



## **SECTION 1: Project Concept**

- a. Project Title: Visiting Artist Fritz Haeg  
Project location: Western Campus  
Planned completion date: Visit will conclude on April 10th, 2020 and the **Digital Dossier on Teaching Sustainability through the Arts** will be completed by July 31, 2020.
- b. Describe your proposed project: The project for which we are seeking funding to bring the trans-disciplinary artist and educator Fritz Haeg to Western on April 8 - 10, 2020 during which time he will conduct classroom visits, a cross-departmental Q&A and public presentation on his creative research and production which focuses on ecology, community and sustainability. The final outcome of Fritz Haeg's visit will include a **Digital Dossier on Teaching Sustainability through the Arts** that will also be supported in part by Assistant Professor Sarah K's Summer Teaching Research Grant 2020 (made available as part of her TT hiring package as approved in April 2019). This record will consist of student and faculty writing and collectively made art projects inspired by the work of Fritz Haeg and others who illustrate sustainability in the Arts.
- c. **Who is the intended audience?** Due to the cross-disciplinary nature of Fritz Haeg's art practice, as a trained architect who makes his living transforming spaces to the benefit of local communities, the intended audience for the visit and associated activities will include students, faculty and community members engaged in Art, Design, Engineering, and the Environment.

- d. **How many students will be directly affected?** Students that will be directly affected by this visit will include those with scheduled individual studio visits with the artist, those attending the formal lecture scheduled for 5:30PM on April 9th, and those participating in classroom Q&As and our proposed interdepartmental panel discussion to take place at Outback Farm on Friday April 10th. Over the course of these events and gatherings, students will have the opportunity to ask questions and directly converse with Fritz Haeg regarding his interdisciplinary art practice which for the last three decades has concerned itself with issues of ecology, community and sustainability. (A rough estimate would be 100 - 200 students directly impacted.)
- e. **What are the goals and desired outcomes of your project?**  
The goal of this project is to expose students and our community members to the artist's work that deals with ecology, social justice and sustainability through the lens of Art, Design, and community engagement. Haeg's work crosses many disciplinary boundaries and will appeal to and inspire a broad audience. The desired outcome of this project is to provide innovative models for our students and community members that illustrate ways to creatively apply concepts of sustainability across disciplines (art, design, ecology) and to illustrate further the interconnected nature of these (social, ecological, cultural, and economic) issues and our world.

## **SECTION 2: Project Alignments**

How will your project positively impact the four pillars of sustainability at Western?

### **Social/Ecological/Cultural/Economic**

Fritz Haeg is perhaps most known for his projects like **Edible Estates** which engaged the public in re-envisioning their relationship with place (the suburban front lawn), affordable whole food (through gardening) and their adjacent human and non-human community through turning unused front yards into sites for community engagement and sustenance, beginning in Los Angeles before being recreated around the world, a truly local to global effort.

### **Social/Ecological/Cultural**

With **Animal Estates** at the Whitney Museum of Art in New York, Fritz designed and installed a range of animal homes for species that formerly called the island of Manhattan home. Designs for the animal homes were deliberately simple and open-source so museum visitors could learn to make similar animal homes for their own backyard interspecies community.

### **Social/Ecological/Cultural**

His back yard school, **Sundown Salon**, worked as a community gathering space that featured conversations and skill shares directly relating to the surrounding community before becoming a nomadic site for social exchange and community building.

### **Social/Ecological/Cultural/Economic**

Another project and is Fritz's **Domestic Integrities**, community construction in the form of a crochet rug that began in rural Pennsylvania and has travelled to LA, NY, CA, and internationally, a local to global project that consists of a crochet rug completed made out of recycled clothes and textiles. The work grows at each site by the labor of community members who learn the simple weaving technique from volunteers and/or the artist. This project highlights, among others, mentioned showcases the artists interest in sustainability through community building and also touches on the value of labor in our culture, how when we work together to pool resources, skills to produce something, in this case a simple circular rug, we can achieve goals much greater than one individual labouring alone.

