

Library Strategic Directions Impact Fund “Coming out of Covid” grant report

Living with Climate Change project

Prepared by Michael Lines

Description of the Project

Funded under the title “Celebrating Student Climate Change Action: Exhibition, conversation, and hands-on learning,” this project was initiated by Michael Lines in conversation with Professor Thomas Heyd. Professor Heyd brought the core idea forward: a student-led event series to address climate change anxiety by focusing on learning about and contributing to local climate change initiatives. Rhianna Nagel of Community Engaged Learning contributed the idea to highlight student research and artistic projects. Events were planned to coincide with the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP27, which ran from Nov. 6-18.

In the application, we described

Working with the Libraries, researchers, Community Engaged Learning, and CIFAL, a small group of students will create and run a multi-day engagement with three elements

- an exhibition of local student-led projects in the areas of research, learning experiences, and civic engagement (Nov 1-20)
- a workshop/colloquium/discussion event on the themes of mitigation, adaptation, and resilience, potentially oriented to specific skills students can use (Friday Nov 18)
- experiential learning opportunities at two established local climate change projects, such as the T’Sou-ke Solar Project (Saturday Nov 19)

The Planning Process

Organizing began in June 2022, and by September Crystal Tremblay of CIFAL developed a plan to bring the project into the classroom, CEL had expanded the budget, and Vanessa Lueck of the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS) had joined and made a budget contribution. The group selected four student leaders, and a small group of interested professors and others joined the informal, purpose driven organizing team, which I chaired.

Student Leaders

- Savanah Barratt
- Jade Chicorelli
- Jaden Jeske
- Pearce Jones

Professors, researchers, and specialists

- Richard Pickard
- Frederick Grouzet
- Kari Tyler
- Ken Josephson

Multiple campus and other groups joined to take part in or endorse the project

- Centre for Global Studies
- Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium
- Dept. of Geography
- Faculty of Humanities
- Faculty of Social Sciences
- UNITAR
- St. Margaret's High School
- Claremont High School

The Program

With the leadership of the students, the program expanded from three events to seven:

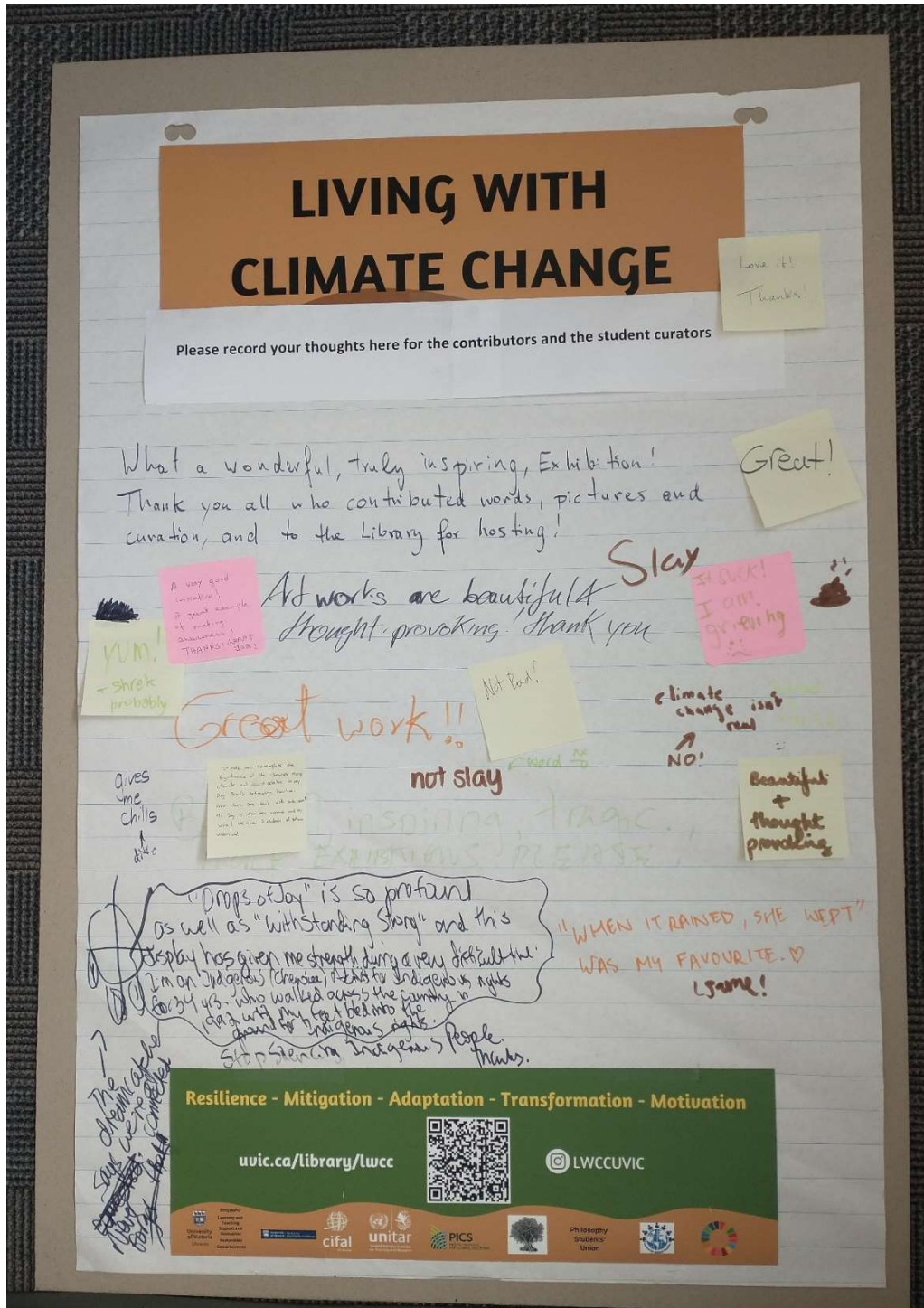
- An arts-based Reflective Workshop October 18
- An Exhibition of climate change-related art and scholarly projects November 11-Dec 9,
- Three course-based opportunities for students in storytelling and community mapping in collaboration with CIFAL and Geography
 - Community mapping event Nov 4 in the library lobby
 - Storytelling luncheon Nov 16 in room 129 with St. Margaret's high school
 - Community mapping and tabling Nov 17 at various sites across campus including students from Claremont high school
- An action-oriented Roundtable Saturday Nov 19 engaging students, community members, and UVic experts,
- A local climate change action Field Trip Nov 26 to the SNIDŽEŁ Resiliency Project

