in herbal salve-making, planted cover crops, and planted garlic in home garden containers donated by the Black Farmers Collective.

We delivered a September 2020 Black Voices in Climate Justice panel, centering Black women leaders and exploring how environmental racism disproportionately affects BIPOC communities. Panelists included Tiara Moore (Nature Conservancy Postdoc scientist, focus on ecosystem biodiversity), Tarika Powell (Climate Scientist), Nyema Clark (Nurturing Roots Farm), and Eridon Stewart, a Y-WE youth who said: I don't want future generations to have to navigate a broken world....Y-WE is what introduced me to climate activism.

We led small-group hikes at Mt Rainier National Park, and offered a Nature, Art and Journaling series. 2020 NC youth data include, in one cohort, 100% of survey respondents reporting increased personal connection with the natural environment.

Between 1/21-5/21 at Marra Farm, food grown in Y-WE's garden was again donated to Providence Regina Food Bank as well as to South Park mutual aid food distribution sites. Activities included: Exploring environmental justice themes; planting and tending crops and pollinator-friendly wildflowers; planting seedlings in compostable pots; composting and learning about composting; feeding chickens with Tara Migliore of Marra Farm Chicken Cooperative. Youth made strawberry jam with Shanelle Donaldson of Percussion Farms. Youth learned about food production and preservation, historical and present-day, in BIPOC communities. Youth built raised beds for growing, and made plant medicine with Shelagh Brown, a local Black herbalist.

At an environmental justice presentation to youth in the Teen Creative Society at King County Library, Y-

WE staff touched on themes of farming as healing, food apartheid, destruction of native land, and soil pollutants. At Centering the Mental Health of Black Youth, a KCTS 9 event, Y-WE youth and staff spoke about the NC program and how engaging with the natural world supports mental health. With the Mountaineers, youth practiced outdoor climbing skills.

We offered a Community Healing Space centering Asian women at Marra Farm. Led by Y-WE's API Solidarity Group, Y-WE hosted this healing space to process anti-Asian violence, and to center Asian women in our community in healing and being seen and heard. Activities included gardening, exploring the farm, karaoke and community connection.

In an Ocean's Healing Hands series, youth explored our cultural relationships with the sea and learned about marine science, with partner Sea Potential, which connects BIPOC youth to marine ecosystems. Youth explored hiking, beach tidepooling, Leave No Trace, water chemistry, and more. 100% of survey respondents reported increased interest in regular outdoor activities.

Activities between 6/21-12/21 included ongoing Marra Farm activities. During a July 2021 Y-WE arts camp, we partnered with Wa Na Wari (which reclaims Black cultural space) on their garden (part of the BLOOM Food Justice Series). Youth transformed an overgrown garden area as they planted beets, spinach, and okra, removed invasives, and learned about seed-keeping and medicinal plants.

In August 2021, we delivered a five-day Water Justice Camp with Sea Potential. Youth learned about water justice, stormwater mgmt., rain gardens, did hands-on rain garden planning, and tidepooled. Of 18 youth survey respondents, 92% reported increased interest in environmental justice. One youth said: I liked how it felt like a safe non-judgmental space to be comfortable while learning and connecting to nature and bonding with more BIPOC girls my age.

In August, we offered a South Asian Youth Leadership in Food Justice program at Ayeko Farm in Enumclaw. South Asian youth explored growing and eating healthy food, histories of South Asian food and people, and environmental justice. Youth gardened, cleaning up kale and planting South Asian staples like fenugreek and cilantro.

We coordinated two youth internship programs in July-Aug. 2021. In the Y-WE Marra Farm Summer Internship, with partners Solid Ground and Seattle Tilth, interns grew food, harvested and donated produce locally. Youth maintained the garden and planted seeds and starts. In the second internship program - Urban Innovators - local youth prepped vegetable beds, planted, weeded, watered, harvested, washed produce, cared for fruit trees, composted, and learned about plant medicine. Of 10 intern survey respondents, 100% reported increased: Knowledge of new skills such as planting, harvesting, etc. 90% reported increased intention to take action for environmental and food justice. Of youth in our Urban Innovators program, 90% reported increased knowledge about food/environmental justice issues.

Fall farm activities for youth included harvesting vegetables and planting cold-weather starts. Youth built cedar raised beds with La Matriarca Woodworking, a women-Latinx-owned business. Youth laid down compost and planted cover crops and alliums in raised beds they built. Local herbalist Lashanna Williams guided youth in harvesting herbs, medicines, seeds, and making herbal tea. Shanelle Donaldson of Percussion Farms facilitated a food preservation workshop and shared history of food preservation in local BIPOC communities. At a work party, youth sheet-mulched our Three Sisters and pumpkin patch area, and learned how microorganisms help the soil.

Between 12/21-5/22: At Discovery Park, Seattle, we partnered with Na'ah Illahee at the Daybreak Star Cultural Center. In a restoration project in the Indigenous-led Food Sovereignty Forest, youth inoculated nurse Alder logs with reishi and oyster mushroom plugs. On other Seattle outings, youth learned how to identify local trees, use maps, and engage in nature meditation.

At Marra Farm in early 2022, youth engaged in spring gardening: weeding, prepping soil, planting peas. Youth added compost, and planted broccoli, beets, turnips, kale, spinach, cabbage and carrots in the raised beds.

