

Student Leader: Lia Paw

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Academic Status: Junior (Class of 2023)

Community Partner: Interface Ministries (iFace)

Project Title: Building Cultural Peace in Greenville

Project Location: Greenville

Project Timeline: Spring 2022 - August 2022

2. The next three questions should all together be no more than 2 pages in length. We have given word limits for each of the sections, but these can fluctuate based on your project. Please see the sample application linked on the website for an example, but be mindful that application requirements have changed since last year, so your questions will be different.

Provide an overview of the project and list your project goals. (Who, what, where, when, and how?). To be considered, you must link your goals to efforts to establish lasting peace and mechanisms for conflict resolution. 800 words or fewer.

In 2021, the American Council on Education (ACE) talked to 1000 Americans and discovered that 43 percent of the people had a personal bias of how International students take away opportunities from American students. The “Building Cultural Peace” project aims to highlight different scenarios of discrimination issues and lessen the tension between the Americans, who are Greenville locals, and the International students, who belong to different countries. Although the internal conflict and stereotypes towards both parties are not addressed directly, prejudice towards immigrants has been on the rise especially during COVID. My approach to this conflict is to invite both International and Greenville locals to a 6 weeks long program in the summer of 2022.

This project will be partnered with Interface Ministries (iFace), which shares the same beliefs and values of increasing mutual understanding among the cultures and backgrounds represented at the event,

in particular for Americans to understand the situation of international students studying here in the US.

Vice versa, this project will leave a calming impression on the international students who are still learning of the new American culture and encourage them to get out of their comfort zone to interact with our Greenville locals. This project will be composed of 45 participants in total and will be in person. 25 International students from different universities such as Furman, Bob Jones, and Clemson. The remaining 20 participants will be from iFace staff and volunteers, who come with different perspectives.

The International students, staff, and volunteers will meet up once a week for 6 weeks straight to learn about each other's culture and values. The project will take place some days on Furman campus and other days at our iFace staff volunteers' houses that allows space and privacy. There will also be different activities and agendas planned to focus on breaking the walls of hostility and uneasiness. In the first week, we will start with some introductions to get to know each other. And we will play a game "The Line Game", where there will be participants on different sides of the room and red tape in the middle. I will ask fun questions followed by serious questions to vulnerable questions to show the participants of their similarities rather than their differences, whenever they come up to that line. The project will focus on a non-judgemental, respectful, and safe environment, that allows our participants to be their authentic selves and speak freely regarding their views on different cultures.

In the second week, we will go around a circle and talk about the personal story that surrounds our identity. This is to understand how we become the person we are today and connect the dots to how our cultures and different upbringings surround our lives.

For the third week, I have invited a guest Mr. Benjamin Allin who will lead us in understanding the meaning of conflicts and how to build peace by learning conflict solving skills. It is very important to

understand how to approach and resolve conflicts with different people and I believe that this knowledge will be priceless for our participants.

Due to the pandemic, human resources and the economy have become tight. We all have become too occupied with work and social distancing has taken our communication skills. The fourth and fifth weeks will be followed by country presentations and sharing traditional food. By building social relationships through food and communication, I believe trust and reciprocity can be established to decrease fear and intolerance while increasing a sense of belonging and pro-social behaviors to make the world a better and safer place.

Last but not least, for the last week, Mr. Benjamin Allin will join us again to guide us through mindfulness and gratitude circle session, to digest what we learned during the past weeks and reflect on ourselves in becoming better persons for our community, despite our different age and identity spectrum.

In addition, according to the donut theory, understanding social boundaries is an important tool in building a sustainable world to reframe economic problems and set new goals. This project will help us realize the flaws of our society and aim for a world in which people and planet, can thrive in balance.

I believe that this project will be a life-changing experience for both parties and give them reassurance to communicate and learn regarding one another, despite the background diversity and culture or language barriers. This project will leave a long-lasting encounter and memory for our participants as they will experience the meaning of realness, instead of the stereotypes and negative social media influences regarding our differences.

If your project is successful in the short and long term, how will you measure that? In other words, what would project success look like? Will you determine this via surveys, interviews, or other measures? 150 words or fewer.

