

Review Grant Application Info at link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScG8ogRCg3lidfBNli_zQw-bTeCeY0R3DSTWt5sZEJAhBFzPQ/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0

Project Name?*

UUJxn + MRC Community Garden

Organization Name?*

Unitarian Universalist Church of Jackson

Contact Person Name?

*

Esther Newell

Contact Person Title?*

Church Member

Organization Address?*

3209 N West St Jackson, MS 39216

Amount of grant requested

\$4,000

Briefly describe your organization's vision, mission, history, and core priorities.*

UUJxn is a **welcoming religious community** whose mission is **exploring our beliefs, living our values,** and **changing our world.** Our vision is for free, just, and compassionate communities that respect diversity among people and our environment, cultivate reason and meaning through progressive fellowship, and nurture families and neighborhoods in Jackson, in Mississippi. Initially formed in 1951,

we have a history of progressive values that our small congregation has upheld in the capitol city for decades. We are committed to religious freedom and seeking truth, with teachings of diverse wisdom traditions and individual experiences as a guide. Our members are active in social justice issues of our time - siding with love against oppression and aligning with the marginalized as we move in the spirit of beloved community to affect transformational change in the world.

Please describe your organization's target population and region served.

UUJxn serves people of diverse and progressive spiritual, religious, and/or moral beliefs in the majority Black city of Jackson, Mississippi and the surrounding area. More than half of Jackson, MS is considered a food desert and drinking water is frequently compromised due to failing infrastructure.

Grant Purpose: Please provide a brief description of your project including rationale, timeline, and anticipated community impact.

UUJXN + MRC Community Garden is a cooperative garden project centered on sustainability and equity. We will create a small, localized food source for our local community.

Sept - Dec '22: Assess viability of water source on campus; develop itemized budget for garden with direction from local farmer Aton Bridges; collaboration between UUJXN, MRC, and interested community partners to develop plan for tending, sustaining, and sharing garden; source and purchase necessary items for garden development; conduct outreach

Nov - Dec '22: Soil Preparation, Testing

Jan - Feb '23: Build necessary garden infrastructure & permaculture design

Feb - April '23: Plant garden; organize space for cleaning and packing produce; finalize recipient list

May - July '23: Harvest and distribute summer produce

Aug - Sept '23: Gather feedback from participants for improvement of community garden program

Aug - Oct '23: Plant garden; update program systems according to feedback

Nov - Dec '23: Harvest and distribute fall produce

Please identify those specific actions in your project that will advance MS4GND priorities.

The act of organizing and implementing a functional, sustainable garden that equitably feeds our community aligns with the MS4GND priority “Land: Advance Food Sovereignty and Local Food Systems”. If a source of clean water is found, that will also provide an opportunity for further development in line with the “Water: Ensure Access to Clean Water for all” priority.

Please provide an outline of the activities, actions, outcomes, and impacts anticipated for your project and who will be the responsible parties in your organization.

UUJXN, MRC, and local community partners will organize and mobilize through meetings, outreach, research, procurement, farm work, distribution, as well as in sustainability and equity assessments. The planned outcome is a sustainable, equitable source of fresh produce in Jackson, MS.

Esther Newell, UUJXN church member, will serve as lead organizer for this project with guidance and support from Lea Campbell, President of MRC.

(end of application)