

Program Application: 81098498

Linked Pre-Application Form - DO NOT DELETE

Green Guides: Youth Nature Ambassadors

Grant Amount Requested

\$50,000.00

Organization Name

India Currents Foundation

Urban Grant Program Application Questions

Overview

Type of project (check all that apply)

Grant category (check all that apply)

Environmental Education

Project Location: Address / Neighborhood

What is the physical location of the project? If there is no physical location, please enter "N/A." If the project will be in multiple locations, please list all. Note: project location(s) must be within the Authority's jurisdiction.

Project activities will take place in Santa Clara County's South Bay parks located within District 3. Specific parks will likely include Alviso Marina County Park, Alviso Park, Ulistac Natural Area, Lick Mill Park, and other natural spaces recommended by collaborators that are within the Authority's jurisdiction.

Project Location

Open Space Authority District of Project Location(s)(check all that apply)

Authority District 3, Authority District 7

Who does the project serve? Please indicate which Open Space Authority Districts are served (where do the people served by the program live) (check all that apply)

Authority District 3, Authority District 7

Project Abstract

The Green Guides: Youth Nature Ambassadors project, initiated by India Currents, is an innovative urban nature engagement program designed to empower youth aged 15 to 24 in Santa Clara County. This initiative aims to build media skills, environmental literacy, and climate resilience rooted in Indian heritage and cultural connections to nature among young adults. By fostering intergenerational dialogues on ecology, climate change, heritage, and ancient wisdom, our project seeks to bridge generations and increase the visibility of Indian American perspectives in environmental spaces. Additionally, the project aims to create content that educates and engages the broader community on environmental issues, such as climate change and community climate resilience.

Project Planning

Describe the proposed project.

1. Project Overview

Green Guides Nature Ambassadors is an environmental education and storytelling initiative designed to inspire Santa Clara County's next generation to explore, document, and preserve their natural environment. Participants will engage in hands-on field learning in South Bay parks and gain skills in science communication, environmental journalism, and social media storytelling — aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) three-dimensional learning model (core ideas, practices, crosscutting concepts).

2. Alignment with Authority Mission & Vision

The project advances the Authority's mission to protect open space, natural areas, and working lands by:

Cultivating environmental stewardship and awareness among youth.

Connecting culturally diverse communities with the region's parks and natural habitats.

Using storytelling to amplify the importance of conservation, biodiversity, and climate resilience.

Through the India Currents platform — a trusted community media outlet with a 37-year track record — the project will share youth-created stories that reinforce the Authority's vision of a sustainable, connected, and thriving natural environment.

3. Support for the Santa Clara Valley Greenprint

The Green Guides program supports Greenprint goals by:

Protecting and restoring natural resources: Field lessons focus on creek and watershed ecosystems, native plants, and pollution prevention.

Connecting people and nature: Youth participants experience firsthand the ecological and cultural value of open spaces.

Promoting a conservation ethic: Encourages diverse youth to become lifelong advocates for climate and environmental justice.

4. Alignment with Measure Q and T Expenditure Plan

This project meets multiple Expenditure Plan outcomes, particularly:

Protecting land around creeks, rivers, and streams

Youth will study riparian ecosystems and learn how native vegetation supports water filtration and pollution prevention.

Their multimedia storytelling will raise public awareness about watershed health and responsible stewardship.

Providing urban open space, parks, and environmental education

Activities take place in publicly accessible South Bay parks, turning them into living classrooms.

The program promotes outdoor learning, science literacy, and creative expression — reaching young audiences where they live and play.

5. Multiple Benefits

The Green Guides program creates benefits across education, ecology, and equity:

Environmental Education: Builds science literacy and field observation skills aligned with NGSS.

Water Quality & Habitat: Highlights the connection between native plants, watershed protection, and local biodiversity.

Social Equity & Inclusion: Engages diverse youth voices, particularly from underrepresented communities.

Civic & Cultural Engagement: Fosters storytelling and journalism skills linking science, culture, and civic participation.