Responses to all the events from participants were very positive. The arts-based workshop was fully subscribed. It started with a meditation in Finnerty Garden, followed by a directed exercise indoors.

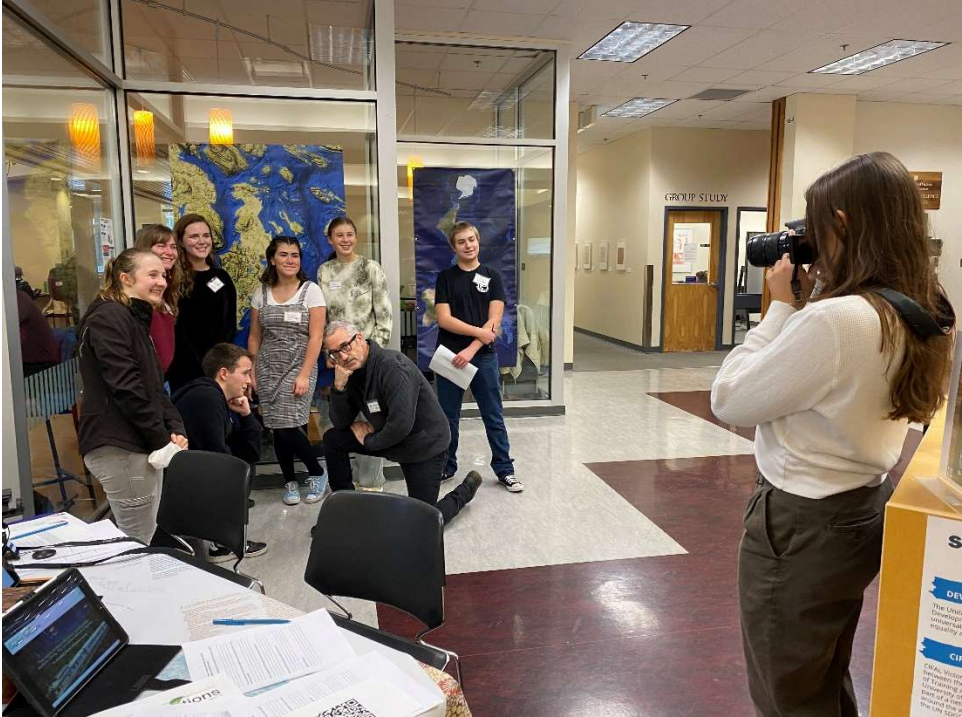




Many of the participants agreed to show their works in the exhibit, which also collected student research and scholarly projects for display. Responses to the exhibit were also positive, as indicated on this poster.



