

Faculty and Staff Diversity Mini-Grant Final Report

Project title _____ Celebrating the Harvard Ferris 2017 _____

Grant Recipients ___ Fran Rosen (Team Leader), Barry Mehler, Lisa von ReichBauer, Scott Herron, Richard Scott Cohen _____

Date Project Started _____ October 4, 2018 _____

Amount of Money Funded by the Mini-Grant: Grant request: \$3400, Actual Spent: \$2024.05

1. How was the grant used to address a diversity or inclusion related goal?

The grant participants organized several Harvest activities. A Sukkah kit was purchased and set up on campus for the Sukkoth celebration. The Office of International Education hosted a Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration. The Circle of Nations Group presented a traditional Native American Full Moon ceremony, and also organized the Ghost Supper activity. These events presented different ways that cultures celebrate the harvest. The Circle of Nations set up a table near the Sukkah, and included Sukkoth celebrants in the native Harvest ceremony. Moon cakes were also available at the Sukkoth. Notices and flyers invited the campus and community to all of the events.

2. Describe the audience that was impacted by the grant's implementation. Provide quantitative data, if available.

The Sukkah was put up on the lawn outside the University Center, facing the Arts & Sciences Building. There was a lot of foot traffic. There was no single event that drew a lot of people together; the impact of the grant was that many students and other community members saw the Sukkah, stopped at the tables, and joined with the group for apples, pie, moon cakes, drinks, yogurt, and candies.

An additional impact was through the collaboration of faculty, staff, and community members to carry out the activities of the grant. This led to a deepened understanding of our common goals, and a stronger basis to continue to work together.

3. Grant recipients are required to provide a short narrative that details the specific efforts each of the collaborators made to the implementation of the grant.

Fran Rosen coordinated the activities and directed acquiring of materials, including: working with Patty Terry to order the sukkah kit and the moon cakes; joining with Caryn Mehler to purchase decorations for the Sukkah and food items for the celebration; getting flyers and handouts produced for the events; and facilitating communication.

Barry Mehler, Scott Herron, Scott Cohen, Caryn Mehler, and Fran Rosen put up and took down the Sukkah, and provided a presence at the Sukkah during the event. Barry Mehler explained the history and traditions of Sukkoth to individual and small groups of students and others, and welcomed them in to the Sukkoth.

Scott Herron worked with other Ferris offices to find the best place for the Sukkah and found ways to bring different traditions together in putting up the Sukkah and celebrating the holiday. He performed a Native American Full Moon Ceremony at the Sukkah. Scott also worked with the Circle of Tribal Nations to make their activities part of the overall event.

Lisa von ReichBauer worked with the Office of International Education and with student groups to organize the MidAutumn festival celebration, and make sure that all the celebrations were connected.

4. What is your overall assessment of the project's impact on the Ferris community? How did this impact compare to what you expected?

The event demonstrated that Ferris is a place that welcomes different cultures and religions, and honors their expression. The impact of the event was somewhat limited by lack of publicity; the original plan was to use Social Media extensively but we were not able to make that happen. The main reason is that we didn't schedule enough time to get the publicity organized. We did not have much time between notification of the grant funding and the actual events, and most of that time was spent ordering materials and coordinating the grant activities.

Also, we hoped that this would become an annual event. That is still possible, but we did not have a combined Harvest celebration in Fall 2018.

Attached are some additional reports, and some publicity materials.

5. Present a final budget including all funds received and spent related to the project, with special focus on the funds received via the Diversity Mini-grant.

The total amount spent was \$2024.05. All receipts were submitted to the Diversity and Inclusion Office. Expenses included:

Sukkah kit

Decorations and food (Meijer)

Printing and Xeroxing (Staples)

Moon Cakes

Report submitted by Fran Rosen, October 29, 2018

Attachment 1: from email from Barry Mehler to Paul Blake, Friday Oct 20, 2017:

SUMMARY OF HARVEST FESTIVAL PROGRAM.

The faculty/staff who participated in the drafting of the mini-grant:

Fran Rosen - drafted the grant and coordinated the program.

Barry Mehler, Jewish student and faculty group

Scott Herron, Circle of Tribal Nations

Scott Cohen, Jewish student and faculty group

Lisa VonReichbauer, Office of International Education

The Harvest Festival Program was held this year on Thursday and Friday Oct 5th and 6th.

We put the Sukkah up on Thursday afternoon along with two tables, one for the Circle of Tribal Nations and one for the Chinese Harvest Festival. The Sukkah roofing consisted evergreen which, we were told by Scott Herron, wards off evil spirits, according to Native American tradition. It certainly was effective, as we did not encounter any evil spirits while the Sukkah was up. Putting the Sukkah up and taking it down was easy and the Sukkah and decorations are now safely stored in the ASC storage facility behind the Mural. Trinity Williams arranged for the storage space, after passing by and asking us if we wanted to store it at ASC. While we were taking the Sukkah down, she went and got us permission and the key.

The lawn outside the UC, facing ASC was really the perfect place for the program. We had lots of student traffic. We gave out Chinese Moon Cakes, apples, apple pie, pumpkin pie, drinks and candies.

Scott Herron performed a traditional Native American Full Moon Ceremony at 8pm on Thursday Oct 5th.

This entire program was planned and executed in less than two weeks from the time we received the mini-grant. Now that we have the Sukkah and have run through the program, we will be able to plan yearly programs during the Harvest Festival.

Attachment 2: From "Good News" report for the Humanities Department, written by Scott Cohen & emailed to Christi Swank on November 20, 2017:

HISTORY AREA

1. "Celebrating the Harvest Ferris 2017." The full moon in late September/early October is connected to many harvest festivals. This first annual Fall Harvest Festival occurred on the main quad on October 5-6, and celebrated the Jewish holiday of Sukkot, the day of the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival, and the Native American festival known as Hunter's Moon. A recipient of a Faculty Staff Diversity Mini-Grant, this project was sponsored by Barry Mehler, Scott Herron, Lisa vonReichbauer and Scott Cohen, and the leadership of Fran Rosen.

Attachment 3: Flyer/Facebook posts



OCT
4

Celebrate the Harvest with Us!

Public · Hosted by Fran Rosen and 4 others

★ Interested



Oct 4, 2017 at 3:00 PM – Oct 6, 2017 at 3:00 PM EDT
More than a year ago



University Center lawn at Campus Drive

12 Went · 11 Interested

Share this event with your friends

Details

Wednesday Oct 4: Mid-Autumn Festival



CELEBRATE THE HARVEST

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY CENTER LAWN
BIG RAPIDS, MI

October 4, 5, 6

OCT
4 Celebrate the Harvest 2

Public · Hosted by Fran Rosen

★ Interested

🕒 Oct 4, 2017 at 3:00 PM – Oct 6, 2017 at 3:00 PM EDT
More than a year ago

📍 University Center Lawn at Campus Drive

5 Went · 3 Interested

Share this event with your friends

Details

Celebrations include:

Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration (Oct 4 & 5), with Chinese cultural activities, moon cakes, and floating lanterns;

Sukkoth Celebration (Oct 5 & 6), with the Sukkah built and decorated on Oct 5, "Treats in the Hut", and opportunity to learn about the history of this Jewish holiday and how it is celebrated;

Harvest Moon Celebration (Oct 4 & 5) with harvest treats and displays with