

IUPUI Solution Center
719 Indiana Avenue, Ste 130

Indianapolis, IN 46202

For IUPUI students only

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Date of Submission:	February 13, 2012
Internship/Project Title	The Seed Guardian Project ®
Internship/Project Period	March 19 – May 11, 2012
Project Mid-Point	April 16
Contact Name:	Kay Grimm
Contact Title:	Agri-preneur and Seed Conservator
Contact Email:	kaygrmm@gmail.com
Contact Phone:	(317) 408-0325
Organization Name:	Kids in Bloom, Inc.
Organization Street Address:	341 N. Hamilton Ave.
Organization City:	Indianapolis
Organization Zip:	46201
Organization Phone:	(317) 408-0325
Organization Email:	
Organization Fax:	
Organization Web Address:	http://www.basicrootscommunityfoods.kaysue.org/
Organization Cluster:	Business
Internship/Research Cluster:	Business
Project/Internship Title:	Seeds Archivist
Location where work will be done:	53 Jefferson Ave (warehouse) , 310 ½ Jefferson Ave (office and warehouse and 341 N Hamilton Ave (house)
Total amount requested:	
Organization funding match:	
Solution Center Staff Liaison:	Christine Fitzpatrick

Description of Business or Organization:

Kids in Bloom, Inc. (KIB) is a community-based educational company committed to connecting people with the earth to sow together community, culture, and ecology. KIB designs, develops, and implements green projects that foster community and environmental awareness while enhancing neighborhood development. KIB's mission is to grow seeds and gardeners by making accessible the education it takes to cultivate the "seed." We are a diversified company that designs, creates and offers consultation for school, community and other types of gardens, emphasizing hands-on learning and building life-enhancing skills for children, as well as revitalizing communities. A crucial component that helped build Kids in Bloom was a line of "Living History" seeds that were trialed and tested by kids in challenging, urban conditions. During the 1990's & early 2000's KIB was important in jump-starting the community garden movement here in Indianapolis and was nationally known for our line of "Living History" heritage seeds. KIB's Heirloom Seed operation is dedicated to farmers everywhere, rural and urban alike, striving to grow chemical free seeds that provide for healthier food chains while keeping diversity alive and well for all the kids, young and old. KIB seeds have been grown by over 7,000 schools and institutions around the country, nationally and internationally. Heirloom seeds connect people to the past while maintaining a vital link towards a sustainable future. Although this concern may seem remote from most folks' neatly bounded backyards (an eco-psychological trait of control) the prosperity of our future food crops depends on the maintenance of primitive strains of these sown seed.

KIB is a for-profit, since 1993 when it was incorporated and federally trademarked. It's a one person operation, most of the time, with a team of 3-4 other individuals who help manifest the ideas into motion.

KIB is located on the Near Eastside of Indianapolis – in 3 locations that house other green "sister" companies, run by Kay Grimm and Sue Spicer: Basic Roots Community Foods, Fruit Loop Acres and Eco-Renewal Specialty Gardens.

Description of Need:

Because of a burgeoning movement of community gardens all over the city, endorsed by the Mayor himself, the need is for us to step into the role of seed conservation through a seed bank and develop curricula that engage communities into positive possibilities that ensure our city is even more food secure. The prosperity of our future food crops depends on the maintenance of primitive strains of these seed sown foods.

In its early days, KIB was instrumental in designing and integrating these seeds nationally in various ways: through a seed catalog, hands-on guided gardening worksheets available for purchase, and workshops at various conferences around the country.

Now we would like to build a stronger program by developing and distributing advanced materials for seed education, in preparation of opening a localized seed "bank": "The Seed Guardian" Project.

An intern is needed to help catalog & inventory a vast life long collection of heirloom seeds. The intern will cross-reference the seeds' origin, compile historical lore, digitally archive previous documentation through photos and slides into a compendium in preparation of making the seeds available to all through a seed bank. As we catalog we will merge the stories and cultivation techniques into existing and soon to be written curricula for future educational endeavors. Our Seed Archivist intern will be instrumental in helping develop and formulate ideas into an inquiry based inter-disciplinary curricula that can be adapted for any garden situation.

The seeds (vegetables and flowers) are scattered in various storage units at 3 locations on the Near Eastside. Some of the work will take place in unheated warehouses as well as heated environments. The intern will catalog the heirloom seeds and create an inventory in Excel for the purpose of laying the foundation for the Seed Bank. Creating the compendium is the first step towards achieving the final outcome for the Seed Guardian Project. From this framework, KIB hopes to partner again with IUPUI to identify opportunities to engage students, either through internships or class projects, in the design and development of publications and educational materials and curricula. This will be a second phase of the project.

Mentoring and Assessment:

Kay Grimm, founder of Kids in Bloom, will serve as primary mentor and advisor. Following education and training as a member of the U.S. Air Force, Kay has amassed more than 20 years' experience as an environmental and ecology manager, wildlife reserve manager, landscaper, urban farmer, and community-based educator. She has collaborated with organizations such as St. Vincent Hospitals, the Indianapolis Children's Museum, St. Luke's Catholic Church, Forest Manor School and surrounding community, Broadway U.M. Church, the Hispanic Educational Center, and myriad others to design and facilitate site-specific beautification and development through art and gardening. Kay's work has been recognized through numerous awards and publications. Kay will be assisted by Sue Spicer of Basic Roots Community Foods, who also mentors and oversees the editing and layout of the compendium and coordinate other fine details of the process. Both love to share their knowledge with others who are eager to revitalize a lost art through a hands-on approach in groovy environments.

Evaluation and Reporting:

In addition to the project mid and end-point evaluations to be completed for the Solution Center, the student will be required to submit a reflective paper, as well as copies of materials produced or projects completed during internship. The intern's work will be evaluated through periodic assessments and meetings with Kay and Sue. Qualities of the intern's work to be evaluated include curiosity, attention to detail, and thoroughness in archiving and cataloging the heirloom seeds.

Outcomes:

The Seeds Archivist Intern will gain experience in reviving a lost art, learn about heirloom seeds, and experience social entrepreneurship while being part of something bigger than themselves. The intern will also gain experience in specialized applications of biology, science, and environmental studies. In addition to helping the organization strive toward creation of a seed bank and develop instructional materials, the intern may become inspired to become a future change maker, perpetuating the art and science of local food production.

The intern's work will complete the first steps of developing a Seed Compendium and ultimately an Heirloom Seed Bank. The results will be an accurate inventory of seeds, including weight and location. Combined with this will be a catalog of the seeds' histories, acclimation to the Midwestern environment, cross-reference origins, archival "grow-out" documentation through written, oral and photo evidence demonstrating the connection of their past to a historical future of food security. The final phase of this internship, by which we can measure, is the creation of the "good book," or the basis of a seed depository to make these treasures available to be grown and saved for others who are interested in biodiversity and heirloom seed preservation.