

# FUNDING APPLICATION

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Organization Information

|  |  |                                       |  |   |  |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| <b>Legal Name:</b><br>Gardopia Gardens     |  | <b>Federal Tax ID#:</b><br>47-4927209 |  | <b>501(c)(3) Public Charity</b><br>509 (a)(2) |  |
| <b>Address:</b><br>619 N. New Braunfels    |  | <b>City:</b><br>San Antonio           |  | <b>State:</b><br>Texas                        |  |
|  |  |                                       |  | <b>Zip Code:</b><br>78202                     |  |
| <b>Website:</b><br>www.gardopiagardens.org |  | <b>Fax:</b><br>(210) 478-7292         |  | <b>United Way Funded:</b><br>No               |  |

**Fiscal Year:**  
July 01 to June 30

### Head Of Organization

|   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| <b>Name:</b><br>Stephen Lucke                       |  | <b>Title:</b><br>Chief Executive Officer |  |
| <b>E-Mail Address:</b><br>lucke@gardopiagardens.org |  | <b>Phone:</b><br>(210) 478-7292          |  |

### Application Contact

|                               |  |  |  |   |  |                                 |  |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|---|--|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Name:</b><br>Stephen Lucke |  | <b>Title:</b><br>Chief Executive Officer |  | <b>E-Mail Address:</b><br>Lucke@gardopiagardens.org |  | <b>Phone:</b><br>(210) 478-7292 |  |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|---|--|---------------------------------|--|

**Has the organization applied to the Najim Family Foundation in the past and been declined?**  
Yes  
2017

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <b>Grant Amount Requested \$:</b><br>\$10,000 | <b>Total Project Budget \$:</b><br>\$40,000 | <b>Organization's Annual budget \$:</b><br>\$253,000 |
|---|---|--|

**Mission Statement:**  
To grow healthy communities through garden-based learning.

## PROJECT INFORMATION

**Program / Project Title:**  
The Harvey Najim Outdoor Education Learning Center

### PROJECT TIMELINE

|                                 |                               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Start Date</b><br>01/01/2021 | <b>End Date</b><br>05/31/2021 |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|

**Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation Priorities:**  
Education

**Education Priorities:**  
Elementary to High School

**Program / Project Description:**  
Goals:

The Outdoor Education Learning Center (OELC) is a structural build to provide shade, seating, and rainwater collection to promote enhanced educational opportunities for youth in the Bexar County Community to engage in safe outdoor learning at Gardopia Gardens. The structure will be designed and constructed by the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) College of Architecture, Construction & Planning, with the goal of allowing the community to further integrate the knowledge of horticultural practices in their daily lives. The awning, seating, tables, and whiteboard will allow the program to take a nature-based learning approach to academics. Evidence-based research shows that getting individuals outside of the normal indoor setting can help with application and retention of subject matter, in addition to reducing stress levels. The covered area will allow the agency's programming to better utilize the microfarm area while ensuring safety and improved educational opportunities during the hottest months from June to September, when temperatures regularly reach 100+ degrees.

The OELC is part of an ongoing project in conjunction with Professor Darryl Ohlenbusch, a member of the American Institute of Architects and Professor in the Department of Architecture, Construction & Planning at UTSA. Professor Ohlenbusch has selected Gardopia Gardens as the studio's next project site, slated to begin construction in the spring of 2021. Alongside the Department of Architecture students, Professor Ohlenbusch will lead the integrated design, a collaborative process involving a diversity of stakeholders contributing to the design, construction, operation and occupancy of the proposed OELC over its complete life cycle. The design and construction of the building will be offered to Gardopia Gardens at no labor cost, maximizing the amount of funding allocated to improved structural functionality, shading, seating, and more efficient rainwater collection system.

#### Issues:

Gardopia Gardens is located in a community that struggles with many issues including poverty, high unemployment rates, lack of green spaces, crime, and is a designated USDA food desert location. Gardopia Gardens exists in this community to foster health and well being through hands-on garden based learning. In order to effectively and safely carry out its mission of growing healthy communities, the agency requires the construction of the proposed Outdoor Education Learning Center.

Due to COVID-19, most activities that provide for social connection and community building have been canceled due to a lack of ability to safely gather. Research indicates that the risk of transmission of COVID-19 reduces greatly while outdoors in fresh air with adequate sunlight exposure. The addition of the Outdoor Education Learning Center will facilitate opportunities to engage in social connection in an outdoor setting that lends itself to easily maintain 6-feet of distance. This structure is functional as well as artistic, adding beauty and inspiration to a community impoverished and in need of impact investment, many of whom refer to the area as a "soulless corridor".

