Food-bank Sustainability Collaborative

This document describes a collaboration between (name of educational institution-SCHOOL, (name of food bank or nonprofit-NONP) and Garden of Eden Urban Farming (GOEUF).

The parties will collaborate to (a) train students in the fundamentals of hydroponic gardening as part of a regional sustainability curriculum; (b) provide work experience leading to potential employment and/or establishment of small businesses in the sector. A preponderance of output from NONP gardening facility will be used to provide fresh, locally grown produce to (name of food bank-BANK. The potential market value of the produce is on the order of $X per month with a projected cost per serving of $0.85 to $1.16 depending the plant varieties cultivated.

Purpose

- The community needs more food.
- The college needs a hydroponic component in its sustainability program.
- The foundation needs a flow of trained technicians.
- The community needs more economic opportunity.

Outcomes

- The SCHOOL gets a destination program that could draw students from the USA and abroad. Its students get exposure to a growing economic sector that can only expand over the next several decades.
- The NONP or BANK gets a much improved quality of foodstuffs to complement surplus stocks.
- The project serves all the purposes defined above.

Roles

- TESC will provide academic certification and administration of classroom activities.
- MADF will supply space and equipment and will pay student interns a periodic stipend for work performed in the MADF garden.
- GOEUF will supply expertise and its proprietary curricula to the classroom program and on-site management and direction to the gardening project.

Schedule

Plants do not care about academic or business calendars. The garden must be operational every day of the year. It is anticipated that the academic program will be offered cyclically six times annually with a duration approximately 8-10 weeks. The number of training cycles is adjustable depending on market demand. The garden, however, must operate continuously unrelated to the training program.

Expenses

- Classroom training: GOEUF will supply a principal instructor at a rate of $$ per hour for classroom instruction and laboratory guidance, with the expectation of 20 hours/week service. Estimated cost (3 hrs X 28 lessons @ $$/hr=) $$$$ per cycle. A curriculum fee of $$$ per student will be paid to GOEUF, minimum $$$$ per cycle.
- This total of $$$$ per cycle will be paid by SCHOOL, presumably from student fees or appropriated or granted funds. Each cycle will accommodate 8-12 students.
- Garden operations: The 16 production units, with output of approximately NN1 to NN2 servings per month, presumably to be distributed by NONP.
  - GOEUF will manage operations for $$$ per month loaded cost including garden administration, crop management, and supervision of an on-site technician to monitor the garden and provide laboratory assistance. Technician wages will be approximately $$$ weekly. Total expense ranges close to $$$$ monthly while cultivation is in progress.
  - The supervision and technician will be compensated by NONP and SCHOOL on a formula to be determined, presumably from student fees or appropriated or granted funds.
  - A provisional spreadsheet with programmatic details for the quasi-commercial garden is available for review by qualified persons. The model is extensible to prospective home-base or small commercial businesses and will be a part of the classroom curriculum.
- Stipends: Students will be provided a stipend to be determined.

All expenses will be funded by a combination of student fees and grants to be sought by the college and the foundation.

Total expenses per cycle are projected at $$$$$ plus student stipends plus implementation. This suggests a per-student cost of around $$$ for 12 students.

Payment Terms

An initial commitment to GOEUF of $$$$ will be due on conclusion of an agreement between the parties, payable as $$$$ within ten days followed by $$$$ per month during planning and implementation, followed by the billable time for instruction and oversight. NOTE: All dollar amounts to be recalculated for each project.