



# SP0154 Final Report

Please answer the following questions and return the completed form to the [SPF Staff](#) via e-mail.

**Project Title:** Kohlrabi Collective

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**Actual Project Start Date:** 4/6/2016 **Actual Project End Date:** 11/1/2016

**1. Please summarize the project and its key accomplishments in 1-2 sentences.**

(400 characters maximum)

The Kohlrabi Collective initiative succeeded in uniting student-run food groups on campus that had never collaborated previously. Mutual relationships were formed and the groundwork was set to carry on collective action into the future.

**2. Your team listed the following goal in your application:**

*Create lasting partnerships among three student groups (Farmers' Market, MSEG, Organic Campus), encourage systems thinking, resource/knowledge sharing to increase resilience of these projects through collaboration.*

**Did your team achieve your project's goal? In your answer, please describe the impact your project had on McGill's structures, processes, and/or systems. Also, please specify how this positively transformed people's behaviors/perspectives/habits on McGill campus(es).**

(Unlimited characters, suggested minimum ½ page or approximately 250 words)

Our team achieved the goals listed above. Our impact has been to increase awareness of pathways through which folks can access food grown by students on campus, as well as increasing awareness of opportunities for our community to get practical experience in sustainable food production/distribution. Moreover, by establishing relations among food groups with similar mandates, we have created space for these groups to mutually support one another now and into the future. By sharing resources, we hope that Organic Campus, McGill Farmers' Market and MSEG will support each others' goals of becoming more active and recognized on campus. We have already placed our projects further in the public eye and will continue to do so. We have contributed to changing behaviors and perspectives on campus by increasing the amount of people purchasing locally-produced food on campus as well as the number of students volunteering for our individual and collective initiatives. By increasing our collective presence on campus we have begun to improve the public perspective of students as capable, serious and responsible food producers/distributors.

**3. Please describe the key successes and challenges of your project. (Minimum of two examples for each)**

(Unlimited characters, suggested minimum ½ page or approximately 250 words)

Successes:

- relationships between member groups were established and this had never before been done
- member groups recognized how collaboration is mutually beneficial and have communicated their interest in maintaining relationships into the future
- equipment purchased successfully increased the efficiency of vegetable production and student farmers were able to increase their supply of produce to the downtown campus community

Challenges:

- Negotiating with administration in the Office for Campus Space Planning. Student farmers did not receive permission to sell produce on campus until 2 weeks after the project's start date.
- Scheduling times that worked for all collective members to meet, especially during summer
- Raising awareness that produce would be for sale at the Organic Campus stand in SSMU.

**4. What key points of advice or *lessons learned* would you give to other SPF teams either regarding your experience managing your project or the project itself?**

(Unlimited characters, suggested minimum ½ page or approximately 250 words)

Some points of recommendation:

- thoroughly research the costs of budget items well in advance, especially if these are being shipped across international borders; slightly overestimate costs whenever possible, as it's better to be over budget than under
- if a project runs throughout the summer semester, make sure to establish a method of communication among all team members well in advance, as it can be hard to discuss important project activities when people are working/vacationing across the globe

**5. What recommendations do you have for the future of this project to be continued and are there any opportunities for complementary projects? Who will take responsibility for the project's future and how can interested persons be in touch? The SPF team will also be in touch with this contact for updates on the project's progress in coming years, if ongoing.**

(Unlimited characters, suggested minimum 1 paragraph)

- Further promotional work to raise awareness that student-grown food is accessible on campus.
- Change goal to coordinate one collective meeting per semester (more realistic) and commit to doing this. Have additional meetings only when important decisions must be made by individual project teams that affect the entire collective.
- Since project leaders graduate and move on, ensure that inclusion in the kohlrabi collective becomes integral to the training of new leaders of member projects.
- members should recognize that the collective and relationships established among projects are fluid and should adapt to accommodate the ways in which group challenges are changing and evolving.

**6. In your application, you listed the following sources of funding: SSMU Green Fund, \$360; Donation Dorval Horticultural and Ecological Society; \$400**

**Please confirm if you received this funding in the space below. In your response, please list the actual amount (in dollars) that you received. Note: If you received funding from a McGill Department or Unit, please attach a letter from its Financial/Budget Officer confirming the actual amount of support.**

(1,800 characters maximum)

\$400 was received from the Dorval Horticultural and Ecological Society. The application to the SSMU Green Fund was rejected. However, a separate donation (\$4000) was received from the Dean of Agriculture to purchase inputs at the student farm (ie. drip tape. plastic mulch. compost, and organic fertilizers).

**7. Did you purchase equipment or make an installation on campus?  Yes  No**

**If yes, please briefly describe how these items will be maintained and used in the future.**

(1,800 characters maximum)

Mulch Layer: stored indoors at all times, unless in use. Storage room requires key card access to prevent theft/damage. Staff will be trained seasonally on how to use and care for machine.

**8. The following Key Success Indicators were indicated in your project application and selected for tracking. Please indicate the actual results that you have achieved in the “Actual” column.**

Selected Key Success Indicators	Target	Actual
Nature of responses collected from each partner (MSEG, Organic Campus, and Farmers’ Market) of the collective regarding confidence and sense of preparation for the fall season one month prior to start of fall (by August 2016). Please attach collected responses.	Positive, Confident Responses	0
The three partners of the collective meet together twice per semester and are all present/represented at each meeting.	6	1
Formal agreement/contract written between the three partners, among others specifying frequency and quantity of financial transactions as well as pick-up/drop-off times. (attach contract to SPF Progress and/or Final Report)	1	0

**If there is a significant difference in the target numbers and the actual numbers achieved, please explain. If you have any additional information to share about these success indicators, please also include it below.**

(1,800 characters maximum)

Written responses from collective members were not collected one month prior to fall season. However, constant communication among members over the phone was maintained leading up to the start. It was decided collectively not to prepare formal contracts with regard to financial transactions and pick-up/drop-off locations due to the nature of uncertainty of our pilot year, among other factors. Locations could not be determined until days before drop-offs due to construction on campus. Financial transactions could not be anticipated in advance, since the demand for student-grown produce downtown, especially that sold at Organic Campus, was still very uncertain. However, moving forward into the second year (2017) with a better understanding of these factors, contracts could be drafted and signed.