#### Needs Addressed:

The Texas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Statewide BRFSS Survey, 2011 - 2014 indicates an increase in the % of overweight or obese adults in Bexar County. In 2011, 66.3% of the Bexar County Adult Population was overweight or obese. In 2014, this percentage grew to 71.3% of the Bexar County Adult Population being overweight or obese. Gardening and the corresponding preparation of healthy food needs to be approachable to all individuals, including children. This skill is going to pass on the culture of the household, of the community, bring family together, and bring children to nourish themselves as adults.

Diabetes is rampant in District 2. According to the Bexar County Health Collaborative, 8% - 54% of adults living in the Near Eastside were told by a provider they are prediabetic or borderline diabetic. These non-communicable diseases are highly preventable. Paired with healthy cooking demonstrations, horticultural information, and educational efforts, Gardopia Gardens will provide the nutrition interventions necessary for our children to lead healthy lifestyles now and for the future.

#### Individuals Impacted:

The target population of the 5 SAISD Elementary Schools within a 3-mile radius of Gardopia Gardens and Youth Development Programs at the Ella Austin Community Center.

Students from Ella Austin Community Center, Bowden Academy, Washington Elementary, Young Men's Leadership Academy, Pershing Elementary, and IDEA Carver will engage in a diversity of evidence-based horticultural practices that teach youth how to grow their own food. Topics start from soil science, entomology, composting, sustainability, botany, tool safety, climate change, waste reduction, plant identification and ecology. By growing food, and learning the science behind horticulture, students become aware and invested in their overall health.

**Expected Results:**

The primary result of this project includes an expansion of Gardopia Gardens' youth programming support. As a secondary result, programming yields positive changes in youth's attitudes, behaviors, circumstances, skills, and knowledge in the form of improved mental and physical health, and the creation of a more environmentally conscious outlook.

Expanded Education For Improved Mental & Physical Health -Outdoor activities improve the mental health of all people through the mitigation of stress and anxiety. The North American Association for Environmental Education indicates that outdoor activities, even a brief walk, can help regulate the negative symptoms of ADHD, while improving concentration, social behaviors, and confidence. A study conducted in Seattle found that children spend 12.6 minutes per day engaged in outdoor activities compared to the 10.4 hours spent indoors engaging in the sedentary lifestyle. The National Trust indicates that sun exposure increases the level of Vitamin-D, improves eyesight, and aids the development of motor skills and spatial awareness for young people.

**Evaluation Plan:**

Monthly planning / strategy sessions with the College of Architecture, Construction & Planning - Professor. Darryl Ohlenbusch , Gardopia Gardens' Executive Staff will provide real time monitoring of progress reports as an integral component of the OELC continuous quality improvement efforts. This data will be recorded, analyzed, and discussed to develop strategic invention design necessary to transform adverse health outcomes.

Performance Measure #1: # of individuals served throughout the 2021 - 2022 Calendar Year

Project Target: 1,000

Actual Target: Pending Completion

Measurement Tool: Workday Events Logs

Performance Measure #2: # of youth served throughout the 2020 - 2021 Academic School Year

Project Target: 400 youth

Actual Target: Pending Completion

Measurement Tool: Memorandum Of Understanding From Area Schools

Performance Measure #3: # of schools utilizing the Outdoor Education Learning Center

Project Target: 5 schools

Actual Target: Pending Completion

Measurement Tool: Memorandum Of Understanding From Area Schools

Performance Measure #4: # of classes taught using the Outdoor Education Learning Center in the 2021 - 2022 Year

Project Target: 24

Actual Target: Pending Completion

Measurement Tool: Class Event Log

Performance Measure #5: # of Volunteer Hours during implementation / building phase

Project Target: 960

Actual Target: Pending Completion

Measurement Tool: Volunteer Hour Logs

**Plans to sustain project beyond the term of this request:**

Board of Directors and Executive Staff fundraise, create and maintain relationships, and expand opportunities through the continuous development of the agency's sustainability plan.

The sustainability plan in place protects and preserves the longevity of Gardopia Gardens is a multi-faceted plan involving funding from many sources. The plan involves seeking large grants from local, states, and federal agencies or corporations dedicated to promoting the success of the health and wellness of individuals, youth, and families through garden-based learning. Soliciting donations from major philanthropic foundations, writing additional grants to secure specific needs of our programs and generating income through fundraising events, galas, and drives. These strategies further bolster community partnerships for in-kind donations of time, talent, and treasure from a wealth of diverse enrichment programs.

