



2021 Micro-Grant Program Recipients

1) Project Title: Big Brothers Big Sisters Big Start

Big Brothers Big Sisters of PEI currently have six 4x4 raised planters where "matches" (volunteers and children) plant flowers and vegetables. They would like to add four more raised beds and encourage parents to plant vegetables for personal use. Parents will be able to share this activity with their children and perhaps be able to learn and teach new skills. In addition to these planters, the organization would like to plant trees to shelter the garden boxes and purchase rain barrels for watering the planters.

Skills learned at an early age can have a lifelong impact on youth. This project will allow parents, children, and volunteers to explore shared interests and learn new skills while sharing in the success, or occasionally failure, of their efforts.

2) Project Title: Composting Demonstration at Desbrisay Community Garden

This project is intended to improve the overall sustainability of the Desbrisay Community Garden by creating an in-vessel composting space for garden waste in order to reduce reliance on purchased compost inputs provided twice annually by the City of Charlottetown. The project will include at least two types of in-vessel composters to serve as a demonstration for the community to learn about the benefits of in-vessel composting with respect to reduced odors and limited accessibility for garden pests. All composters will be installed in the public area adjacent to the garden plot. Signage will be posted describing the project. The compost will be harvested from the composters for use by the gardeners and potentially other community members, thereby reducing the need for expensive food production inputs.

3) Project Title: Experimental Shorts Showcase

Film PEI is partnering with Art in the Open to present a juried experimental short film screening of digital artists and animators from Prince Edward Island. This will be the first exhibition of its kind and seeks to draw attention to the presence of experimental film and animation artists working locally and provide

an arena for transference of skills and artistry between local filmmakers and local video game animators. The outdoor screening of selected films will occur August 28, 2021, during Art in the Open, a free of charge event. Eight to twelve experimental shorts will be projected onto a surface in a continuous loop for public viewing in downtown Charlottetown.

4) Project Title: Making Connections With Our Community, Our Environment & Our Food Sources

As Stars for Life Foundation for Autism serves a vulnerable population that struggles with recognizing dangerous situations, they want to create a definition of the border of their property. Some of their clients can have tendencies to wander and, without a definition of property lines, they may not realize that they are on someone else's property or entering the roadway. Stars for Life would like to plant fruit bushes and trees along the perimeter of the property to serve as a property line, while also providing additional food security and learning opportunities all while encouraging safe, appropriate interactions with the community. They plan to educate clients on the planting, caring and harvesting of saskatoon berry, blueberry, and currant bushes, as well as pear and apple trees. The education will continue after the harvest by teaching clients how to make jams and baked goods with the fruit. They also hope to have a harvest fest where they can invite residents in the area to sample these treats. By involving clients in the whole process they will help them to understand where their food comes from. Additionally, many clients are on fixed incomes or financial assistance, so being able to provide the extras is important in contributing to their food security.

5) Project Title: Edible Gardening Workshop Series

This workshop series, organized by PEI Food Exchange, will run monthly from June until October to teach Charlottetown residents how to grow some of their own food using methods sanctified under organic certification. These workshops will be delivered by Tom Lund of The Burly Farmer who is an urban farmer in Charlottetown. The workshops will take place on the urban farm in small groups and will take people through the growing season from planning a garden to harvest.

Since the pandemic began, more and more people have become interested in growing their own food. If people have the knowledge and subsequent success, they are more likely to continue to grow some of their own food rather than get discouraged and quit. It will also bring attention to the potential for urban farming in Charlottetown.

6) Project Title: PEIANC Mural Project

Launched in March 2021, the Newcomer Artist Circle is a socially distanced activity group for newcomers to Prince Edward Island who express their creativity at bi-monthly drop-in sessions. It encourages creativity, safe face-to-face socialization, conversation, and self-expression. As an independent

professional, Kirstie McCallum collaborates on this project with the PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada (PEIANC), which has provided administrative and venue support and outreach to Island newcomer artists. The Newcomer Artist Circle has attracted a talented group of newcomer artists who have chosen “being at home in nature” as the theme for 2021 activities. Recently, they were approved by the City of Charlottetown to design and paint a mural on the theme of PEI Flora and Fauna for Robin Hood Park. PEIANC proposed that it also include depictions of Islanders from diverse backgrounds. The combined theme has been approved by the City’s Arts Advisory Board. This project encourages emerging artists in Charlottetown, integrates newcomers through community cultural activities, and develops public art for Charlottetown. It will also teach all Islanders that visit the park about flora and fauna and the community of newcomers who created the mural.

7) Project Title: The Charlottetown Garden Sharing Initiative

The Charlottetown Garden-Sharing Initiative (CGSI) is a community program that connects people who would like to garden but do not have the space with people who would like to have a garden on their property but lack the time, energy, skills or physical ability to do it themselves. In essence, the program pairs up an avid gardener with a homeowner. The gardener provides the knowledge and the labour. The homeowner provides the land and the tools. Together, they can decide what they want to grow and share the produce throughout the growing season. The applicants are hoping to run a small pilot version of this program this year, with around 10-20 participants.

In addition to the above, organizers also propose carrying out 4 workshops throughout the season at Desbrisay Community Garden, with topics determined through participant interest. They will also work with the Charlottetown Tool Library to establish a ‘Tool Pool’ for participants to access.

8) Project Title: Coffee Pod Collective

This project involves the collection of coffee pods/capsules, generally a single-use plastic, recycling the plastic pods while providing the coffee grounds to local community gardens. The plastic products will be sent to and recycled by a company, TerraCycle, that will use the plastics to produce new products all within Canada. Collection points will be set up in Charlottetown and volunteers with Every Pod Counts will collect and clean the pods, saving and distributing the coffee grounds. The long-term goal of the project is to create a PEI-based recycling location for the coffee pods and create new products from it locally.