

May 1, 2018

To the Campus Sustainability Fund Committee:

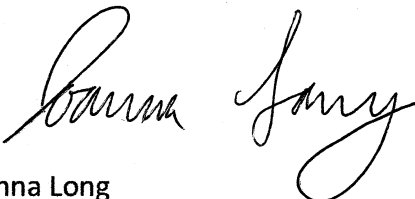
I am writing in support of the SER Nursery's grant proposal. I am a recent graduate of the Masters of Environmental Horticulture program, and the nursery played an important role in my education and in my graduate work. I have volunteered with the nursery, purchased nursery plants for many different campus restoration projects, and purchased plants for home use during their public plant sales.

The nursery is an important resource on campus, educating students about native plants, nursery management, and restoration. The nursery also serves as a community gathering place for students interested in native plants and restoration. As a graduate student based at the Center for Urban Horticulture I felt disconnected from activities on main campus, and the nursery offered me a space to learn and connect with others sharing my interests.

For the past year and a half, I have been involved in the Yesler Swamp mitigation work, leading work parties, performing monitoring, and writing monitoring reports. The nursery has been supportive of this work, even growing plants that we have specifically requested based on mitigation plans. Because the nursery is student-run they can experiment with growing special requests that a commercial nursery would not be able to accommodate.

In the winter of 2017-2018 I was a Research Assistant for professor Kern Ewing and tasked with performing restoration work in the Union Bay Natural Area. Again, I worked closely with the nursery to find appropriate plants for my restoration sites. Student projects usually have minimal budgets, and the nursery is an affordable way to get quality plant material into campus projects. Having the nursery located on campus makes it much easier to perform the restoration work. My volunteers were always excited to hear that the plants we put into our sites were grown by fellow students.

The SER nursery is an amazing campus resource, providing leadership opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students, fostering a restoration community on campus, providing quality plants for campus restoration projects, and exposing students to the importance of native plants. I fully support their grant proposal.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Joanna Long', written in black ink.

Joanna Long

Masters of Environmental Horticulture 2018