

Project Proposal for Sole Food's

The goal of our project with Sole Foods is to not only document the physical move but also the process of preparing for the move of one of their urban farms in Downtown Vancouver. A large emphasis is on the physical move itself but we feel that to understand all that is required to move an urban farm, the proceedings that occur before are important to document as well. Our objectives are to produce a visual record of the procedures that functioned well during the move, and comment on the procedures that could be improved in the future to increase the efficiency of moving such a large urban farm in such a short amount of time.

Sole Food Street Farms is a group of 4 urban farms located in the Greater Vancouver area that were created over the past 7 years with the goal of educating and nourishing people through agricultural training, developing jobs for people who have struggled with substance abuse and poverty during their lives in the Downtown Eastside, and producing artisan-quality food. We are documenting the move of Sole Foods' urban farm currently located at the corner of Pacific and Carrall to the other side of the Cambie Bridge. Sole Foods must relocate as their lease is up for the land they are currently on and are required to vacate by November 24, 2017.

Significance

The urban agriculture (UA) movement has gained popularity in North America in the last decade, fueled by its neoliberal approach to social issues, economics, and sustainability (Walker, 2016). While UA does not necessarily have the immediate potential to increase food access and change supply chains, it does build closer relationships between urban citizens and their food (Thibert, 2012). Organizations such as Sole foods aim to use vacant land within the city to create a community food system amongst urban food deserts. To achieve this goal, Sole foods have created "mobile farms" which are contained within portable boxes designed to be transported between vacant urban sites (Valley & Wittman, 2016). However, the logistics of this mobility have yet to be tested, and our project attempts to identify their practicality and document the process of moving Sole food's largest farm site.

Despite the growing popularity of the UA movement, Thibert (2012) claims that municipal governments in North America have not concerted enough effort into creating policy that favors' UA projects, often hindering their progress. However, the City of Vancouver aimed to improve and expand UA through the *Greenest City 2020 Action Plan*, and created policy to achieve these goals (Walker 2016). Our project will delve into the approachability of city policy in regards to moving large Urban Farms, and attempt to identify areas for improvement for both the community organization and city policy.

Objectives

Goal: Documenting the move of the farm from site to site, representing the move through a visual record of the procedures involved in moving the farm, and reflecting upon the procedures that could be update or omitted in future endeavors.

Objective 1: Creating a referenceable document to be used for the purposes of annual reporting, grant applications, and other funding opportunities as described by Matt, the administrative director of Sole Foods.

Objective 2: recording the move for future planning processes and corporate history, and to provide support to emerging organizations.

Objective 3: Clarifying the processes and requirements involved in relocating an urban farm.

Methods

In order to make our documentary we first need to

1) Write consent forms

-for the people we will be recording (ex. staff at Sole Foods to ensure they are comfortable with us filming them and talking with them; people at the city council meeting). The consent form will be checked by Matt, the Administrative Director of Sole Foods, before filming.

2) Interviews

-Prior to the move date on Nov/24/17, we must have completed interviews of staff (6 in total, 3 before move, 3 after).

-Interviews of the staff must highlight issues that will affect them as a result of the move of locations and their own personal thoughts and opinions. Such issues aim to capture the move and its effects socially as well as economically to document for future urban moves.

-Nov/1/17- Nov/24/17 is the time when Sole Foods will be commencing its move from Pacific Street and relocating to 215 West first 811 Carrol Street.

3) Videography

-Videography aims to capture the historic heart of the city, cultural diversity, unique social, political neighborhoods, and tight knit community through the capturing of their homes via qualitative data as our documentary.

-Final Video sent to Matt once all filming of the move has been completed and editing done (Nov/26/17)

-Story board to be included to illustrate different aspects of the move.

Outcome(s)

Our project aims to include 4 representations of the data collected, both in visual and written forms. We will be producing:

1. A video that documents the physical relocation of the urban farm, along with footage of the interviews if permitted.
2. A written report for elaboration on the relocation, and a record of the data we have collected and analyzed.
3. A Story Board that records our process through this project.
4. An infographic for a brief summarization of our project that we will use to display during the final presentation.

The date of the move has not yet been set as organizers at Sole Foods have to gather more documents before the move can commence. We have been informed that it should be no later than November 24th. We hope to deliver the final report within 5 days of collecting our data, and the visuals by the 28th of November.

Budget

We do not have a budget for this project as it only requires us to document the move of Sole Foods urban farm (all equipment that will be used to document the move, cameras, video cameras, etc., are all provided by UBC).

The only cost we can foresee are fuel expenses for travelling to the farm and we will cover these.

Sources:

Thilbert, J. (2012). Making Local Planning Work for Urban Agriculture in the North American Context: A View from the Ground. *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, 32(3), 349–357.

Valley, W. and Wittman, H. (2016). Urban Agriculture in Vancouver, BC: motivations, meanings, and multi-functionality. In *The Governance of City Food Systems: Case Studies From Around The World*. (Eds. Deakin, M., Diamantini, D., & Borrelli, N.). Milano: Giangiacomo Feltrinelli Foundation, 41-61.

Walker, S. (2016). Urban agriculture and the sustainability fix in Vancouver and Detroit. *Urban Geography*, 37(2), 163-182.