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Page 2: PART I: PROJECT SUMMARY

Q1

Project Title:

Forest Garden Foret

Q2

Contact Person:

Kristin Patterson

Q3

Organization (if any):

Flagstaff Junior Academy

Q4

Contact Address:

306 W Cedar Avenue, Flagstaff, Arizona 86001

Q5

Contact Email Address:

Kristinpatterson@fjademy.com

Q6

Contact Telephone Number:

928-774-6007

Q7

Project Physical Address:

1800 N Gemini, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

Q8

Tax ID # (if an organization):

86-0665304

Q9

Food

Please select your primary project category. This is the category of sustainability that your project is most closely designed to align with. Refer to the Grant Guidelines and Application Instructions to help determine the project category.

Q10

Please describe the project in one to three sentences.

Forest Garden Foret is a project designed to provide middle school students at Flagstaff Junior Academy with experience planting, growing, and maintaining a self-sustaining garden comprised of fruit trees, shrubs, pollinator attracting plants and vegetables. Our school is relocating to a new site that will offer students a blank slate to cultivate a resilient garden and gathering area. This garden will provide food to be shared and lessons that enhance understanding regenerative agriculture and deeper knowledge of our native ecosystems.

Q11

Funds Requested (not to exceed \$7,500 total. Requests below this amount are acceptable):

\$7,500

Q12

Project Narrative: Briefly describe the project and the positive impact it will have on the Flagstaff community. Include a statement and/or evidence for why the project is needed. Include in appropriate detail how the project aligns with the vision of the Sustainability Commission. Include the geographic area/neighborhoods/communities affected. The vision of the Sustainability Commission is: The city of Flagstaff is a culture and community that thrives in response to the climate crisis.

The Food Garden Foret project will support the realization goals outlined in our school climate action plan to take actions today to support a sustainable future for generations by teaching students the importance of creating a healthy, low maintenance ecosystem that provides can food and promotes respect for our land and community.

Flagstaff Junior Academy is free public charter school serving students aged 3 through 8th grade with a mission to educate the whole child. We believe wholeheartedly that creating meaningful experiences connected to solving real work problems fosters engagement, creativity, and wholistic learning opportunities. In 2019, our governing board adopted a climate action plan that supports the City of Flagstaff's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan and became the first school in Arizona at the time to pass a board resolution and register for Schools for Climate Change. Our climate action plan came to fruition because one of our students shared his concerns about climate change and his hope that our school could take action to reduce our impact and support vulnerable students and families in Flagstaff.

We want a new generation of students to find a passion for minimizing our school's impact to support a greater effort toward climate action. The creation of a community food garden built by students with support from garden educators will be a continuation of the mission driven by other students to be a positive force for change and an example of doing something, however small, to help our community.

Our FJA middle school must relocate to a new property on 1800 North Gemini Drive at the start of the 2024-2025 school year. Our new modular campus will house 200 students and approximately 30 staff members. Our new property will provide an ideal location for students to take ownership by contributing to the development of our open spaces. Students can take part in planting a garden that will include native plants, utilize rainwater harvesting, and yield produce that can be shared with other community members. We hope that this grant can provide funding to develop a space that is welcoming to all but will require minimal resources to maintain year after year.

With our proximity to the Flagstaff Urban Trail and a senior living community, our Forest Garden Foray project will welcome others to enjoy the garden and offer potential chances to create partnerships that can help with the maintenance and evolution of the space over time. We also hope to share the food produced with the Flagstaff Family Food Center as a small source of healthy food for those who need it.

Q13

Overarching Goals: All neighborhood sustainability grant applications are scored on their alignment with the overarching goals of the program. These goals include: Facilitating volunteer engagement or management, Building community partnerships, and Meaningfully involving underserved communities, diverse groups, or vulnerable populations. Describe how your project aligns with these goals. The highest-scoring projects will include activities to meet all three of these goals.

The food forest will include fruit trees, shrubs, and perennials that will be planted and cared for by students. We want our students to see how using plants adapted the Flagstaff ecosystem, requires less water, and yields a space that attracts animals, pollinators, and provides an area that FJA and greater Flagstaff community members can enjoy. Gardening provides many avenues for learning including composting, rainwater harvesting, and planting native plant varieties are topics that allow for hands on engagement from students.

Preparing and maintaining a functioning food forest that produces consistently takes a great amount of foresight and organization. The students will learn how to observe the health of the local flora and fauna and their impact on them while developing numerous skills. From managing the day to day operations of the garden to planning each season, it takes a lot of collective coordination to succeed. Creating a closed loop system that reduces waste while increasing ecological fertility will be one of the many benefits from this program. It will aid the community in a better understanding of how to coexist more intently with the ecosystem we live in.

