

# President's Climate Commitment Fund

## Amplify Grant Program

### PROJECT REPORT

Upon project implementation, grant recipients are expected to complete a report that speaks to the success of the project, referencing original goals and outcomes from the proposal. The template and guiding questions below can be used to inform the report, though grant recipients are encouraged to add sections or attach resources that are specific to the project structure. Recipients that fail to complete and submit a final report will be ineligible to apply for future Amplify Grant funding.

Completed reports may be sent to [hulloa1@swarthmore.edu](mailto:hulloa1@swarthmore.edu).

#### NAME OF PROJECT

Raise the Sun: Zines as Tools for Environmental Justice

#### PROJECT TEAM

Chris Stone, 2023: [cstone3@swarthmore.edu](mailto:cstone3@swarthmore.edu)

Steve McLaughlin (Iffy Books): [iffy@iffybooks.net](mailto:iffy@iffybooks.net)

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### SUMMARY AND GOALS

Briefly restate the original **goals** and **scope** of the project. Please include any description of process, timelines or stakeholders. Please describe any changes to goals as the project developed.

The goal of this project was to establish two zine carts to be used for local environmental storytelling. One cart is located at Swarthmore College, stewarded by James Padilioni with the Lang Center's Environmental Justice and Community Resilience Initiative in collaboration with Maria Aghazarian with the Swarthmore College Libraries. It was used in the Environmental Studies Capstone Science Center takeover on May 1st along with a collection of Indigenous peoples and environmental zines. Another cart is located at Iffy Books in Chinatown Philadelphia, stewarded by Steve McLaughlin. It was used in Chris Stone's Environmental Studies thesis to teach a QTBIPOC solarpunk workshop on April 21st, a lesson plan has been made available to the public.

A zine is an informal small pamphlet created, published, and distributed by an individual or collaborative community on any topic using found materials, though they have a history in activist and punk spaces. A zine cart contains all the supplies necessary for making zines as a mobile workshop. Our zine carts also come with a collection of QTBIPOC zines to provide inspiration and center the role of multi-marginalized

zinesters. We began preparing our proposal late January and shared it with potential funders in early March primarily to address the lack of a zine cart in Philadelphia. We learned about the Amplify Grant and decided to reformulate this project as a crossover project between the Iffy Books and Swarthmore communities. Our stewards both have climate-oriented missions, which will ensure that the zine making materials are used for the purpose of climate activism. We applied and received the grant in early April and promptly ordered a first batch of high priority materials for our upcoming events. Later in May, we did a second order with the rest of our materials.

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## PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

Briefly restate the intended **outcomes** or deliverables for the project. Please describe **accomplishments** and/or **challenges** that you faced.

- On April 13th, the majority of **supplies for each zine cart were ordered.**
  - A challenge we faced included that some supplies needed to be shipped directly to the college and could not be shipped to Iffy Books. An advantage to this is that we could do a larger and cheaper bulk order that could be split between the two carts rather than separate orders. However, we did need to order some zines through reimbursements.
- On April 19th, the majority of supplies for each **zine cart was assembled** and Iffy Books' zine cart was brought to Philly.
- On April 21st, Chris ran a QTBIPOC solarpunk zine making **workshop at Iffy Books.**
  - Participants largely enjoyed the workshop from the community space that was created to a newfound understanding for zines and zine making. Some feedback we received was an interest in having more time and seeing more zines along with more variety.
- On May 1st, Sierra Raskie Jeska on behalf of the Environmental Studies Capstone borrowed the Swarthmore Cart for the **Capstone event in the Science Center.**
  - A challenge we faced was that limited communication made it difficult to coordinate this event and determine the impact, though the general feedback was positive.
- On May 7th, Chris prepared a **comprehensive lesson plan** with feedback and a reflection for their ENV5 thesis to be shared publicly.
  - A challenge we faced in ensuring that the documentation was comprehensive enough to be replicated. James determined that it would meet that criteria.
- On May 12th, Chris, James, and Maria met to **develop a plan, review goals, and identify needs for the zine cart moving forward between EJCR and the libraries.**
  - A challenge we faced was thinking about how we ensure that the zine cart maintains stewardship throughout the years even while individuals may come and go from the college, and how we can pace ourselves through this project without burning out.