Youth also convened an initial meeting of the Environmental Justice Collective to explore environmental and food justice in BIPOC communities, and learned about the history of the Duwamish and Coastal Salish people on local land.

In April, youth engaged in Hamm Creek restoration with our partner Dirt Corps - planting native edible plants (including flowering red currant, Salmonberry, Tall Oregon Grape, Carax) and digging up Himalayan blackberry roots by our farm plot.

Youth worked with La Matriarca Woodworkings to build individual container gardens to take home and to give to community members. Youth filled their container garden pots with soil and planted starts such as basil and peppers, which was also practice for the Spring Celebration. Youth planted summer crops, including zucchini, tomatoes and bush beans, and learned about plant medicine.

Our Marra Farm Spring Celebration in June was hosted by Y-WE youth, staff, and mentors, with over 100 people from Y-WE and the wider community on hand. Community members received free, youth-made wooden garden containers, which they could fill with soil and add vegetable and herb starts. We provided resources for attendees to learn about plants, gardening, and food justice, including plant guides. Prior to the event, youth created a zine featuring art, stories, and info on their farming experience and food justice. The professionally-printed zines were then shared free with attendees. The event ended with karaoke at the farm plot.

Regional Benefits

During this grant period, they Y-WE Nature Connections – Healthy Food Initiative program benefited the region by building community, growing food at Marra Farm to share with community members, educating about healthy eating and providing health and environmental/food justice information to many community members, and creating rich opportunities for participants from throughout the region to engage in program activities.

Youth environmental stewardship and young women's community leadership are part of how we have advanced the work of shifting narratives and cultural norms in our region, increasing community connections and awareness around healthy food access and environmental justice. We believe this momentum can continue to grow and spread. We intend to continue this work in Y-WE Nature Connections and Y-WE Grow program activities in coming months and years.

Y-WE's strong partnership with the South Park community, which has grown with KCD support, has led to community-building that supports the health of our region. We expanded and deepened relationships to partner with Cultivate South Park, the Urban Fresh Food Collective, and fellow members of the Marra Farm Coalition including Solid Ground, the Salsa de la Vida Promotoras at Villa Comunitaria, Flowers Sow Urban, P-Patch, and Mien farmers, and many other local partners. We have not only informally supported each other to enrich Marra Farm and our ability to grow food with and for the community, we have also organized to meaningfully address the needs and wants of the South Park community. These efforts have manifested through our participation in the neighbor-organized South Park free meal distribution program, the free pantry system in the neighborhood, El Mercadito Farmers Market, and distribution of over 150 free container gardens along with soil, plant starts, and seeds at our Marra Farm Community Celebrations.

Marra Farm and South Park have reciprocated impact on our Y-WE participants living across the Puget Sound region outside of the neighborhood. Youth in the Y-WE Nature Connections program have tended to the land at Marra Farm, planting seeds to grow food for the community while enjoying the personal benefits of being outside, getting to know each other better as they weeded, understanding the history of the farm, South Park, and the Duwamish Valley while honoring the original Indigenous stewards of this land, and learning how to grow the fruits and vegetables they love to eat, but many had only ever picked

at the grocery store.

Obstacles and Challenges

The impact of COVID-19 continued to be a major challenge during this grant period, especially for Y-WE youth and families facing inequitable access and disproportionate impact. Y-WE youth have continued to experience significant levels of exhaustion, stress and anxiety, as well as burnout from excessive online engagement. As the pandemic has continued, and public health guidelines evolved, we have delivered increased in-person program offerings with careful COVID-safe practices. We are prepared to continue adjusting program approaches in response to evolving public health guidelines. We know that our work has provided stable, reliable, and deeply supportive community for our young people, something they have urgently needed.

We're mindful that the challenges of this time will continue to be present for our youth in coming months. We will continue learning and refining our approach as we go, guided by the feedback and priorities of our youth. We will continue mobilizing resources and providing supportive connections and opportunities for our youth and communities. We are committed to sustaining the work toward justice, healing and culture change.

One great challenge is that youth mental health is a public health crisis. The U.S. Surgeon General's December 2021 advisory, Protecting Youth Mental Health, notes that "Since the pandemic began, rates of psychological distress among young people, including symptoms of anxiety, depression, and other mental health disorders, have increased. In early 2021, emergency department visits...for suspected suicide attempts were 51% higher for adolescent girls ...compared to...2019."

Y-WE youth have described increased anxiety, stress, depression, suicidal ideation, and other mental health challenges as they navigate the pandemic, social isolation and ongoing systemic oppression. This past year, more young women than ever in Y-WE reported feelings of suicidal ideation, grief, trauma, and fear.

In recent months, Y-WE has been significantly increasing our mental health services and support. We are working to normalize the importance of taking care of our mental and emotional health and connect youth and families with culturally responsive resources to support their well-being.

In this program, we have been supporting youth in finding ways to nourishing their mental and physical well-being through gardening and other hands-on connection with the earth. Being immersed in the natural world within our mentorship-based community has supported renewal and emotional well-being. Youth have also found nature-based meditations and other reflective practices in our program to be a powerful way to connect with their own strength, balance and inner resources.

Lessons Learned and Recommendations for Future Projects

One lesson we learned was how capable Y-WE's young women leaders are of grasping key environmental and food justice issues and then taking action. We affirmed how vital it is to create space and support for young women's leadership in the work of developing strong connections within and between diverse marginalized communities. We would especially recommend prioritizing the leadership of BIPOC young women and trans and non-binary youth.

