

UIS Green Project Letter of Intent- Step 1

To complete your Green Project Letter of Intent, download this word document and type all answers to the questions below. Save your completed word document as a new file.

Once completed and saved to your device, return to the Green Projects website at <http://www.uis.edu/greenprojects/get-involved/>

Click the hyperlink titled, **“Submit your completed UIS Green Project LOI”**
This can be found under **Step 1** of the “Submit a Green Project Proposal” section.

You will be redirected to an external WebQ. Upload your completed application by the deadline which can be found in the **“Timeline”** section of the Green Projects website.

If you have any questions regarding the application or submission process, please contact us at greenprojects@uis.edu.

Project Name: Bottle Fill Station for VPA

Contact Information:

Project Team

Name	UIS Student/Faculty/Staff & Department (or Office)	UIS Email	Phone #
Katelyn Brinkman	Student: ASL President	kbrin@uis.edu	217-671-6829
Thomas Gebhardt	Staff: BSWIII VPA	tgebh2@uis.edu	217-801-1583
Brytton Bjorngaard	Faculty: Visual Arts	bbjor2@uis.edu	217-206-6240 (main office for AMT)

Organization/Affiliation: UIS Arts Student League, Department of Art, Music, and Theatre

Project Information:

Please provide a brief description of the project. What are the goals and the desired outcomes of the project?
To replace a non-working drinking fountain in the Visual and Performing Arts building with a new fountain that has the water bottle fill capacity feature on it.

Please describe why this project matters to you and how it relates to sustainability.

The goals are to improve accessibility & convenience by ensuring students, faculty, staff, and visitors have reliable access to clean drinking water in a high-traffic area with long hours for studio hours, rehearsals, and ensembles. It will also promote sustainability through access to reusable bottle filling, reducing reliance on single-use plastic bottles and over disposal in landfills. The VPA vending machine is routinely empty of beverages, with the single-use plastic bottles first to be sold out, due to the lack of ability to refill in the building.

Where will the project be located?

In the Access Gallery and next to the main entry of the VPA building, replacing the broken handicap fountain, in a central spot that all who move through the building can clearly locate and use.

Please provide a brief summary of how students will be involved in or affected by the project:

The Art Students League, the Visual Arts student organization, are co-signers of the project along with faculty and staff who work in the building. Their joint support highlights that this is not simply a facility upgrade, but a shared priority across multiple groups who regularly use the space. Students enrolled in art courses, community members taking classes through the Community Music School, or those participating in ensembles, rehearsals, or theatrical productions, as well as faculty and staff, all spend extended hours in the building. Unlike standard classroom buildings where courses may last only 50 minutes, the nature of the creative and performing arts means that participants are often present for several hours at a time, including evenings and weekends. Because of these longer schedules and later hours, the need for convenient and reliable access to drinking water is especially pressing in this space.

Please provide a brief summary of the project timeline (Most approved projects are proposed in the Fall and implemented in the Spring)

We would like to see this implemented during the Spring 2026 semester. This fountain it would replace has been out of commission since 2020, so its replacement is overdue.

Please provide a brief itemized breakdown of the funds needed.

It is our understanding that there may be models that the University has available for installation. If this is not the case, we recommend a unit such as this one <https://www.elkay.com/products/details/EZSDWSLK> at \$2,163. If Facilities and/or the Green Project Committee recommends a different model that has been successful in the past, we are open to a change. We also understand labor from Facilities will need to be considered and estimate 2 hours at around \$200 for installation costs.

Do you have any suggestions for how we could measure the success of this project?

Once it is installed, the counter on the fountain would provide a measure for use of the refills.

Additional comments:

This is the only handicap fountain in the VPA building so its replacement is needed, and making it the bottle filler extends accessibility, and it is centrally located in a building that serves students, staff, faculty, and community members on a daily basis.