**Children Impacted:**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>How many unduplicated children will the TOTAL PROJECT INITIATIVE impact?</b> | <b>How many unduplicated children will NFF REQUESTED FUNDS impact?</b> |
| 400   | 400  |

**Please provide the percentage of each group below that will be served by the project in which funds are being requested. Do not leave any area blank. If that specific group will not be served, include zero. The percentage should total 100%.**

| <b>A. Population Served Age</b> |             | <b>B. Population Served Ethnicity</b> |             |
|---------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Infants (0-5)                   | 25%         | African American                      | 37%         |
| Children (6-13)                 | 50%         | Asian American                        | 2%          |
| Young Adults (14-18)            | 25%         | Caucasian                             | 6%          |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>                   | <b>100%</b> | Hispanic/Latino                       | 51%         |
|                                 |             | Native American                       | 2%          |
|                                 |             | Other and Define                      | 2%          |
|                                 |             | <b>TOTAL:</b>                         | <b>100%</b> |

**City Council District for Which Children are Being Served:**

District1, District2, District3

**Line item Budget:**

| <b>Line Item Description</b>                  | <b>Total Project Funds Allocation</b> | <b>Najim Funds Allocation</b> |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Architectural Designs                         | \$2,000                               | \$0                           |
| Engineering Schematics                        | \$3,000                               | \$0                           |
| Labor   | \$10,000                              | \$0                           |
| Kitchen                                       | \$5,000                               | \$0                           |
| Materials - Outdoor Education Learning Center | \$17,000                              | \$7,500                       |
| Seating                                       | \$3,000                               | \$0                           |
| Educators                                     | \$0                                   | \$2,500                       |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>                                 | <b>\$40,000</b>                       | <b>\$10,000</b>               |

**OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES**

**For Project being Requested: Funding sources and amounts, pending and committed.**

**PROJECT - PENDING**

| <b>Funder Name</b> | <b>Amount Requested</b> |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
|--------------------|-------------------------|

|                           |                 |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Baptist Health Foundation | \$10,000        |
| San Antonio Junior Forum  | \$2,500         |
| Mission Trails Rotary     | \$1,500         |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>             | <b>\$14,000</b> |

**PROJECT - COMMITTED**

| Funder Name                        | Amount Requested |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| University Of Texas At San Antonio | \$16,000         |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>                      | <b>\$16,000</b>  |

**Other funding sources and amounts, pending and committed not specific to this request.**

**ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - PENDING**

| Funder Name   | Amount Requested |
|---------------|------------------|
| Lululemon     | \$15,000         |
| <b>TOTAL:</b> | <b>\$15,000</b>  |

**ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - COMMITTED**

| Funder Name                         | Amount Requested |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| San Antonio Growth For The Eastside | \$6,000          |
| Private Contribution                | \$50,000         |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>                       | <b>\$56,000</b>  |

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**What percentage of your board contributes financially to the organization?**  
100%

**If Board giving is not at 100%, please explain why?**  
N/A

**How are board members expected to participate in your organization?**  
Gardopia Garden's Board of Directors are expected to participate through financial contributions, volunteer hours, and supporting administrative committees. Each Board Member is committed to a donation of \$25 a month for a total of \$300 per year. Additionally, Board Members are expected to identify \$2,500 of potential grants and / or donations for the Executive Staff to pursue for programmatic and administrative funding. Lastly, board members volunteer at program sites and spend time at committee meetings progressing the mission, vision and strategic plan of the organization.

**LIST OF BOARD DIRECTORS**

| Name & Office Held | Corporate Affiliation                   |
|--------------------|---|
| Angelica Gonzales  | USAA                                    |
| Amos Lozano        | Famous Juice Company                    |
| Boh Ireland        | Shelectricity                           |
| David Nungaray     | San Antonio Independent School District |
| Deandra Mahone     | Loma De Vida Spa & Wellness             |
| Defranco Sarabia   | Texas A&M University at San Antonio     |
| Jeff Grimes        | Envoy Financial                         |
| Jerreta Hartfield  | American Heart Association              |

|                                   |                                    |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Joseph Nerio                      | Clausewitz Law Firm                |
| Megan Lowder                      | University Of Texas at San Antonio |
| Michelle Duenas                   | San Antonio Food Bank              |
| Shirley Parodi                    | Sirius Computer Solutions          |
| <b>Signature</b><br>Stephen Lucke |                                    |