When young people are empowered and engaged around environmental justice and sustainability, they become an active force for transformation. In our programming, young women gain self-confidence, practical urban farming skills, knowledge around growing food and environmental justice, all in the context of culturally relevant engagement with local communities. They deepen connections with supportive peers, seasoned mentors and the natural world, and this supports their healthy living and future well-being. Forging a personal connection to the natural world can spark a lifetime of environmental stewardship.

With all program activities, we applied key approaches that BIPOC youth have told us strengthen social connections and support them in thriving, exploring their own power, and forging powerful community connections. We explored participants' intersectionalities, cultivated social-emotional skills, centered youth voice and facilitated conscious dialogue. Our programs also used creative arts and connection to the natural world to promote deep sharing between participants. We provided facilitated spaces where youth could authentically share about their experiences, build relationships with one another, and heal.

One lesson Nature Connections youth have taught us is that they enjoy meeting other BIPOC women and gender-expansive adults who dedicate their lives to food justice and environmental justice in their daily lives and careers. In particular, we are excited to expand our programs to include more field trips to other urban and rural farms we're in relationship with, including Yes Farm, Kamayan Farm, Sweet Hollow Farm, Ayeko Farm, and more. It's so inspiring for the youth to see that it is possible to live in integration with their values in opposition to systems of oppression, even though it isn't easy. They get to build relationships and a wider network of mentors to support them as they navigate their educational and career paths, understand the real challenges that each of them face, and dream what's possible and how they want to collaborate with each other. This is a recommendation we would share with similar programs – to build connections to other local leaders like these.

In addition, as youth come back to Marra Farm season after season and participate in our Y-WE Grow internship, they deepen their desire to take on more leadership. For example, one youth took the initiative to plan and facilitate a creek blessing and restoration project. Others stepped up to plan our Marra Farm Community Celebration and create the group zine about food sovereignty, gardening, and self and earth-care. Some youth want to deepen their gardening prowess and commit to the farm across the whole year as apprentices beyond seasonal programs. They want to participate in crop-planning and seed and tool-ordering in the winter, take the lead in tending to our plot from Spring through Fall, and support in facilitating and educating youth that are newer to gardening and the program as a whole.

Other youth are so moved by the program at Marra Farm and the experience of relating to the land through gardening that they want to create their own youth programs in their neighborhoods, such as a program in the Shoreline area dedicated to West African cultural food ways. It's exciting as program facilitators to hear young people asking to take on more responsibility, as they grow to intuitively understand that to deepen their knowledge and relationship with the land, they need to feel responsible for it. This feels like true youth leadership, borne from love, inspiration, and purpose rather than external pressure from adults. We have learned how powerful it can be for program staff to create opportunities, connections, and resources for young people to step into active leadership roles with their own unique brilliance, passion, and values.

We are also excited to apply our learnings at Marra Farm to the rest of our Nature Connections programs. In particular, the beauty of Y-WE Grow lies in how we situate self in place through embodiment, community, history, environment, purpose, and culture. Not only do the youth find grounding and relaxation in connection with the land and each other, they also physically tend to the land with their hands in the soil, grow food to share with community that experiences food apartheid, learn about the history of the land and the original Duwamish and Coast Salish stewards, and participate in the ecosystem of local environmental justice movements that rise up to fight back against violation and extraction by systems of power. This integrated experience helps youth feel rooted in place, contextualized. The majority of youth participants in our program are part of diaspora, and have either personally or ancestrally experienced trauma and separation at the site of the land. As we exist on this land forcefully separated from it, it can feel like our roots are shallow. As we deepen our awareness and participation in our context, we can deepen our roots in turn, naturalize to our ecosystem and participate reciprocally, just as we've experienced at Marra Farm and witnessed the plants do as well. We'd like to apply this model to a program called Rooted in Place within Nature Connections where we visit multiple sites across the Puget Sound Area where we can feel embodied in place, understand its context, meet its stewards, and act in solidarity with them. For example, we want to visit our partners at Na'ah Illahee Fund who steward the Native Food Sovereignty Forest at Daybreak Star, honor the work they do there and participate in their restoration projects. We want to visit the Duwamish Longhouse and participate in a kayak tour where we learn the history and present experience of the sacred waterway and people and support with waste

cleanup and pollution research. We want to bike around the Central District with Bikeworks and learn about redlining and Black resistance in the neighborhood, visiting Wa Na Wari and supporting Black-owned businesses. These are some ways that we envision applying lessons learned to future programming to support youth in deepening their connections in this region.

Long-term Sustainability

We are deeply grateful to have been awarded this KCD grant. Our Y-WE program staff will take primary responsibility – along with youth, mentors, community volunteers and potential interns – for ongoing maintenance and monitoring of our Marra Farm garden site. We project oversight of the Marra Farm garden will continue for at least the next two years. With KCD support, we have centered urban farming activities at Marra Farm as young women engage around healthy food with communities of color. Our plans to increase community-based engagement at diverse sites were slowed by COVID. Within public health guidelines, we will work to support communities of color by meeting people where they are, helping them grow and access food including through community/home gardens in diverse sites, using approaches that work best for different people, e.g. raised beds for one family and indoor container growing for another family.