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## IMPACT

Please describe the intended impact, as well as any success that has been evaluated so far. Include methods for tracking lasting impact over time and any limitations identified.

As we had intended, the zine carts have been successfully utilized for events both on Campus and in Philadelphia with stewards who have a clear sense of their responsibilities moving forward to ensure that the zine carts are used for climate activism. Our determinant of success for the Campus event is largely through conversational anecdotes due to limited communication streams. Our determinant of success for the Iffy Books events included exit slips that every individual completed and returned, which could be used in the future. Other methods of tracking lasting impact over time in the future will be determined by the respective stewards. Something we have learned is that methods of tracking are difficult to implement if they do not resonate with the community's literacies, stifling interest to engage, thus we will attempt an ongoing revisionary process. An example might include a feedback form that continuously moves along with the zine cart.

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## **REFLECTION**

Please share your feedback and perspective on the project. What do you see as the greatest strengths? Greatest challenges (aside from financial)? What skills, knowledge or experience do you feel you have gained?

Preparing for the zine workshop ahead of the zine cart, many other zine experts provided reassurance that everyone enjoys zines and it's hard to go wrong with them. Even so, the zine making workshop definitely improved the ease of sharing materials during the event and provided an ongoing resource to participants to stay engaged with zine making. We're happy to see that we have stewards that are ready to carry this project forward into the future even while I might not be on campus. We couldn't have been successful in this project without Hannah Ulloa being highly communicative, open to hearing us out and working through problems with us.

Regardless of the amount of money, a challenge we faced was largely in understanding how the grant worked. Based on our past experiences with Swarthmore funding, we had come prepared with certain expectations: that we could change our budget as we went along and identified how needs changed, would have continuous access to such funds till they were fully dispersed, and we would not need approval for every purchase. As a result, the implementation of this work felt more abrupt than we had hoped. So our financial challenges became ones of: how do we cautiously mediate community relations and prevent burn out? I hadn't expected that my thesis would involve so much time and energy dedicated to financial and logistical efforts, but I realize that often this is the reality of what goes behind the scenes of this type of work.

Overall, I'm glad to have grown as a facilitator and organizer. I have more confidence in leading zine workshops and managing grants. I'm glad I spent the past semester learning how to take theoretical concepts from my Environmental Studies courses and lessons from my own lived experiences and apply them to real world activism. As I move on from my time at this college, I made an effort to contribute something that will have a lasting impact on my communities.

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## **LOOKING AHEAD**

Please describe any future plans (or ideas) for funding, expansion, or continuation of the project.

In collaboration with Maria Aghazarian on behalf of the Swarthmore College Libraries, we look forward to using the fall semester to bring awareness to the zine cart on campus and learn more about the needs and interests College community members have (especially those of multi-marginalized identities) in incorporating the cart into consistent environmental-related programming. The workshop had significantly positive reception by the Iffy Books community there are plans to hold the workshop again in the future there. The lesson plan will be used in Prof. Padilioni's upcoming Relg 058. 'tis The Season: Festivals Of Solstice, Yule, And Christmas course and will be an example to other professors on how the cart can be incorporated into course activities.

