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UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
348 GOULD HALL  
BOX 355734  
SEATTLE, WA 98195-5734

COLLEGE OF BUILT ENVIRONMENTS

23 January 2014

Grant Review Committee  
Campus Sustainability Fund  
University of Washington

Dear Grant Review Committee,

This letter is to express my enthusiastic support for the "Green Wall Interactive Educational Elements and Habitat Structures" proposal submitted by the UW Green Futures Research and Design Lab (GFL). With support from the Campus Sustainability Fund, the GFL's Biodiversity Green Wall, Edible Green Screen, and Water Harvesting System has been a highly successful demonstration project, which engaged the talents of several of our students in the feasibility, design, construction, and project management, and involved over 50 coordination meetings with numerous faculty and staff across the university. Since completion, hundreds of visitors have viewed the integrated project on the walls of Gould Hall, and numerous positive articles and postings have been written about it.

This proposal represents a critical step in the project that will allow the educational benefits of the wall greater accessibility through interpretive communication elements, and applies and adaptive management approach in adding habitat enhancement features. It is important that the innovative strategies explored through the project be shared with a wide audience, including those not already well-versed in sustainable design techniques. The project has recently won research support and as that proceeds, website design funded by CSF will allow the university community to follow the on-going monitoring process, further deepening its educational value.

The Green Futures Lab has a proven track record of successful research, design, construction and public information projects. Professor Rottle provided the impetus for and oversaw the green wall project, and will provide valuable mentorship and consistency to the design team in adding educational elements and habitat structures. I wholeheartedly endorse this project and give you my highest recommendation to fund it.

Sincerely,



Jeff Hou, PhD  
Associate Professor and Chair