Overall, the Y-WE Nature Connections/Y-WE Grow program is thriving and we intend to continue the program and maintain our focus on growing healthy food, connecting marginalized communities to needed food resources, and working for environmental justice. To sustain this program, we will continue to engage in and develop community partnerships and collaborations, recruit participants, and engage community members.

Y-WE is in a fiscally healthy position, thanks to strong support from local, regional and national partners. We have a proven track record of obtaining diverse funding to support our programs.

Y-WE leverages a wide range of local and regional support of individuals, corporations, and grantors. With an active board and a Little Green Light database of 10,000+ donors, in the past year Y-WE raised over \$525,000 in individual contributions through major donors, employee giving programs, and our peer-to-peer fundraising campaigns. We have a strategic development and communications plan which is focused on community-centric fundraising. Over 3,250 new donors contributed to Y-WE for the first time last year, with an average giving amount of \$40, and many of our long-term supporters significantly increased their giving.

We have formed new partnerships with corporate supporters and employee giving/matching programs. These sources of funding raise over \$400,000+ of our budget each year. Y-WE volunteers and donors work and donate through the following major companies: Pokémon International, Enterprise, Group Health, BECU, Niantic, Google, Expedia, Starbucks, Airbnb, Gates Foundation, REI, and Microsoft.

Additionally, Y-WE has received generous multi-year grant support from foundations along with state and local government funding streams. Some of Y-WE's most recent major grantors include the Satterberg Foundation, Magic Cabinet, Seattle Department of Education and Early Learning, Seattle Human Services Department, King County Best Starts for Kids, Washington State Recreation & Conservation Office, the Environmental Justice Fund, and the Tides Foundation-Advancing Girls Initiative.

We continue to build Y-WE's communications profile into an advocacy platform that centers Y-WE BIPOC youth and leadership voices. Y-WE has a robust and growing pool of individual donors, corporate sponsors, and grantors who align with Y-WE's values and are partners as we support the liberation and healing of BIPOC young women and gender expansive youth within a collaborative community of belonging.

We will also ensure program sustainability through the richness of our communities, sharing meals, stories, culturally relevant learning and hands-on activities. We will craft and strengthen new environmental narratives together, rooted in our diverse identities, histories, struggles and cultures. Moving forward, we will continue to integrate this project into Y-WE's community, nested within the larger

communities of color to which our participants mainly belong. As we deliver the project with the leadership and engagement of community members, we will ensure that this project thrives over time through the establishment and strengthening of sustainable practices, systems and community connections.

Additional comments from grantee
N/A

I certify that the project has been completed, all expenditures have been paid, and the final report has been received by the District.

_____,
District Representative

Date: _____

I certify that the project has been completed, all expenditures have been reported, and the final report has been completed and submitted to the District.

Silvia Giannattasio-Lugo _____

Grant Recipient

Name: Silvia Giannattasio-Lugo

Title: Co-executive Director

Date: 8/17/2022 _____







King Conservation District Member Jurisdiction Grant Program Grant Agreement Close Out

Grant Summary Information

Recipient: Villa Comunitaria

Project Title: 2021-22 Salsa De La Vida

Project Description: To support the farm infrastructure, soil remediation, farming, CSA distribution, traditional medicine kit distribution and cooperative development costs of the Salsa De La Vida Project in 2021 & 2022.

Funding Source and Year: 2020 KCD-Seattle Community Partnership Grant Program

Start Date: 01/01/2021

End Date: 11/30/2022

Date Awarded: 01/12/2021

Grant Budget Summary

Returned Funds:

Payment Summary

Award Amount: \$71,747.00

Amount Returned: \$n/a

Amount Paid to Date: \$64,572.30

Amount Spent: \$71,747.00

Date Returned: n/a

Final Payment: \$7,174.70
After KCD signs this form

Amendment Request Summary:

Yes

N/A

Notes:

Scope of Work Revision:

☐
☒

Budget Revision:

☒
☐

Revised to reflect actual expenditures

Completion Date Extension:

☐
☐

Extended to:

Copies of Work Product (check box or describe below)

☐ Designs/Plans

☐ Brochures/Publications

☐ Curricula

☒ Photos

☐ Video

☐ Sign Mock-Ups

Other:

KCD Acknowledgement: <https://youtu.be/T4VHVTsmKhW>

This is one of the times we have gone to Amigos de la Radio to talk about our programs and of course thanking all our funders

We have acknowledged our funders by hosting a thank you party for our funders and inviting the community to celebrate our success with our Funders

Site Visit Description:

Date: 8/10/22

N/A: ☐

KCD staff visited the Salsa de la Vida plot at Marra Farm. Villa Comunitaria staff showed us the 32

raised beds and irrigation equipment that the grant paid for. They explained how the Promotoras grow plants from seeds in a nearby greenhouse and they harvest different vegetables and herbs from their 18-week CSA box program. They offer the boxes to the community for \$40 per box. They have their own composting bins including a worm bin. They share photos of their harvest on social media and receive a lot of interest from the community. They partner with nearby plot tenders such as Young Women Empowered and Solid Ground and they help each other out with challenges, sharing the harvest and labor. They've become experts at managing irrigation in their farm plot, repairing things as leaks arise. They plan to bring more children into the farm plot with their next grant. They annually hold a celebration with the community where they utilize crops from the farm to provide a community meal. They have credited KCD with helping them build momentum with their program, fortifying las promotoras with educational opportunities to learn how to have a business and techniques to grow safe and healthy food. They've also worked with Dr. Melanie Malone who provided soil testing and advise about how to grow food in contaminated soil. The grant also paid for las promotoras time growing, harvesting and distributing produce for their CSA program. An adjacent plot with existing irrigation, became available, doubling their plot size and their capacity to grow more produce and medicinal herbs.