**9. Please report on your results for the standard SPF Key Success Indicators in the “Actual” column.**

Standard SPF Key Success Indicators	Actual #
# of volunteers directly or indirectly engaged in the project	20-30
# of people (student, staff, or other) trained in the context of the project	10-20
\$ raised for project activities subsequent to SPF funding	None
# of partnerships or collaborations developed between the project team and other McGill administrative units, student groups, community groups, other universities, and/or other groups/organizations.	5+

**Regarding the last Key Success Indicator, please list the groups and/or organizations that you counted.**

(Unlimited characters; point form acceptable.)

1. Open Air Pub (OAP): Made 4 produce orders from MSEG for pick-up at the McGill Farmers' Market; fresh tomatoes, lettuce and onions from student farm were used as burger toppings.
2. Student-Run Cafeteria (SRC): intentions were set to meet among kohlrabi collective and SRC to talk about how to get more food grown by students sourced at the SRC.
3. Spin Gardens: project leaders from spin gardens met with MSEG farmers to talk about what edible plants/herbs could be planted indoors next to elyptical machines. They wish to collaborate in future re: sharing greenhouse space to start seedlings
4. MacDonald Library: MSEG farmers will be collaborating with Library staff to run series of workshops in 2017 on seed saving.
5. Concordia Food Coalition: MSEG sold produce at weekly Concordia Farmers' Market in fall 2016

If you have any additional information to share about the Standard SPF Key Success Indicators, please include it below. (1,800 characters maximum)

N/A

**10. Please rate your project team’s overall satisfaction with the support provided by the SPF Staff. Choose only one response.**

- Very Dissatisfied  
  Dissatisfied  
  Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied  
  Satisfied  
  Very Satisfied

**11. Please provide any feedback or recommendations regarding your team’s experience with the SPF.**

(Unlimited characters, suggested minimum 1 paragraph)

SPF staff made resources (budget, information, report guidelines, etc.) very accessible to project team. Questions by email were answered quickly and thoroughly. No complaints/concerns to report regarding the application and post-approval processes.

This comment may be outside the realm of this particular question but the project team largely agreed that student-run initiatives, especially those that are non-profit enterprises, lack access to operations funding. The SPF fund is a wonderful resource to make project ideas a reality, but without continuous funding after the pilot year, these projects struggle to become financially self-sufficient and viable. Often times, students who maintain these projects are paid far below a living wage for their commitment, but if they didn't donate their time and sacrifice wages from alternative employment, these projects would disappear.

Organic Campus, MSEG and the Farmers' Market are projects that rely on students to run them without receiving a wage. Student leaders are paid very modest stipends. By working together through the Kohlrabi Collective, project leaders hope to share resources with one another to help these projects grow and alleviate the stress placed on student leaders to keep them running. However, in order for student food projects to thrive and be able to remunerate student staff members fairly, they would need access to operations funding. The Concordia Farmers' Market is funded yearly by their institution's equivalent of the SPF. UQAM's farmers' market receives annual funding from GRIP, for example.

When we think about improving sustainability in operations at McGill, and especially how to actively engage more students in that process, we should think about creating ways to financially support student engagement in projects that change the culture of sustainability operations on campus. Something for us all to consider moving forward!

**12. If there is additional information you would like to share about your project, please use the field below.**

(Unlimited characters)

N/A

**13. Has involvement in this SPF project positively impacted your team in the area of professional growth?**

**Please choose one. If you would like to elaborate, please use the field below.** (800 characters maximum)

- Yes  
  No  
  Prefer Not to Share

**14. Has involvement in this SPF project positively impacted your team in the area of personal growth?**

**Please choose one. If you would like to elaborate, please use the field below.** (800 characters maximum)

- Yes  
  No  
  Prefer Not to Share

**15. Which of the following skills or attributes has your team improved through involvement in your SPF project? Choose all that apply.**

- Budgeting                     
  Communications                     
  Conflict Resolution

Leadership

Listening

Mentoring

Negotiating

Networking

Planning

Problem Solving

Project Management

Public Speaking

Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder Identification

Systems Thinking

Teamwork

Technology

Time Management

Writing

Other (Please specify in the field below)

Other:

**16. Since starting your SPF project, has your team improved its knowledge of sustainability?**

**Please choose one. If you would like to elaborate, please use the field below.** (800 characters maximum)

Yes  No  Prefer Not to Share

**17. (Optional) If applicable, please list the total number of team members voluntarily self-identifying as members of marginalized communities:**

**Please identify the represented communities below. (e.g. women, Indigenous people, people of colour, LGBTTQI, student parents, members of ethnic minorities, immigrants, people with disabilities)**

(1,800 characters maximum)

**Thank you for completing your Final Report!**

Please e-mail your report to the [SPF Staff](#) attaching any additional information that you would like to share about your project (e.g. other reports, research, documents, photos, etc.). Please note that this Final Report will be shared publicly on your SPF project's webpage.