Climate Awareness: Encourages climate literacy and community dialogue about environmental change.

6. Project Design & Deliverables

Curriculum: NGSS-aligned modules integrating Life, Physical, Earth & Space Sciences, and Engineering Design.

Field Sessions: Conducted in South Bay parks; youth practice ecological observation, identify native or culturally significant plants, and analyze local environmental challenges.

Students apply engineering and data collection practices to propose real-world solutions.

Content Creation:

Participants will create short videos, essays, and social media posts on park ecology, conservation, and stewardship — all shared via India Currents' media channels (website, newsletter, and social platforms reaching 500K+ annual readers).

Deliverables:

12 trained Green Guides Ambassadors

10–12 multimedia stories published online

3 community engagement events

1 showcase event featuring youth presentations and public dialogue

7. Stewardship & Sustainability

India Currents has 38 years of community engagement and demonstrated capacity to design and sustain impactful programs.

Partnerships with park rangers, environmental educators, and conservation nonprofits will ensure content accuracy and long-term relevance.

The project integrates sustainable practices — minimal printed materials, use of digital tools, and field education on native plants and ecological restoration.

Program outcomes and youth materials will remain publicly available online, ensuring continuing access and impact.

8. Readiness & Implementation Timeline

The program is ready to launch immediately upon funding.

Timeline:

Months 1–3: Finalize curriculum; recruit and train youth participants; coordinate with park and education partners.

Months 4–11: Conduct field activities, community engagement, workshops, and story production.

Month 12: Showcase event; evaluate outcomes.

9. Alignment with Educational Standards

All activities align with Grades 9–12 NGSS through a three-dimensional learning model incorporating:

Disciplinary Core Ideas: Life, Physical, Earth/Space Sciences, and Engineering Design

Science and Engineering Practices: Observation, inquiry, and evidence-based reporting

Crosscutting Concepts: Systems, cause and effect, and interdependence in ecosystems

These frameworks ensure the program reinforces scientific literacy, critical thinking, and communication skills.

Describe key project deliverables and estimated completion dates.

The Green Guides Nature Ambassadors program will be implemented over a 12-month period, beginning immediately upon grant approval. The extended schedule allows for thorough planning, sustained mentorship, seasonal ecological observations, and meaningful community engagement. Each phase builds toward measurable outcomes that support environmental education, youth leadership, and public awareness of Santa Clara County's natural resources.

Curriculum Development & Partnership Coordination: Develop NGSS-aligned lesson plans integrating Life, Physical, Earth/Space Sciences, and Engineering Design. Collaborate with park rangers, educators, and local conservation groups to ensure scientific accuracy and cultural relevance. Months 1-3

Participant Recruitment & Orientation: Recruit 15-20 youth (ages 15–24) from across Santa Clara County. Conduct orientation workshops on environmental literacy, field safety, and science communication. Month 3

Seasonal Field Sessions: Part I (Spring–Summer): Conduct hands-on learning sessions in South Bay parks focused on native and culturally significant plants, riparian zones, and water-quality observation. Months 4–6

Content Creation Phase I: Participants produce early-stage multimedia content (field notes, short videos, and social posts) documenting their learning and observations. Month 6

Mid-Project Reflection & Evaluation: Assess learning progress through surveys and group discussions. Refine curriculum and content plans based on feedback. Month 7

Seasonal Field Sessions: Part II (Fall–Winter) Continue field activities to capture seasonal environmental changes and deepen understanding of long-term ecological processes. Months 8–10

Content Creation: Phase II: Develop final multimedia stories (10–12 videos, essays, and digital stories) featuring ecological insights, cultural storytelling, and conservation themes. Month 10

Community Engagement Events: Host 4 public park-based events featuring youth ambassadors, local experts, and interactive learning opportunities for families and community members. Throughout Months 5–11

Final Showcase & Program Evaluation: Culminating community event to present youth-created media, recognize participants, and evaluate project impact through feedback, participation metrics, and media reach. Month 12

Public Access & Ongoing Stewardship: Maintain all project materials (curriculum, videos, and educational resources) on India Currents' website and social media platforms to ensure long-term access and ongoing community benefit. Post-Project (Ongoing)

Does this project require permission, permits, or other approvals? If so, please describe the status of these.