The three storytelling and community mapping opportunities were high energy, positive events with many people taking part. The following photos give a sense of the activity at the events calling on passers by for participation, and the Grade 7 students from St. Margaret's who set up in room 129 to upcycle clothing and create a contribution to the exhibition with litter collected locally.







The Round Table event, which was the centerpiece of the series, featured multiple opportunities for students and experienced researchers and practitioners to engage on the themes of LWCC series: mitigation, adaptation, resilience, and transformation.







The field trip to the SNIDZET Resiliency Project on Nov 26 capped the series with a practical contribution to a local effort.



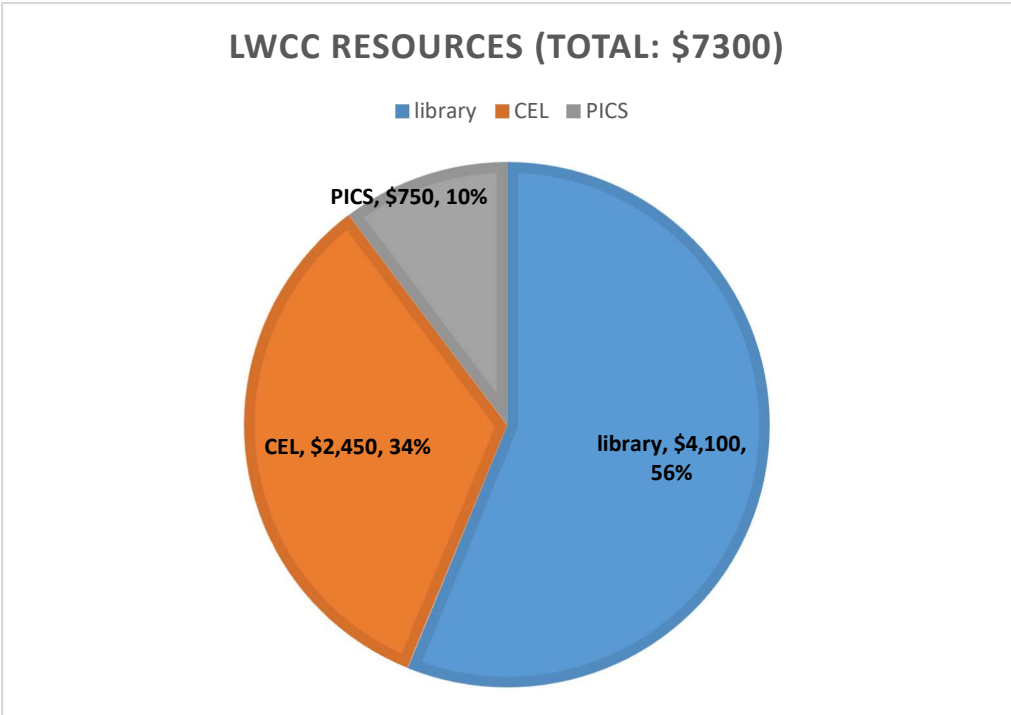
Budget and Spending Breakdown

Strategic Directions Impact Fund grant: \$4100

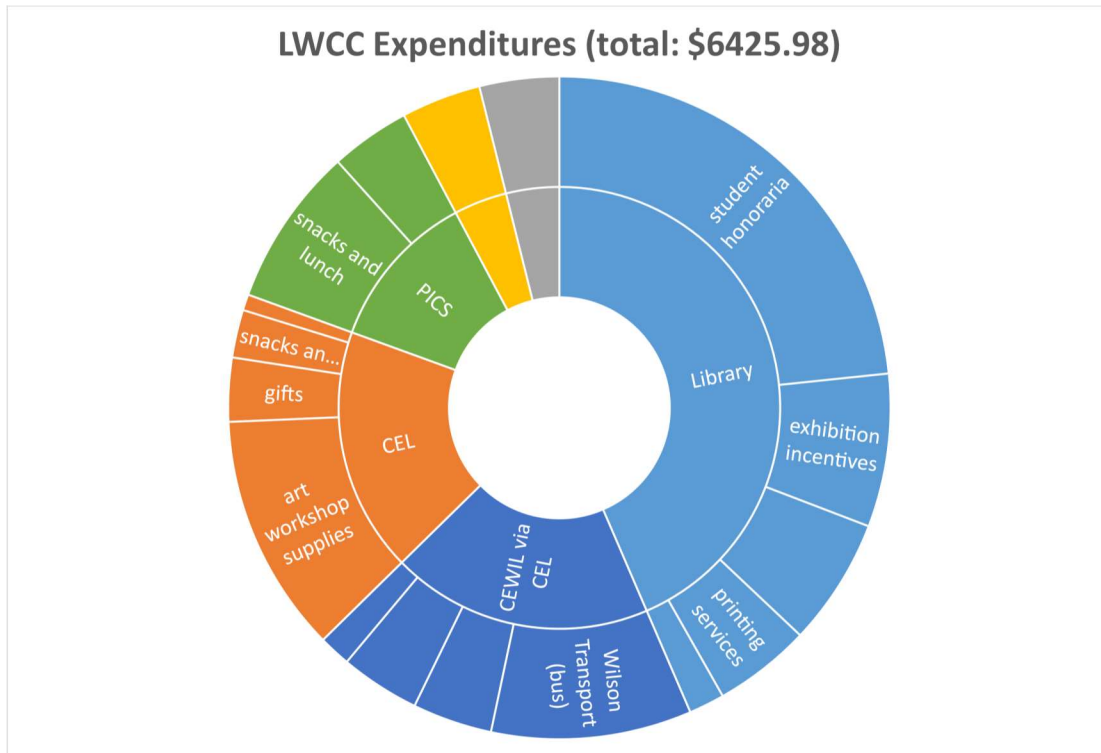
Additional contributions from partners: \$3200

- Community Engaged Learning (CEL): \$2450
 - Includes a Cooperative Education and Work Integrated Learning (CEWIL) contribution made through CEL of approx. \$1200
- Pacific institute for Climate Solutions (PICS): \$750

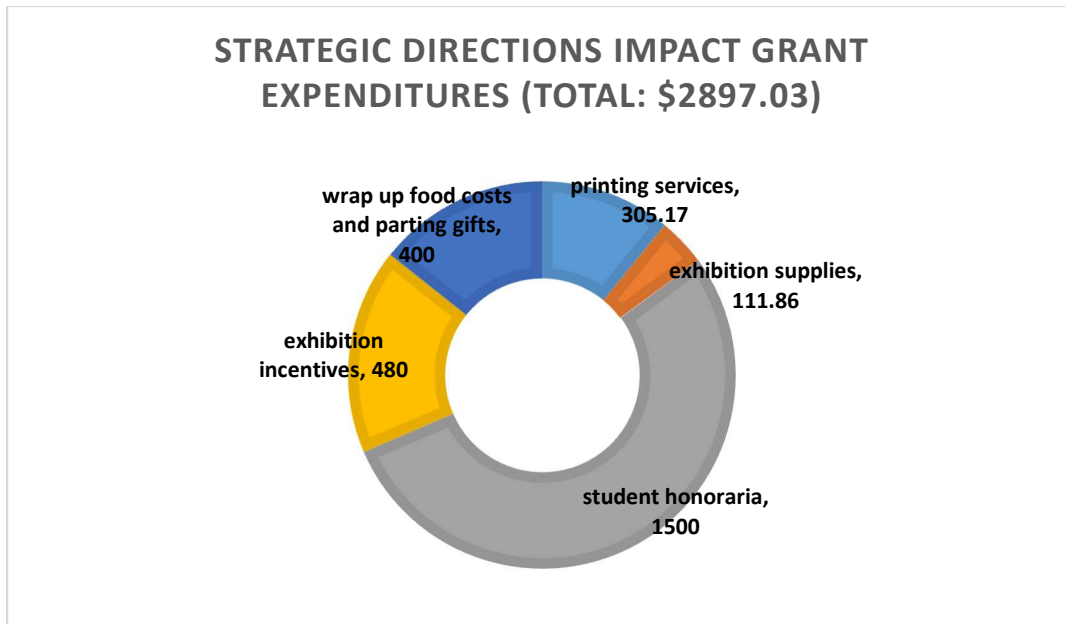
Total resources: \$7300



Overall LWCC expenditures (expenditure amounts for CEL and PICS are not available)



