

University <-> City Partnership Programs Overview

February 16, 2017

Jennifer Davison, University of Washington

Seth Vidaña, Western Washington
University

Sustainable
Communities
Partnership



LIVABLE
CITY YEAR

The Premise...

Cities are at the crux of the effort to transition to a more sustainable future

City issues  Higher education courses

Students & faculty want to (and can!) make a difference

A Year of Partnership

- **Match** city's needs to service-learning courses
- **Engage** faculty/students on city's issues
 - On site, in field, and in classroom/studio/lab
 - Thousands of person-hours
 - Cutting edge, “outside the box”
- **Produce** deliverables (reports, videos, software, GIS datasets)
- **Advance** city's sustainability & livability goals

“Sustainability” Broadly Defined...

- Urban livability
 - Walkable, transit-friendly, vibrant, inclusive
- Socially robust
 - Access to housing, food, health care, recreation
- Thriving local economy
 - Jobs, tax base, resource lands
- Low environmental impact
 - LID design, energy efficiency, CAO/SMP

What This Model Can Do...

- Urban Planning / Environmental Science
- Spatial Analysis – GIS/GPS
- Marketing / Financial Analysis
- Communications / Journalism / Design
- Computer Science
- Public & Community Health / Recreation
- Sociology / Anthropology
- Policy / Governance

Cost to Partner City

- Fee
 - Program manager
 - Faculty director support
 - Course support, including travel and materials
 - Report generation, including editor and graphic designer
 - Events, travel, communications/press
- City staff time
 - Champion
 - Overall coordinator
 - Per-project liaison

Finding the Funds

- Multiple funds (general, enterprise, hotel/motel)
- Co-applicant organizations?
 - Chamber
 - NGOs
 - Special purpose districts
- Existing grant funding? (FEMA, EPA)
- Flexibility of when payment is made

The Process

- Jan - March, discussions & match-making
- Feb - March, application due date
- March - April, partner announcement
- By end of June, master contract & Scopes of Work for each project
- By mid-September, liaison & data provision
- Sep → June, work!
- June 2018 event in town

UW Projects

- Cultural / Neighborhood Mapping
- Homelessness Assessment
- Assessment of City of Auburn Mayor's Taskforce on Homelessness Recommendations
- Study of Resident Awareness & Preparedness for Emergencies
- Marketing & Awareness of City Values
- Tools that Monitor the Health, Condition, Type, and Spatial Distribution of Housing
- Connectivity Element to the City's Comprehensive Plan
- Community Placemaking
- Buy Local Program
- Storm Utility T Basin – Pet Waste
- Sewer Utility Wastewater Discharge Behaviors
- Storm Utility LID Maintenance Costs
- City of Auburn Livability Synthesis
- Auburn School District Food Waste Prevention Outreach & Education
- Incentives for Establishing More Healthy Food Alternatives to More Sections of the City
- Auburn Alley Project

Western Projects

- ***Ecological Restoration*** (ESCI 470, fall 2016)
- ***Campus Sustainability Planning Studio*** (ENVS 471, fall 2016)
- ***Public Relations Research and Campaigns*** (JOUR 440, fall 2016)
- ***Computer Science Capstone*** (CSCI 491, fall 2016)
- ***Science and Management of Contaminated Sites*** (ESCI 453 & 454, winter & spring 2017)
- ***Recreation Programming*** (RECR 373, winter 2017)
- ***Disaster Reduction and Emergency Planning*** (ENVS 476, spring 2017)
- ***Advanced Spatial Analytics*** (ENVS 422, spring 2017)
- ***Greening Business Applications*** (MGMT 466, spring 2017)
- ***Participatory Action Research*** (ANTH 454, spring 2017)

UW Lessons Learned

- Manage expectations early and often
 - faculty, city, student
- Develop a communications plan
 - programmatic & per-project
- Check the scope
 - how much of the project can get done?
 - course dimensions and alignment with project
 - projects per 10-week quarter

Western Lessons Learned

- Need clear program scope up front
- Knowledge of city processes
- Flexibility is key
 - Courses or staff to pick up the slack
 - Types of projects
 - Payment scheduling
 - Overhead costs
- Permeable campus and community

Contact

- At Western:
 - wwu.edu/scp web
 - SCP@wwu.edu inbox
 - 360-650-3824 voice – David Davidson
- At UW:
 - lcy.uw.edu web
 - uwlcy@uw.edu inbox
 - 206-240-6903 voice – Jen Davison
- At AWC: Andy Meyer, AICP
 - andym@awcnet.org inbox
 - 360-753-4137 voice