



Bureau du président du conseil de l'AEUM

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

SSMU Office of the Speaker

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MOTION REGARDING THE APPROVAL OF THE ENVIRONMENT FUND REQUEST FOR TRASH 2 TREASURE 2024-04-04

Submitted for: 2024-04-04

Submitted to:	SSMU Legislative Council	Document no.:	LEG-PUB-MOT-2024-04-04-003
Moved by:	Liam Gaither <i>Vice-President (External)</i>	Current Status:	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR APPROVAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APPROVED <input type="checkbox"/> POSTPONED <input type="checkbox"/> COMMITTED <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPROVED
Seconded by:	Melanie Renaud <i>Athletics Representative</i>		

Issue

Trash 2 Treasure is a community-oriented sustainability project that is co-hosted by SSMU and SAESEM each year. The project has been running successfully for [several years](#). For the 2024 rendition of the project, and in accordance with the regulations of the fund, the application for **\$15,123.00** to the Environment fund must be approved by the Legislative Council as it exceeds 15% of the fund's remaining balance.

Background and Rationale

For the last several years, during the end of April and beginning of May, when students are moving out of the Milton-Park area, SSMU has partnered with the environmental organization SAESEM to collect the furniture, home goods, clothes, etc that would have otherwise been thrown away. This project is called Trash 2 Treasure. After collecting all of these items in a storage unit, we redistribute them to the student population by setting up a pay-what-you-can marketplace for students and community members to acquire new furniture. After the redistribution, all items that were not taken are donated. The purpose of the event is to promote sustainability and save items that would have otherwise ended up in the landfill; all the while providing accessible and cheap necessary items to students that are otherwise hard to acquire like jackets, kitchen appliances and furniture.



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The funding application for Trash 2 Treasure (hereafter T2T) was presented to the funding committee in early March, however they were unable to approve the application because the requested amount exceeds 15% of the Environment Fund's remaining balance. As such, it exceeds what the committee is allowed to approve under the Internal Regulations. Consequently, the Legislative Council must regard the application through a motion and decide whether to approve or deny it before the funding committee can process it.

Alignment with Mission

This initiative strongly aims to improve accessibility to all necessary items and combat consumer culture and waste. SSMU's mission to offer anti-capitalist alternatives greatly mirror our mission to offer students and community members of an alternative in the face of rising inflation and constant waste. Furthermore, when students move out of the Milton Parc area they not only waste items and create hordes of waste but also create a large mess for the community and those continuing to reside there that creates garbage and mess; by doing our part to help clean this we are fulfilling the CARE Agreement (a contract that SSMU made with the Milton-Parc community).

Consultations Completed

This motion has been discussed with the Community Engagement Commissioner and the Community Affairs Commissioner, both of whom are working on this project and whose portfolios this falls under. The Vice-President (Finance) has also been consulted.

Further, the funding request in question has been reviewed and approved by the Funding Committee and the Sustainability Commissioners. Per the regulations of the Environment Fund, the Legislative Council must approve applications valued at more than 15% of the fund's remaining balance.

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

The sum to fund the Trash2Treasure project, as named in the original application, can be considered to be quite high. However, the returns are considered to be beneficial for Milton-Parc community members and McGill students.

Should this motion fail to pass, the project will cease to continue, worsening the SSMU's working relationship with SAESM, the



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environmental community organization facilitating the event. This would make it extremely difficult to bring back Trash2Treasure in future years.

Sustainability Considerations

Trash to Treasure as a larger initiative strongly aims to improve accessibility to all necessary items and combat consumer culture and waste. We hope to offer students and community members an alternative in the face of rising inflation and constant waste. Furthermore, when students move out of the Milton Parc area they not only waste items and create hordes of waste but also create a large mess for the community and those continuing to reside there that creates garbage and mess. We hope to promote not only taking care of each other and our belongings but of each other and our communities, by cleaning up the “waste” and repurposing and redistributing it, we are also ensuring a cleaner and safer community.

Impact of Decision and Next Steps

The Community Engagement Commissioner, in partnership with SAESSEM and Campus Life and Engagement will begin the promotion of this event ([the planning](#) has already all taken place). The graphics and promotional plan has been created and can be [found here](#). Put briefly, we will confirm with the volunteers, promote the event on and off campus through social media, listservs, poster, flyer, community announcements and word of mouth).

Trash 2 Treasure is planned for April 24th to May 5th 2024. The event will take place next to the shipping container that the materials will all be stored in, which will increase its overall visibility.

Motion or Resolution for Approval

Be it resolved that the Legislative Council approve the funding application of **\$15 123.00** to the Environment Fund for Trash2Treasure

Results of the Vote

In favour	(UNANIMOUS)
Opposed	()
Abstain	()



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Appendix A : Proposed Budget for Trash 2 Treasure 2024

[Proposed budget for Trash2Treasure](#)





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APPROVED



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