

INSTITUTE ON THE
ENVIRONMENT

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
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MINI GRANT PROJECT SUMMARY

Please complete the project summary and return the completed form to April Snyder, Associate Administrator for the Institute on the Environment at aprilsnyder@umn.edu. Paper copies will not be accepted. Please also attach any photos, publications, brochures, event agendas or other materials that were a result of the mini grant summary.

Date of Report Submission:	July 10, 2015
Project PI & Dept/School	Vincent deBritto, Department of Landscape Architecture
Project Title:	<i>Students for Design Activism (SDA): A Watershed Event</i>
Grant Amount \$:	\$3000

Project Context & Purpose

Please include the original project purpose statement and revise for any changes that occurred in the project after the start date with a short explanation of the changes.

Original Project MF-0001-13 Abstract:

The UMN Students for Design Activism (SDA), in partnership with the UMN Department of Landscape Architecture, the Mill City Museum, and Floodplain Collective, will be hosting a public screening of the documentary movie, *Watershed*, on April 4th. This will be the first screening in Minnesota of this independent film. *Watershed* examines the water resource ethics and environmental issues raised by piping water from the Colorado River to supply Southern California and other outlying states. SDA will use the film as a conversational catalyst for public discussion around water issues in Minnesota. Following the screening, an interdisciplinary panel including non-profit, government, faculty, and a moderator will facilitate a broader public discussion following the panel presentations. Students for Design Activism will also curate an exhibition of water-focused work from students and faculty from UMN. This event will also serve as a welcoming event to prospective College of Design students.

Changes:

The original grant scope proposed a screening of *Watershed Movie*, a documentary about the Colorado River and the water resource ethics of its current overuse, an exhibition of water-focused works submitted by students, faculty, and professionals, and a panelist of speakers on each night of the event. Due to cost of rental of the venue and the costs of collecting, editing, and printing water-focused work, the scope of event was simplified to a single-day event that included the screening of *WATERSHED MOVIE*, and one keynote speech, and two moderated panel discussions.

Work Completed

Please provide a summary of the work that was completed for the mini grant project.

Watershed Event: Steps towards clean, abundant water in Minnesota.

On Friday, April 11th 2014, University of Minnesota Students for Design Activism hosted Watershed Event: a public symposium on future scenarios and imagined solutions to clean, abundant water in Minnesota. The event brought together water-focused leaders within farming, design, science, activism, and policy to share knowledge, ideas, and strategies that will build a future for how we use and value water. With panel discussions, audience engagement, and the premier screening in Minnesota of the film *WATERSHED*, Watershed Event catalyzed new dialogue and action to improve the quality and quantity of Minnesota's water. Watershed Event was sponsored by UMN Institute on the Environment, College of Liberal Arts Imagine Fund.

All programs were free and open to the public, with no registration necessary.

Speakers/Panelists included:

William Wenk, Wenk Landscape Architecture and Planning.

Brian Hicks, Agricultural Drainage Management Coalition,

John Linc Stine, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Commissioner.

Dave Peters, Journalist for Minnesota Public Radio's series: *Ground Level*

Dorene Day, Indigenous Peoples' Task Force,

Deborah Swackhamer, Professor and Co-director of the Water Resources Center at the U of M,

Matthew Tucker, University of Minnesota Professor of Landscape Architecture

Matt Kucharski, Executive Vice-President, PadillaCRT

The event was held at the Mill City Museum with over 200 persons in attendance.

Partnerships & Collaborations

Please provide a summary of the project personnel, partnerships and collaborations that worked directly on the project or were started as a direct result of the mini grant project.

Vince deBritto, University of Minnesota Senior Lecturer in Landscape Architecture, grant PI

Solange Guillaume, MLA candidate, member of Students for Design Activism

Emily Lowery, Floodplain Collective

William Wenk, Wenk Landscape Architecture and Planning.

Brian Hicks, Agricultural Drainage Management Coalition,

John Linc Stine, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Commissioner.

Dave Peters, Journalist for Minnesota Public Radio's series: *Ground Level*

Dorene Day, Indigenous Peoples' Task Force,

Deborah Swackhamer, Professor and Co-director of the Water Resources Center at the U of M,

Matthew Tucker, University of Minnesota Professor of Landscape Architecture

Matt Kucharski, Executive Vice-President, PadillaCRT

Mill City Museum

University of Minnesota Students for Design Activism

University of Minnesota Student Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects

Project Outcomes & Impacts

Please provide a summary of the outcomes and /or impacts of the mini grant project including future plans for the project.

Outcomes include exposing a non-University audience to the importance of water and the critical water issues in the state of Minnesota. The symposium also established a dialogue between many different actors that deal with water, including design professionals, state regulatory agencies, non-profits, activists, and academics.