### **Social/Ecological/Cultural/Economic**

Currently Haeg is revitalising a former commune in Northern California exploring sustainable practices, providing internships and residencies to under-represented artists and researchers and fostering deeper engagement with nature and community. **Salmon Creek Farm** is about relationships, between the forest and the former logging industry, the people in the local community and invited guests, the buildings and the occupants. It is more a sustained practice that will continue to change as the place and people change than an art project that has a set beginning and end. By learning about these projects and others that embody the four pillars of sustainability, social, ecological, cultural and economic, our Western community can apply new strategies to local issues in creative and innovative ways. Subsequently our students can take what they've gained from this experience and apply it to regional and global challenges.

**How does your project align with Western's Sustainable Action Plan and other campus sustainability goals or initiatives? Please reference specific SAP initiatives.**

**Academic Goal 1.** Western's curricula provide all students opportunities to nurture and create the conditions for a thriving society, economy, and environment and...

**Academic Goal 2.** Western supports scholarship and teaching that contribute to the understanding and promotion of sustainability: *Fritz's visit will align with goals #1 and #2 by providing opportunity to explore and engage with projects and concepts that illustrate the core concepts of sustainability (social, ecological, cultural and economic) through directed and direct engagement with the artist and group and independent research.*

**SAP Engagement Goal 2:** Western's culture and community engagement efforts reflect a strong commitment to sustainability. *Fritz's work crosses and integrates a range of disciplines weaving together ecological and social strands of sustainable living practices. Providing this opportunity to learn about and engage with Fritz and his work will actualise this goal.*

**Student Life Goal 1:** Students have a solid foundation for understanding cultural and global interdependence: *Learning about Fritz Haeg's process and practice, that originates in the local and expands to the global, satisfies this goal.*

**Student Life Goal 2:** Through structured community and campus-based co-curricular learning experiences, students gain knowledge and insight of sustainability in practice and... *Team leader Sasha Petrenko will be working with team members from the Department of Art and Art History as well as the Huxley School to offer cross departmental community oriented discussions and gathering, such as the proposed panel discussion and meal at Outback Farm on Friday April 10th. In addition to submitting written responses, students taking Art 230, Art 333 and Art 334 will design and execute community oriented art projects illustrating sustainable models.*

**Student Life Goal 3:** Social, Economic, and Ecological (SEE) sustainability principles are integrated in student career and lifelong practices:

*This visit will expose students and community members to Haeg's creative research and activities that have for decades addressed issues of sustainability. The arc of his practice starting in one's backyard, reaching global partners, and returning again to the local, illustrate the artist's commitment to identifying and activating creative projects that address the four pillars of sustainability in ways that engage and strengthen communities while revealing the interconnected nature of social, ecological, cultural and economic issues.*

**How does your project align with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals?** *The project of bringing Fritz Haeg to Western aligns with many of the UN's development goals as it will provide an opportunity for our local community to directly engage with and learn about projects that support and illustrate action plans achieving these goals. Sundown Salon (a platform for free community learning) Edible Estates (growing gardens in underused spaces, promoting good health and sustainable communities), Domestic Integrities (a nomadic community construction in the form of a growing crochet rug made of recycled materials and collective labor) Animal Estates (an installation about respecting and supporting interspecies community wellness through art, design and community engagement), Salmon Creek Farm (a sustained practice focused on relationships between people, place and culture) address the following UN goals Zero Hunger, Good Health and Well-being, Quality Education, Gender Equality, Clean Water and Sanitation, Affordable and clean energy, decent work and economic growth, sustainable cities and communities, responsible consumption and production, climate action, life below the water and life on land, Partnerships to Achieve Goals.*

**How will the success of the project be measured?** Students enrolled in Art and Art History classes will be asked to reflect on how Fritz’s visit has impacted their vision of sustainable practices in class orally and in written form. In addition, collective art projects consisting of recycled materials will be assigned to students in Art 230, Art 333, and Art 334, which typically includes Industrial Design, Design and Art Majors (as well as other majors from across the University) will be researching and creating their own creative community constructions out of recycled and donated materials. **These written responses and art projects will be collected and assessed to evaluate the impact of the artists visit through a digital dossier that will be made available as a model for teaching sustainability through the arts.**