Planting Projects:

Maintenance/Monitoring

Completed: ☐ Ongoing: ☒

Reporting Summary: Yes No Notes:

Progress Reports: ☒ ☐ Submitted on the following dates 11/12/2021, 05/10/2022, Promotoras received training on inventory lists, garden bed application tracking, how to make a profit, how to create a cooperative and how to market it. They held on-farm workshops about how to plant seeds as well as the do's and don'ts of gardening at home. Two different youth groups visited the farm to learn about what it takes to build a farm program. Las promotoras had two different workshops of traditional medicinal products, how to make them and the history behind them. They sell their products such as teas, tinctures, salves, balms, lotions and candles online and at El Mercadito, South Park's farmers market. They completed an intensive class on composting offered by Tilth Alliance.

Expense Reports: ☒ ☐

Final Reports: ☒ ☐

Project Accomplishments and Successes

Upon reflecting on our accomplishments one special project come to mind. Vida Herbolar is a project that was an idea of creating local organic medicinal products out of the herbs we could grow along side with our vegetables. This year the promotoras had opportunity to attend a class with a consultant that would guide them to creating their own herbal product. In November we began the journey to producing our own. We got in contact with a Marketing consultant that helps leaders amplify their social, business, and personal impact. She started by showing us how to shop within our means to have a Profit. One of the many tasks in her class was to create a survey. In this survey we provided different options to future products in mind. We email this survey to our community and our CSA members. The data showed that most favored not to include a roll-on aromatherapy, which would have costed more to produce rather than others. This Project helped the promotoras learn how to market their own products. With the help of KCD funding we have been able to produce and market our products to our subscribers and our community.

Obstacles and Challenges

Challenges we encountered must be, learning how to increase and or maintain the number of subscribers. In 2021 we had a successful season like the numbers of 2020. Unfortunately, the outcome for 2022 has

not been as favorable as past years.

In addition, the promotoras had to adapt to self-managing the farm due to KC the farm managers departure. Out of this challenge the promotoras have pushed them self to learn from each other to have a successful season.

Evaluation Tools

The tool that was most useful to our evaluation was survey and the results of the soil testing. We worked with Dr. Malone from the UW that came and tested the soil to better understand how healthy our soil is to produce vegetable without contaminating. We sent out a Few Surveys this year. Most of which surveys helped determine what was best for the community and project it self.

Lessons Learned and Recommendations for Future Projects

The most memorable learning experience we have had has to be how to self-manage and delegate within Salsa de la Vida. These ladies have a passion to learn and educate others in any way possible. They are remarkable women that lead by example. A major gain from having this program and this funding is to be able to educate others and well as self-education.

As a result of a survey they sent to CSA subscribers, they learned about areas where they could improve communication around the pick-up of the boxes. They also heard that delivery of the boxes would be helpful, so they are trying out a pilot free delivery service in 2022.

Subscribers went from 18 in 2021 down to 4 in 2022.They are looking into why.

They distributed 4 traditional medicinal kits, but also sold items separately from their website.

Long-term Sustainability

Thinking long term this project can be sustainable if we consider different ways of making income with different products that we have available to us. The promotoras have brainstormed ideas to be able to obtain funding for this project. We are working in continuing to look for funding for educational side of this project. We would like to invite more school field trips to share the knowledge that has been shared with us thanks to KCD Funding. Villa Comunitaria has offered student volunteering hours and ways to volunteer to be able to keep up with the maintenance if there is no funding available to encourage the community to be involved in community activities.

I certify that the project has been completed, all expenditures have been paid, and the final report has been received by the District.

_____,
District Representative

Date: _____

I certify that the project has been completed, all expenditures have been reported, and the final report has been completed and submitted to the District.

