Organization
Sustainable Seattle

Project Title
RiSING Seeds: Fiscal Sponsorship and Capacity Building for Neighborhood Sustainability Initiatives

Organizational Background
Founded in 1991, Sustainable Seattle (S2) was the first formal “Sustainable Community” organization in the world, and the first to develop a comprehensive guide to translate sustainable practice as a complex urban effort. S2 became a foundation for understanding sustainable urbanism worldwide.

In 2016, S2 adopted an organizational strategic plan with a direct, intentional focus on identifying and addressing systemic and root causes underlying climate crises endemic in the greater Seattle area. Our mission, "to build a thriving future through initiatives that deliver environmental, economic and community benefits, promote equity, and build resilience," requires an intersectional approach, addressing the well-being of both people and place.

In practice, we intentionally design our programs to center the communities historically excluded from sustainability initiatives, often also those statistically most impacted. While Seattle’s environmental movement is notoriously divisive, our work emphasizes regional perspective and public collaborations towards common goals. Sustainable Seattle programs serve all of Seattle but emphasizes that “across the US, race is the most significant predictor of a person living near contaminated air, water, or soil” (Covert, 2016). By designing our programs with and for the landscapes of Seattle most disproportionately impacted - especially communities of color, refugee and immigrant, low income, and at high risk of displacement - we generate projects that serve the entire region most efficiently, inclusively, and equitably.

Project Description
Two years ago, Sustainable Seattle restructured our neighborhood programs to focus on the initiatives mobilizing resiliency within frontline communities and those at highest risk of climate disaster. The program reaches up to 135,000 Seattleites each year. We are looking to consolidate this initiative with our Fiscal Sponsorship program, shifting systemic blocks to long-term funding access and technical capacity within grassroots initiatives. This project will involve in-depth program and project mapping, familiarity with finance and insurance, a deep commitment to equity-centered practices, cultural competency and working amongst diverse stakeholders.
Travel Required?
No

Deliverables
A thorough program design and protocol

Key Tasks for Consultants
In-person interviews, outreach and engagement materials, research on best practices for financial and insurance models for fiscal sponsorship