### SECTION 3: Project Participants

Team Leader	Dept. Art & Art History	Sasha Petrenko	Asst. Professor	<a href="mailto:sasha.petrenko@wwu.edu">sasha.petrenko@wwu.edu</a>	
Team Member		Kristina Podesva	Instructor/ Director Bruna Press	<a href="mailto:podesva@gmail.com">podesva@gmail.com</a>	
Team Member	Huxley College of the Environment	Terri Kempton	Outback Farm Manager/ Huxley Instructor	<a href="mailto:kemptot@wwu.edu">kemptot@wwu.edu</a>	
Team Member	Huxley College of the Environment	Kelsey Leppeck	AS Environmental & Sustainability Programs Director	<a href="mailto:as.esp@wwu.edu">as.esp@wwu.edu</a>	
Team Member		Lisa Turner	Associate Professor	<a href="mailto:turnerl5@wwu.edu">turnerl5@wwu.edu</a>	
Team Advisor		Julia Sapin	Professor, Chair	<a href="mailto:sapinj@wwu.edu">sapinj@wwu.edu</a>	
Financial Agent		Glen Tobosa	Administrative Services Manager	<a href="mailto:glen.tobosa@wwu.edu">glen.tobosa@wwu.edu</a>	

## SECTION 4: Project Timeline

Action	Purpose	Initiation	Completion
Sasha shares proposal to invite Fritz hang to Western with Faculty in Art & Art History	For faculty approval	Spring 2019	Approved Spring 2019
Sasha contacted Fritz	Invitation to visit Western	Spring 2019	Confirmed Summer 2019
Sasha begins outreach, contact Sustainability Office's Johnathan Riopelle	For funding Haeg's visit	Fall 2019	
Sasha contacts Outback Farm	Contact cross departmental team members	Fall 2019	
Artist Lecture Series noted on Art and Art History Website	Outreach to students, faculty and Western community	Fall 2019	
Press release to Western Front, Western media, Bellingham Herald, posters printed	Outreach to broader community	Winter/Spring 2020	
Expenses accrued	Travel and lodging for Artist	Winter 2020	
Expenses accrued	Honorarium for the artist	April 2020	

**SECTION 5: Project Budget**

Budget item	Cost per item	Quantity	Cost
Artist Honorarium	\$3000	1	\$3000.00
Air travel	\$478.00	1	\$478.00
Lodging (2 nights)**	\$450.00	1	\$360.00
Meals (3 days)	\$250.00	1	\$250.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>			\$4,088.00
<b>Additional Funding</b>			
Departmental funding	\$400.00		
Class Fees	\$300.00		
		<b>Total Request from SEJF</b>	<b>\$3388.00</b>

## **ITINERARY FOR FRITZ HAEG ARTIST VISIT**

Dates: Wednesday April 8 through Friday April 10th 2020

Contact: Sasha Petrenko, Assistant Professor Sculpture and Expanded Media

Department of Art and Art History

Email: [sasha.petrenko@wwu.edu](mailto:sasha.petrenko@wwu.edu)

Cell: 510-525-9469

### Wednesday April 8th, 2020

3:10 PM Fritz will arrive at the Bellingham International Airport at 3:10 PM. Sasha Petrenko will meet Fritz at Bellingham International and drive him his accommodations at the Fairhaven Village Inn.

7:00 PM Dinner in Fairhaven with faculty and community members, location TBD.

### Thursday April 9th, 2020

10:00 AM Fritz meets with Professor of Print and Digital Media, Lisa Turner Art and Art History students who will be preparing for their BFA Thesis exhibition in the Western Gallery to conduct studio visits.

1:00 PM Fritz meets with Sasha Petrenko and her installation art class for lunch and Q&A

3:00 PM Fritz continues meetings with BFA candidates.

5:30 PM Fritz presents his work to the Western community on campus. Location TBA.

7:30 PM Dinner with faculty and students, location TBA.

### Friday April 10th, 2020

10:00 AM Fritz meets with students (Art, Design, Huxley, ID)

12:00 PM Lunch with Art & Art History and Huxley students and faculty at Outback Farm.

Panel discussion follows.

2:45 PM Fritz arrives at the Bellingham International Airport.

### April - July, 2020

Sasha Petrenko will collect and assess student work around the artists visit as well as conduct additional research to create a digital dossier that will be made available as a model for teaching sustainable practices through the Arts.