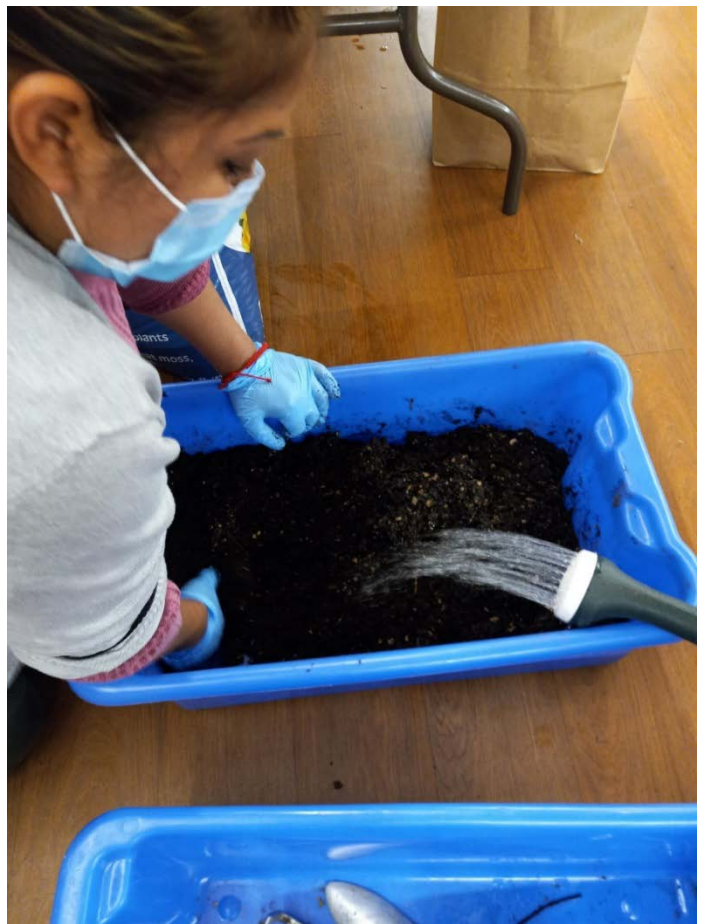
_____,
Grant Recipient

Name:

Title:

Date: _____









King Conservation District Regional Food System Program Grant Agreement Close Out

Grant Summary Information

Recipient: Washington Water Trust (WWT)

Project Title: Expanding a Consumer Market the Incentivizes Dry Farming as a Sustainable and Resilient Practice for Producers

Project Number: FF00089

Over 60% of water diverted from Washington rivers is used for agriculture. Only by providing new solutions for reduced water use in the agricultural sector will we achieve streamflow restoration. Dry farming offers a solution where land stays in production without the use of water, or very minimal water. As the Dry Farming Institute defines it, dry farming is "watering once or not at all." Dry farming already occurs out of necessity in times of drought or limited water availability, and farmers are not currently recognized or incentivized to do this water-sustainable practice.

Funding Source and Year: KCD 2020 Rates and Charges

Start Date: February 9, 2021

End Date: January 31, 2022

Date Awarded:

February 8, 2021

Grant Budget Summary

Payment Summary

Match

Award Amount: \$19,997.00

Amount Paid to Date: \$16,023.31

Cash Match: \$394.91

Amount Spent: \$18,023.01

Final Payment: \$1,999.7

In-Kind Match:
\$2,000.00

Amendment Request Summary:

Yes N/A Notes:

Scope of Work Revision:

☐ ☒

Budget Revision:

☒ ☐

November 2021, Revise budget within 10%. Move vendor fees to supplies.

Completion Date Extension:

☐ ☒

Copies of Work Product (check box or describe below)

☐ Designs/Plans

☐ Brochures/Publications

☐ Curricula

☒ Photos

☐ Video

☒ Sign Mock-Ups

Other:

Site Visit

Date:

N/A: ☒

KCD acknowledgement: KCD funding was acknowledged on all written and printed materials.

Reporting Summary: Yes No Notes:

Progress Reports: ☒ ☐

Expense Reports: ☒ ☐

Final Reports: ☒ ☐

Accomplishments and Successes:

Activities Performed

WWT completed a range of outreach along the consumer and producer supply chain to effectively improve marketing and awareness of dry farmed produce. WWT completed all grant scope deliverables successfully:

- Tabled at 2 farmers markets educating over 500 households on the benefits of dry farmed produce.
- 52 households participated in a taste test and educational survey on dry farmed produce.
- 19 households expressed interest and provided contact information to receive updates on how to obtain dry farmed food.
- Created a "dry farm filter" on the WA Farm and Food Finder platform. Registered 18 farms.
- Created a blog on the benefits of dry farmed food to be distributed to Eat Local First's subscribers, and featured on their website.
- Created an e-newsletter for farmers to make them aware of the dry farm filter and marketing materials available to them.
- Created marketing materials free for use for any dry farmer such as: CSA newsletter template, Instagram post, bookmark, stickers, buttons, flyers, posters.
- Contacted 5 chefs in the Seattle area to educate them on the benefits of dry farming, connect them to local dry farmers, and discuss collaboration on future promotional events. Provided them with educational materials such as menu inserts, and offered training for front of house staff on the benefits of dry farming.

Collaboration

- Tilth Alliance- developed capacity of WA Farm and Food Finder to filter by dry farm, co-wrote and distributed newsletters and blogs to their distribution lists of customers and farmers.
- Seattle Neighborhood Farmers Markets- provided venue for outreach to public.

Outcomes

On the educational survey accompanying the taste test, participants were asked how much they knew about dry farmed goods before and after the educational portions, on average, participants at least doubled their knowledge. 94% of survey participants were more likely than not to seek out dry farmed produce in the future.

Problems or Delays

There were challenges in planning taste test events with uncertain harvest schedules. We overcame this obstacle by having multiple contacts and planning a taste test that was not dependent on a certain type of produce (i.e. tomato or blueberry). We also had challenges reaching restaurants during pandemic restrictions with altered staff or operations. We utilized existing contacts to connect with the chefs we communicated with.

Future Project Plans

This grant has now finished, but it is anticipated that WWT will continue to promote and assist in improving the feasibility of dry farming in a future phase. Future phases will focus on: improving feasibility of switching to dry farming by developing profitability models and coordinating water transactions.

Leverage

The total grant award was \$19,997 of which \$18,023.01 was billed. This leveraged \$394.91 in cash match from the Dry Farming Institute for poster development, and approximately \$2,000 of in-kind work from Tilth Alliance and WWT.