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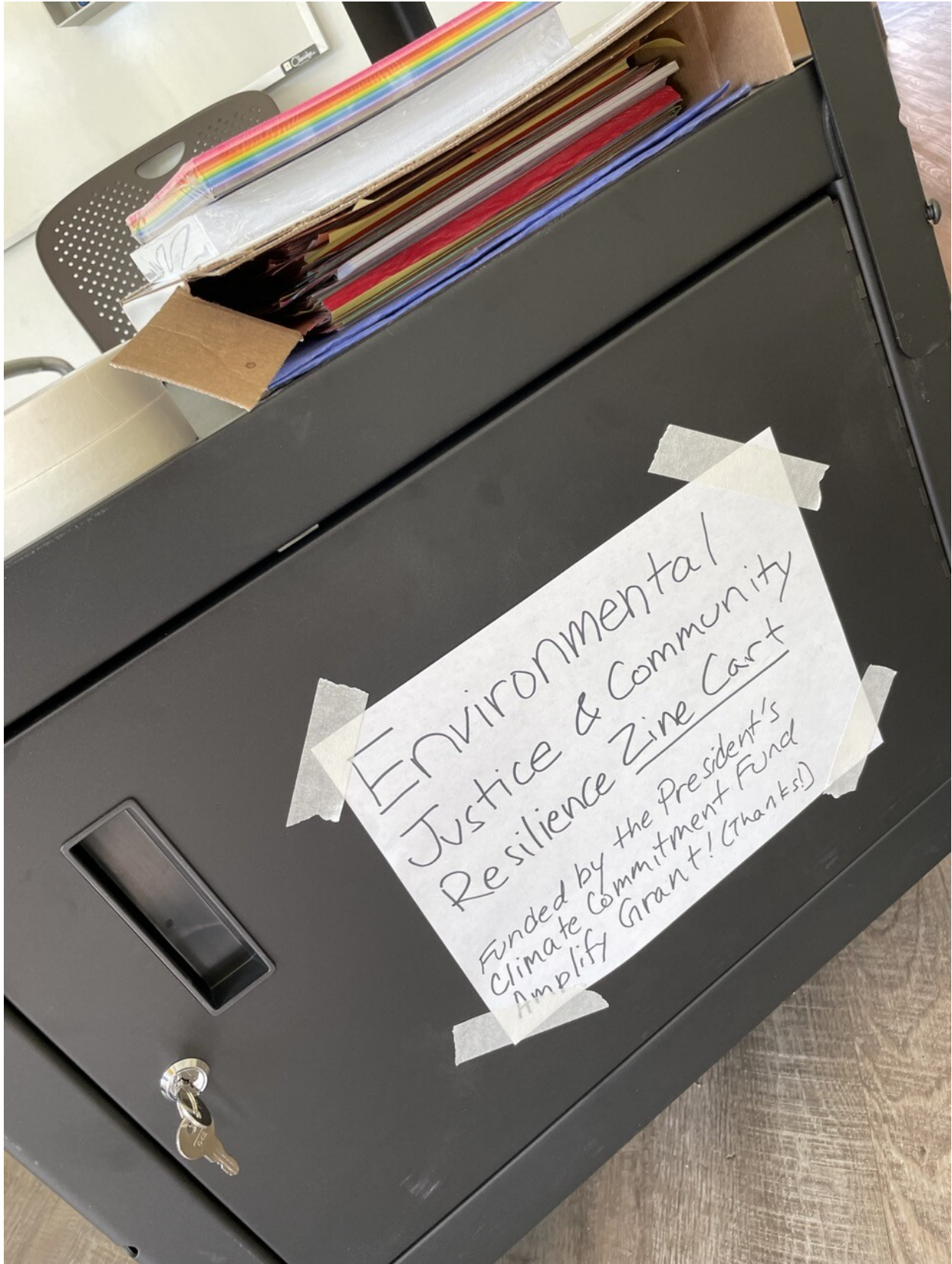
### **BUDGET**

Please attach the final actual budget with the total award amount.

### **PHOTOS AND RESOURCES**

Please attach any photos or additional resources relevant to your project implementation.





Environmental  
Justice & Community  
Resilience Zine Cart

Funded by the President's  
Climate Commitment Fund  
Amplify Grant! (Thanks!)

