Bike Xu

Proposal for Xavier University's Women of Excellence Grant

Submitted by:
Xavier University Student Government Association

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Title of Project: **Bike XU**

Amount Requested: **$5,000**

Abstract:

Bike XU is a program designed to meet students’ transportation needs allowing them to rent a bicycle for either a semester or a full year to use at their leisure. Furthermore, this program seeks to address sustainability issues giving students a chance to participate in Xavier University initiatives for a greener campus.

This program directly benefits on-campus residents as well as those students that live in the surrounding Xavier neighborhoods, given that students without motorized transportation will be able to use the Bike XU program to travel to and from class and home, as well as providing them with a chance to frequent local businesses and shopping centers.

The success of this program will be indicated by program ridership and demand. Our hope is that this program will continue to grow in popularity as Xavier’s student population expands and as gas prices increase.
Amount of Funding Requested: $5,000

- Bicycles for long-term use: 20 @ $175 = $3,500
- U-Frame Locks for each bicycle: 20 @ $20 = $400
- Helmets for each rider: 20 @ $30 = $600
- Maintenance Flat Rate: $500

Project Budget:

- Marketing (promotions including flyers, posters, brochures and handouts) $150 (paid by both SGA and the Sustainability Committee)
- Paper work (risk forms, cataloging, etc.) $35 (paid for by SGA)
- Storage Facility (either campus police station or FastWheels on Montgomery Road) $0 (anticipated)
- Bicycles $3,500
- Helmets $600
- Locks $400
- Maintenance Flat Rate: $500

Total Cost for Bike XU:

$5,185

Projected Income:

- Semester Rental: $25/person
- Year Rental: $40/person
- Average Estimated Income from Rentals: $650

*Revenue would go towards funding Maintenance Flat Rate, as well as purchasing new bicycles for the program.

Minimum Amount Needed:

- $3,500 would be needed to cover the cost of the bicycles. The helmets and locks could be provided by the students renting the bicycles, however we feel it is necessary and vital to promote a positive attitude towards safety on Xavier's campus and so we would prefer to provide the proper safety equipment to student renters.

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1 Bike XU is partnering with Norwood local business: FastWheels, to fill all our maintenance needs.
A: Xavier University’s Bike XU initiative, with full support of the Dean of Students, is a collaboration between Xavier University Student Government Association, the Sustainability Committee, and local bicycle business FastWheels. Josh Arthur and Taylor Mauro along with various members of the Sustainability Committee have researched university bike-rental programs from across the nation in order to gain a better understanding on how to meet the transportation needs of Xavier Students. The model that made most sense for Xavier was to participate in a cooperative community partnership, providing students with quality bikes to rent for long-term use. With the help of Xavier’s Women of Excellence’s Giving Circle, this program will have tremendous benefit for Xavier students, providing them with transportation alternatives other than motorized vehicles. The Bike XU program is an inexpensive option for students without vehicles.

B: Bike XU is a direct result of Xavier University initiatives to improve sustainability and campus quality of life. Engaging the student population in sustainable practices is of growing importance for the University. According to Xavier University’s Greenhouse Gas Inventory (GHG) completed in the Spring of 2009, transportation accounts for 31% of our University’s collective greenhouse gas emissions. Although second only to energy, in terms of largest output category, transportation remains an afterthought in campus planning across the country. To oppose this trend, the American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment “encourages use and provision of access to public transportation for all faculty, staff, students and visitors” and the establishment of “a policy of offsetting all greenhouse gas emissions generated by air travel paid for by our institution,” among other recommendations, within two years of signing the commitment.

In 2009, with a total student population of 6,700 (3,923 undergraduates and 2,661 graduate students) and a total employee population of 1,277 (full-time and part-time faculty, staff, and administrators), there are thousands of trips, primarily by individual automobile to and from campus each day. In total, 4,761 students and nearly all faculty and staff live off-campus which, according to the GHG inventory, results in nearly 18 million automobile miles per year producing 7.2 million kg/year of CO2 emissions. Bike XU seeks to address the needs of students’ while advocating for smarter and more sustainable student practices. The respect for others, and transiently the respect for our environment are core University values that this program will support and promote.

C: 

2 Much of this information can be found in the the Campus Sustainability Plan submitted to the President’s Office by the Sustainability committee.
This grant is needed to help fund the purchasing of 20 bicycles in order to get the program up and running. The program is scheduled to rollout in the fall semester of 2011. At this time, tables will be set up in the Gallagher Student Center to advertise, promote and recruit program participants. It is hoped that this program will grow and expand over the years becoming a central transportation outlet for both on-campus and off-campus students.

D:

The impact of the Bike XU program will be progressively exponential. As more riders participate and the program grows, the more the campus life will be affected by cleaner air quality, physically healthier students, and more environmentally conscious students leading towards a sustainably aware campus culture. This program will initially only benefit 20 Xavier students, but once this program develops in popularity, it is expected that more students will want to participate. Our short term goal is to have all 20 bicycles rented in the first semester. Our long term goal is to expand this program, especially directing it towards first-year students.

E:

From the onset, the WOX Giving Circle will be recognized as playing a key role in the foundation of the Bike XU program. We are very excited about the diverse cooperation of student and University organizations as well as local businesses to make this program come to fruition. When the program rolls out in the fall, promotional materials will be made thanking and recognizing program sponsors. WOX Giving Circle will be recognized in program materials including, but not limited to, posters, handouts, flyers, and brochures.

F:

As aforementioned, success will be determined by program ridership and demand. Students will be asked to participate in a survey regarding their program experience and overall satisfaction with Bike XU services. This feedback will be crucial in order to adapt and meet students’ concerns and needs.

G:

It will be the responsibility of the Student Life Committee of SGA with Taylor Mauro from the Sustainability Committee as the program director, to maintain and run the Bike XU program for the 2010-2011 academic school year. This committee will report directly to SGA, the Sustainability Committee, the Dean of Students, FastWheels and the WOX Giving Circle, disseminating program participation, success, and outcomes. Josh Arthur agrees to be the Bike XU representative present at the WOX event to speak about the project further.