Regional Benefits

Dry farming materials have been distributed directly to these farms: 21 Acres, Gaining Ground, Off the Branch Farm, SnoValley Gardens, Regeneration Farm, Farmer Frog, Present Tense Farm, University of Washington Farm, Lee's Fresh Produce, Forest Garden Farm, Northbourne Farm, Provo Farm, Viva Farms and made available to any dry farmer.

Nineteen households throughout outreach expressed interest and provided contact information to receive updates on how to obtain dry farmed food. 500 households engaged in a dry farmed taste test and 52 households completed an educational survey with the taste test.

Lessons Learned and Recommendations for Future Projects

- The most helpful way to get a particular type of local food promoted at a restaurant is to have a willing and able contact ready.
- It is unpredictable to plan around harvest schedules for taste testing, when planning events, it is better to have a wide range of options in case a crop fails or ripens early/late/on a short window.

I certify that the project has been completed, all expenditures have been paid, and the final report has been received by the District.

District Representative

Date: _____

I certify that the project has been completed, all expenditures have been reported, and the final report has been completed and submitted to the District.

Grant Recipient

Name:

Title:

Date: _____

https://www.capitalpress.com/ag_sectors/research/northwest-research-effort-explores-dry-farming-possibilities/article_6a25da10-2220-11ec-916d-cf4787750d7f.html

Northwest research effort explores dry farming possibilities

By MATTHEW WEAVER Capital Press
Oct 8, 2021




Oregon State University Dry Farming Project student research assistants Kelly Andrus, Asher Whitney and Meaghan Herlihy host a dry-farmed tomato tasting at the Corvallis Farmers Market.

Oregon State University

Northwest farmers and researchers are exploring how to expand the use of "dry farming."

Dry farming is a low-input approach to farming. Some farmers draw a distinction between "dry farming" and "dryland farming," while others use the terms interchangeably. Those participating in the research use the definition of "irrigated once or not at all."

Dry farming was more prevalent before farmers turned to irrigation, said Amy Garrett, president of the Dry Farming Institute and Oregon State University Extension small farms programs instructor. She's met longtime dry farmers raising crops that researchers weren't aware could be grown without irrigation.



Crops include winter squash, tomatoes, dry beans, orchards, zucchini, melons, carrots and corn.

"As soon as you say, 'These are the only crops you can dry farm,' there's always going to be somebody innovating..." Garrett said.

More than 50 farmers are participating in research efforts involving crops ranging from vegetables to wheat.

Most of them are using small parcels, some as small as 1,000 square feet, Garrett said.

Water availability in the soil is the most important factor, said Alex Stone, OSU vegetable specialist. The more water-holding capacity in the soil, the more likely it is to produce a higher yield, she said.

Some dry-farmed tomato yields on some sites in Oregon were comparable to irrigated yields in California, Stone said.

"You don't have the irrigation expense and you can have lower weeding costs," she said.

Researchers are also analyzing profitability. Yields are lower, so the cost of dry-farmed produce tends to be higher, according to the Dry Farming Institute.

One goal is to entice customers to pay more for dry-farmed products than for irrigated products, said Emily Dick, project manager at the Washington Water Trust, a nonprofit dedicated to improving and protecting stream flow and water quality.

A pilot project involving 11 farmers developed a label for dry-farmed produce.

Benefits of dry farming for farmers can include lower weeding costs by 50% and lower input costs.

For consumers, benefits can include enhanced flavor and better storability, Garrett said.

The researchers have conducted taste tests comparing dry-farmed tomatoes, melons and berries to their irrigated counterparts.

About \$1 million has been devoted to research so far.

The researchers hope to find more funding for research, said Lucas Nebert, an OSU post-doctoral student. He hopes to start mapping sites where dry farming is likely to be successful.

Garrett thinks more recognition in the marketplace will lead to more demand.

"This year, especially with temperature extremes, water issues and the backdrop of the fires, people are thinking about how to adapt," she said. "It's not the solution (by itself), but it can be part of an adaptive strategy."

Dry Farming Institute

<https://dryfarming.org/>

Matthew Weaver

Field Reporter, Spokane

EAT DRY FARMED



MORE FLAVOR
LESS WATER



Dry Farming Institute



WASHINGTON
WATER TRUST



This project is funded by the
Dry Farming Institute and a grant
from King Conservation District.

J. W. H. 2011



King Conservation District
Regional Food System Program
Grant Agreement Close Out

Grant Summary Information

Recipient: South King County Food Coalition

Project Title: Food Access and Aggregation Community Team (FAACT) Site Exploration

Project Description: FAACT will complete necessary preparations, build organizational capacity, and bring in new community stakeholders to to cooperatively manage the Horseneck Farm property in South King County that was acquired by King County.

Funding Source and Year: KCD 2019 Rates and Charges

Start Date: 1/1/2019	End Date: 12/31/2022	Date Awarded: 11/18/2019
--------------------------------	--------------------------------	------------------------------------

Grant Budget Summary		Payment Summary		Match
Award Amount:	\$100,000.00 revised \$84,610.87	Amount Paid to Date:	\$75,094.29	Cash Match: \$26,800.00
Amount Spent:	\$84,610.87	Final Payment:	\$8,461.09	In-Kind Match: \$49,906.01

Amendment Request Summary:

	Yes	N/A	Notes:
Scope of Work Revision:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5/2022 Covid response and termination of collaborative agreement among farm organizations. Reduce scope of work and budget.
Budget Revision:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5/2022 Move funds to contractual for stipends.
Completion Date Extension:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5/2021 extend project from completion date of 12/31/2021 to 12/31/2022.