Flagstaff Junior Academy has supported other organizations in Flagstaff through volunteering, but this is an area where we need to create more partnerships. Every year our students volunteer at the Flagstaff Family Food Center and the Food Center generously supports our students and families by providing school lunches. We plan to contribute the food that is grown in our food garden to the Flagstaff Family Food Center. Since our new site location is next to the Flagstaff Urban Trail, community members will have access to the garden space during non-school hours to observe, rest, and enjoy.

Q14

Category-specific Objectives: In question 9, a primary project category was selected. (Food, Climate Action, Waste, Resilience, Building Energy Efficiency, Transportation, or Public Health.) Each project category has its own objectives, which are listed in the Grant Guidelines on pages 4-6. Describe how your project aligns with the objectives of the category it fits within. Make sure to address the minimum # of objectives (two) specifically. The highest-scoring projects will include activities to meet all three of these objectives.

The primary objective for Food Garden Foret is for students to establish and manage the garden while learning about regenerative gardening practices. This garden will be appreciated by our students but also open to the public during non-school hours and can be a source of food for members of our community. Many Flagstaff residents, including many of our own FJA families, experience food insecurity. The produce from our garden will be donated to the Flagstaff Family Food Center to support their mission.

Composting, rainwater harvesting, and pollinator habitat will be features of the Food Garden Foret. FJA has existing composting and rainwater harvesting infrastructure at our current campus, but we have capacity on our new site to establish a more robust composting program to reduce and repurpose our school's food waste. There are also opportunities to be a compost exchange site for the school families and McMillan Mesa neighbors. Plants that attract pollinators will be included in our food garden and can encourage discussions about the importance of pollinators.

Food forests are designed to be tended to delicately for a few years to establish a strong perennial food producing garden. Once the fruit trees, vines and shrubs are established they require less frequent waterings. They will still produce the same if not higher yields. The abundance of fruit will be shared with the community as well as the knowledge to create more food forests.

Q15

Project Innovation: Describe how this project is innovative. Innovative projects use new methods or strategies, significantly refine existing ones, and/or apply existing methods or strategies to new contexts. Highly innovative projects can provide knowledge that people in the future with similar goals can learn from and apply.

Planting to create a food forest is not new but the concept will be new to many of our students. Our students come from all over Flagstaff and have differing experiences with gardens and other natural spaces. We have a unique opportunity with the move to an undeveloped site to teach students about the benefits of food forests and allow generations of FJA students a chance to cultivate and nurture an ecosystem that will take years to establish. This idea is not necessarily innovative, many schools in Flagstaff have gardens, but it is valuable and planting a food forest on a new site that will be a blank canvas that will allow for more creativity and intention to keep the food forest going for years.

The annual gardens grown in garden beds will focus on traditional gardening techniques that have been used for centuries such as the three sisters technique and hugelkultur. Incorporating numerous others that reduce and reuse our food waste in creative ways will further strengthen the resilience of the food forest and the community it provides to.

Q16

The city of Flagstaff is committed to carbon neutrality by 2030. The carbon neutrality plan aims to reduce impacts and emissions (mitigation) and also incorporates strengthening communities (resilience and adaptation) and prioritizing the people most impacted by climate change (equity.) How does this project support the Carbon Neutrality plan? Additional Helpful Resources: The City of Flagstaff Carbon Neutrality Plan (pages 7-12) and the City of Flagstaff Take Action page. Review the Grant Scoring Rubric for this question. Attend the Grant Workshop or Grant Office Hours to ask questions. Details for these opportunities will be available on the Neighborhood Sustainability Grant website here. Utilize the EPA emissions calculator, FoodPrints Emission Calculator, Project Drawdown Table of Solutions, and/or search engines to look at your project's impact and/or emissions. Contact the grant coordinator with any questions to talk through how your project may/may not support the Carbon Neutrality Plan: sustainability@flagstaffaz.gov

Our food forest project will create a stronger connection between students and their natural environment. While our food forest will be small, it can still positively support the Carbon Neutrality Plan. We are planning to plant 10 fruit trees, in addition to other plants, that can offer some carbon sequestration capacity. One goal of the project is to create minimal to low maintenance garden using inputs that won't increase our emissions impact. We are planning to incorporate composting that will reduce the amount of waste that our school sends to the landfill, and we have hopes of working toward a compost bin exchange program utilized by families and other community members. It is also important that the food and fruit produced by our garden goes to people who have a need.

Q17

Community Partners: List the individual(s), community groups, or not-for-profit organizations affiliated with the project and describe the responsibilities of each. Describe which of the cooperating organization(s) have already agreed to participate in the project and provide contact information for a person from each organization. For some projects, it may be appropriate to list organizations that you anticipate cooperating with but do not yet have a commitment from.