There will be a before and after survey on assessing personal bias and conflict solving skills to see if the participants transformed after attending the program. The survey will be held through google forms.

The success of the project will be based on meeting the agendas and objectives on schedule on a weekly basis, the project is maintained within budget, the participants are all present within the 6 weeks with friendly reminders for attendance, and analyzing the shift in the participants' attitude and perspectives through the survey.

How will you ensure that the project's impact will promote lasting peace after the primary implementation and funding phase? 150 words or fewer.

Scientifically it takes 21 days for a new behavior to be automatic. I will make sure that healthy relationships are built between each international student to encourage each other through our group activities and meaningful conversations for the entire 6 weeks period. And I sincerely hope that the discoveries during the project will continue to motivate us as a whole, to be selfless as we keep in touch and lean on each other in the future.

3. The budget section can be no more than one page. You should make good informed estimates for your project, but you do not need to be extremely detailed here. For example, if you are planning to provide 4 meals throughout the summer, you should make an informed estimate about how much the total cost would be for all of them, but do not need to list out each individual meal to the exact dollar amount. See the sample budget on the last page of this document for an example. For more information about what you can include in your budget, see this attached budget template (you do not need to fill this document out, just use it as a guide). Please estimate your project budget below. How do you anticipate spending the \$10,000 award, in full, to support your project goals? Possible

budget items you may want to include are as follows: student stipend, travel, facilitator fees, materials, lunches for participants, etc.

Expenses	Costs (\$)	Clarification
45 Participants	\$4500	The 45 participants will be given a \$100 gift card of their choice, after the 6 weeks period.
Guest Speaker	\$600	Our peace building guest speaker Mr. Benjamin Allin will be funded \$600 in total, for participating for 2 weeks.
Food and beverages	\$1200	\$200 will be used every week to purchase snacks and beverages for our participants. Since the project is 6 weeks, \$1200 in total.
Transportation	\$0	Transportation will be done through the help of iFace staff volunteers and students who own cars.
Art supplies	\$300	For art supplies such as writing materials and pens, and conflict solving tools.
Technology resources	\$0	Technology necessities will either be borrowed from Furman library or iFace staff for recycling tools purposes.
Traditional cooking supplies	\$900	Participants who volunteer to cook for the event will be funded. However, the number of volunteers will be limited to prevent food waste.
Student Leader Fund	\$2500	The project planning begins this semester and full-time in summer. This fund is a total of part-time spring and full-time summer commitment.

4. Commitment to Community Engagement The Shi Institute for Sustainable Communities is committed to engaging with community partners thoughtfully, humbly, and compassionately. In 250 words or less, please describe how you will commit to best practice of community engagement. This may include how you will honor community partners' expertise and experience and involve them in the design and facilitation of service, how you will develop goals and outcomes based on community partners' needs and preferences, or how you will respect diversity and challenge any biases/assumptions you have about the community you will be working with. (250 words).

As I work with my community partner, I will make sure that the 6 weeks project is organized with both the leadership of iFace staff and the goals I have for the project. I will not hesitate to talk or clarify with my community partner, to prevent miscommunication. I will be humble, respectful, and assertive as I lead the project with grace and kindness towards my peers. I will meet on a weekly basis before and during the project to go through "what went well" and "what can be improved" with my community partner, for the project to run smoothly. I will be mindful and focus clearly on the goals of the project to prevent my personal bias. I will be patient and optimistic if the project does not go as planned but be persistent to make it better for the next week. I will ask for feedback from my peers regarding how they feel and learn from the project and be flexible to make changes to meet the project's needs. And last but not least, I will be responsible for the project and take it seriously as a job. Thank you.

5. The letter of support from your key community partner: The letter of support from your key community partner must confirm that the person or organization is willing and able to support your work this summer and believes that the work will contribute to peace-building in the target community. Please send your community partner the guidelines on the next page and ask them to submit their letter by email directly to Catherine Lippert at Catherine.lippert2@furman.edu. This letter of support is due on or before January 17, 2022.

The letter is already sent under the email "katie.gibson@iface.org" to Catherine Lippert.