Copies of Work Product (check box or describe below)

<input type="checkbox"/> Designs/Plans	<input type="checkbox"/> Brochures/Publications	<input type="checkbox"/> Curricula
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photos	<input type="checkbox"/> Video	<input type="checkbox"/> Sign Mock-Ups

Other:

KCD acknowledgement: Final reports and documents

Site Visit	Date:	N/A: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
------------	-------	--

Description:

Reporting Summary:	Yes	No	Notes:
Progress Reports:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Missed a couple of quarters, but combined.
Expense Reports:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Final Reports:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Accomplishments and Successes:

Activities Performed

Activated 5 acres of County-owned farmland for refugee/immigrant/BIPOC farmers in South King County; successfully negotiated 5 year lease agreement for farming; built supporting infrastructure for farm, including wash/pack and tool storage; developed group protocols for farm safety, clubroot management, shared tools and infrastructure, cooperative irrigation, and organic standards; 4 organizations managed land with 40+ farmers between them.

After one season of farming, we collectively decided to sunset FAACT as an organization. The County has opened up additional farmland, and most of the farmers from 2021 remain on the land in 2022, plus new farmers. While the land will not be managed as collaboratively as it was in 2021, many aspects, like irrigation, will continue to be managed by all tenants together. The County has arranged individual leases with organizations for all the farmland, thereby solidifying their land access.

Collaboration

Our consensus model resulted in a slow decision making process, and was occasionally modified throughout the peak season, when so much work needed to be done that we delegated decision making power to an individual or small group rather than the whole group. This meant that necessary work got done, but sometimes meant that some members didn't have as much power due to lack of capacity to participate or lead an aspect of the project, and resulted in group tensions that were only explored after the season was slowing down in the fall.

Outcomes

- Pursued implementation of on-site infrastructure plan through designing in-ground irrigation, breaking ground and preparing soil, etc.
- Recruit new growers
- Develop standard operating procedures for infrastructure
- Implement business plan Q1-4

During Year 2 we recruited Wakulima USA as a new FAACT member, who brought with them more than 20 farmers to Horseneck Farm. Most of the work for the year was activating the farmland, breaking ground, splitting up the acreage fairly between the orgs and farmers within them, building temporary infrastructure, making decisions as issues came up, and assisting farmers in growing food.

The work we did with our second consultant helped us organize and make operational decisions even at peak season, and when conflicting opinions arose about the best management system for Horseneck Farm and FAACT resources in the fall of 2021, we worked through it collectively, and decided to sunset the organization.

Our intention for the creation of a business plan was to operationalize the lessons learned in the first year of growing on site, and continue to strengthen our partnerships. Since we are ending our formal collaboration and structure instead, it takes the form of a retrospective of lessons learned, how and what decisions were made, and a repository of the experience. This has been made available to everyone still farming at Horseneck Farm, as well as remaining with all FAACT partners in perpetuity.

Problems or Delays

Due to major delays in the formation of the Community Advisory Group (CAG) in 2020, we accepted that forming the CAG was too much of a stretch for the group with the time and resources available. Every organization in FAACT also runs their own independent projects, and time is precious. At the end of the day, something had to give, and we set aside our dreams of the CAG. Then, once we decided to sunset, it was clear that it wasn't going to happen at all.

Future Project Plans

Many of the organizations will continue farming at Horseneck Farm, with far less collaboration. The farmers will have a strong sense of continuity however, and the County made more acres available at the site, so one of our original goals lives on into the future. A few members have also received funding to continue collaboration on aggregation and market research to assist growers in getting their goods to market.

Funding Expended to Date

Not all grants funds were spent on the project, due in part to shifting in partner availability partway through the year. Some partners were unable to participate at the level we expected, and not all the stipends were spent. Additionally, the CAG was never activated, so the funding specifically tied to that outcome was never spent.

The initial grant award was \$100,000 which was amended to \$84,610.87 due to reduced scope of work and inability to complete some tasks. This leveraged \$26,800 in cash and \$49,906.01 in in-kind match.

Regional Benefits

Benefiting groups and organizations include all former FAACT members, who were able to expand growing space for their participants.

Lessons Learned and Recommendations for Future Projects

The scope of work necessary for this project was very ambitious, and while we did achieve much of what we set out to do, it would have been more beneficial to have scaled our timeline to better support a robust planning period. Collaboration at the level that FAACT members committed to took a lot of time and a lot of work over many years. We felt a lot of pressure from both the participants of our collective programs as well as funders and broader stakeholders/advisors to move at a pace that wasn't compatible with the vulnerability required of this type of work. The project would have been better served if we had taken even more time as a team to get on the same page before beginning the physical implementation of the work. The pressure to get on the land right away meant that not every FAACT member and farmer's voice was heard as it should have been, and the foundation of the project was not as strong or sustainable as we wanted. For similar land-based collectives, we would highly recommend a year of cover cropping while the team builds out infrastructure and procedures.

I certify that the project has been completed, all expenditures have been paid, and the final report has been received by the District.

_____,
District Representative

Date: _____

I certify that the project has been completed, all expenditures have been reported, and the final report has been completed and submitted to the District.

_____,
Grant Recipient

Name:

Title:

Date: _____