- Community Partner 1: **Community Partner 1: Flagstaff Family Food Center, www.hotfood.org We will donate excess food harvested from the forest garden. We have an existing relationship with FFFC.**
- Community Partner 2: **Community Partner 2: Forestdale Farm, www.forestdalefarm.com We will purchase seeds and plants through Forest Dale Farm and consult regarding garden design and planning.**
- Community Partner 3: **Community Partner 3: Highgate Senior Living, highgateseniorliving.com We will compost food waste from Highgate Senior Living and return finished compost to them for their courtyard garden. We will also recruit some residents to help with watering plants 1 day per week in the summer months.**
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Q18

Expected Challenges / Previous Experience. Describe any expected challenges and how you anticipate overcoming these. Include relevant experience overcoming these challenges if applicable.

We are still in the planning process of finalizing our plan for the Gemini site. We originally planned for our Food Garden Foret project to be in a location that will no longer be feasible with our updated site plan. We feel confident that we can maintain flexibility with the final location of our food forest and still achieve our overall goals. Our site plan concept will be finalized before January 2024, and we are allocating a portion of our budget to pay for a garden planner to help create a preliminary design for the space. This garden plan can still be flexible to incorporate student viewpoints but will also create a starting point to utilize the best growing space on the property.

Q19

Project Milestones and Timeline: Provide a list of project milestones with an approximate timeline. Include details necessary to accomplish each milestone. Note: Funding can only be utilized for activities completed after January 1.

- March-May 2024- Plan food garden design and create planting schedule.
 - June 2024- Move existing gardening supplies to new site.
 - July-August 2024- Finalize food garden site plan and prepare soil and beds and install rain barrels
 - August-September 2024- Install compost and food forest infrastructure
 - September 2024- Plant fruit trees and install irrigation system
 - October-November 2024- Plant ground covering
 - March-April 2025- Grow seeds indoors, turn soil and finish prep for spring planting
 - June 2025- Plant annuals
 - July-August 2025- Maintenance
 - July-September- Harvest, preparation for next planting season
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Q20

Project Longevity: Describe how your project and/or its impact might continue beyond the grant term. Will the project have a lasting impact on the community?

We believe that this project will impact our community for years to come. Our food forest project will hopefully create a stronger connection between our community, our students and nature. While our food forest will be small, it can be a place of peace and tranquility for all. We plan to install benches and pea gravel paths, inviting not only our students but local community members to stroll the paths, and enjoy the gardens. We plan to offer our community garden as a place of respite for those looking for rest, for food and for time in nature.

Q21

Other Project Details: If appropriate, describe current use of site and relevant details of ownership. Proceed to the next question if you need to upload a map or photo of the site.

The site is currently open land on North Gemini next to the urban trail and BASIS Flagstaff.

Q22

Optional Upload: Upload a map or photo of the site (file size limited to 16MB).

2023.09.26-Flagstaff%20Junior%20Academy.pdf (667.5KB)

Q23

Detailed Budget and Budget Narrative: Provide the total project budget in detail, specifying which aspects of the project are to be funded by the Neighborhood Sustainability Grant and include any additional funding sources. The narrative should provide a general overview of how the grant funds would be used. If using the/an optional budget template, please type "See attachment."

Please see our attached budget.

Q24

Optional Budget Upload: Upload your budget and narrative (file size limited to 16MB). Here is a Budget Template.

Forest%20Garden%20Foray%20Budget.pdf (104KB)

Q25

Community References: Include at least two independent references.

Reference 1 (R1) Name:	Jerome Naleski
R1 Affiliation:	Board Member
R1 Occupation:	Associate Broker & Realtor
R1 Phone:	928-225-9225
R1 Email:	jeromenaleski@gmail.com
Reference 2 (R2) Name:	Julie Sokol
R2 Affiliation:	Board Member
R2 Occupation:	ARTx Festival Director
R2 Phone:	512-422-7014
R2 Email:	juliesokol@gmail.com

Q26

Respondent skipped this question

Optional - Letters of Support: Letters of support are optional. If your application includes letters of support, please compile your letters into one PDF and upload (file size limited to 16 MB) here. Use the following file name: Your Name_Your Project Title Abbreviated_Sustainability Grant_Month Year.

Page 4: PART III: APPLICANT SIGNATURE

Q27

I have read and understood the information regarding my application for a Neighborhood Sustainability Grant and I understand that the grant money is not a prize for personal profit or gain and is strictly for the project described. I further understand that the City of Flagstaff has the right to allocate and supervise the spending of the grant money and when projects do not proceed within the stated timetable, the City of Flagstaff reserves the right to request that the grant be refunded. I understand that recipients of these grants may be invited by the City of Flagstaff to participate in promotion and publicity of the project. Please type your name below to electronically sign and signal your agreement to these terms and conditions listed in the Grant Guidelines.

Applicant Electronic Signature:	Kristin Patterson
Title:	Assistant Director
Date:	9/29/23