Library expenditures



Organizing partners' assessments

Thom Heyd Department of Philosophy; Adjunct Professor, School of Environmental Studies

My view is that the Library was very forward thinking in providing us with the grant to pay for a great number of important aspects of the LWCC events series. It was a pleasure to have you, Michael, as one of the key coordinators together with our student leaders, and the facilities that the Library made available to us were perfect for our needs: the bright room on the 3rd floor, the hallway on the first for the Exhibition, and the neighbouring classroom for events with high school students and for lunch. I can only commend the Library for its collaboration on our project, and would like to encourage it to continue supporting these sorts of events.

Certainly, I would be pleased to continue collaborating with the Library in the future.

What stood out regarding the LWCC events is the great spirit of engagement of our four student leaders, how they managed to enthuse so many others with their thoughtful actions, and how these events brought together so many people from so many units both on campus and off campus.

Further topics: even in times of budgetary constraints, as the present, I hope that the Library realises how important its contribution can be in support of events that may support students and community members to face up to the challenges of our times, in particular climate change.

Jaden Jeske LWCC Student Leader

The engagement with the library was fantastic; we were given the main hall of the library which helped to make our exhibition feel as important as it was. The library gave us rooms we needed to plan and gave us the space we needed to execute said plans. In other words, the library was a crucial partner and central aspect, and a joy to work with and in.

Due to the reasons listed above and more, I am definitely interested in working with the library again whether it be to help the library or future projects I helped to create once again. Working with the library and its beautiful space is a blessing.

The LWCC project specifically was an eye-opening event for its potential and relevancy. What stood out was how powerful well-being is regarding climate change, not just action. In other words, well-being is needed to create mitigation/action, just like a healthy body is needed to run a marathon. The project helped to spread awareness that we need to ground ourselves and indulge in hope, unity, and confidence before taking on such a massive issue.

Vanessa Lueck Pacific Institute of Climate Solutions Researcher-in-Residence

I was impressed that the library funded this program once I heard about it. It was a fantastic opportunity for the students to engage other students and have the library to showcase the entire process. PICS is definitely interested in collaborating in the future!

I appreciated the inclusive support for the students and openness of the organizers (Michael and Thom) to work with the many other participants and students. The final workshop also demonstrated how needed (through participation and verbal responses) a project/program like this was.

It would be great if the library would be willing to fund something similar (not same) like this in the future.

Rhianna Nagel Manager, Community-Engaged Learning.

This engagement with the library was positive. The space and leadership were great assets to the LWCC. CEL is interested in collaborating again in future. What stood out for me was the great interdisciplinary and multi-faceted space/events that prioritized student voices and perspectives, and focused on a democratized approach to knowledge sharing.

Crystal Tremblay Assistant Professor, Department of Geography; Director, CIFAL; Victoria Academic Lead, K4C Salish Sea Hub

CIFAL is thrilled to be a partner in LWCC, and support students, staff and faculty in these various activities. Yes, absolutely, we're happy to continue supporting and being involved in the activities with the Library.

A high level of organization and dedication was evident from the whole team, and from you Michael, in convening and supporting this work through the grant.

Benefits to the library

Positive media coverage

- Library Newsletter notice, Jan 11, 2023
<https://librarycomms.uvic.ca/m/f581dd0114006ff5cde6204244a03c3e/m/9eb96728c79c09a3dad63b4c7c7df837/?mode=2>
- CBC Radio profile featuring student leaders. By G. Craigie on *On the Island*, Nov. 9, 2022
<https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-48-on-the-island/clip/15947695-while-cop27-takes-place-egypt-hear-students-uvic>
- Anne MacLaurin, "Addressing Climate Anxiety" *The Ring*, Jan 20, 2023.
<https://www.uvic.ca/news/topics/2023+addressing-climate-anxiety+news>

A CIFAL/UNITAR/UVIC publication

Nikhil Seth, Kevin Hall, Crystal Tremblay et al. (forthcoming) *Living with Climate Change: A joint UNITAR – CIFAL Victoria publication*. UNITAR/CIFAL Victoria Canada.

Conclusion

This grant made the most of an opportunity to engage with students, campus partners, and off-campus partners in a public-facing creative and educational project. The library gained profile as an engaged and responsive unit among important peers. LWCC partners are developing further opportunities to bring students into constructive contact with experts and local climate change efforts.