The Green Guides Nature Ambassadors project will be conducted in full compliance with all relevant regulations and permitting requirements. India Currents will consult with park authorities and other applicable agencies to secure any necessary permissions before project activities commence.

Reserved areas in public parks: While all activities will take place in publicly accessible park spaces, the project may occasionally use reserved areas for workshops or field sessions. In such cases, India Currents will submit permit applications as part of the planning phase to ensure proper authorization.

Project activities include:

Observational field work in South Bay parks to identify native or culturally significant plants, habitats, and climate-driven environmental hazards.

Documentation of ecological features and preparation of multimedia content for educational and storytelling purposes.

Creation of social media content by participants, which will be shared through India Currents' digital platforms to reach a broader audience and promote community engagement.

What is the lifetime of this project? If applicable, describe plans for operating and maintaining the project in the future.

The Green Guides Nature Ambassadors project will have a duration of one year, beginning immediately upon grant approval and concluding within 12 months. This timeframe allows for curriculum development, participant recruitment and training, seasonal field observations, multimedia content creation, community engagement, and a culminating showcase event.

While the project itself is one year in length, it is part of India Currents' larger "Rooted" initiative, which focuses on cultivating and engaging Next Gen audiences through dynamic content, interactive reporting, and storytelling shared with our broad social media audience.

Future operation and maintenance plans include:

Continued public access to all project materials, multimedia stories, and educational resources via India Currents' website and social media platforms.

Integration of lessons learned and participant content into the ongoing "Rooted" programming, providing long-term educational impact for youth and community members.

Opportunities to expand or repeat the program in subsequent years, leveraging established partnerships with park authorities, educators, and local environmental organizations.

Ongoing mentorship and engagement of alumni participants to serve as future youth ambassadors, ensuring a sustainable pipeline of Next Gen environmental storytellers.

Through these strategies, the project's educational and stewardship outcomes will extend beyond the formal one-year timeframe, leaving a lasting impact on participants, the community, and the stewardship of South Bay park ecosystems.

Describe the project's readiness for implementation.

If approved for funding, India Currents will immediately begin implementing the Green Guides Nature Ambassadors program. While the project is currently in a nascent planning stage, our team brings extensive experience, strong community connections, and access to local subject matter experts, as well as deep ties to families and potential Next Gen participants throughout the Bay Area.

The team has already developed a detailed outline of the Green Guides program, which will be fully refined in consultation with NGSS standards and our expert partners. From this foundation, we will create a comprehensive project schedule covering all critical activities: recruitment, orientation, park-based field sessions, content creation, multimedia publication, and the final showcase.

Participant recruitment will begin immediately by promoting the program via India Currents' social media channels, school clubs, and community-based organizations. Once youth Ambassadors are selected, they will participate in an NGSS-informed introductory workshop led by India Currents staff and topical experts, setting the stage for their learning and engagement throughout the program.

Throughout the 12-month program, India Currents will oversee all program activities, including guided field observations, ecological documentation, and storytelling content creation. The program will culminate with a final showcase, participant surveys, and lessons-learned analysis, ensuring continuous improvement and measurable outcomes.

With a prepared plan, expert support, and strong community connections, the Green Guides program is ready to launch immediately, ensuring timely, effective implementation and meaningful impact for Santa Clara County youth.

Project Budget

Budget Summary - Grant Request & Budget Summary - Matching Funds

Grant request: Personnel

\$27,000.00

Grant request: Contracted Services

\$9,000.00

Grant request: Supplies / Materials

\$3,000.00

Grant request: Other Direct Costs

\$7,000.00

Grant request: Indirect Costs

\$4,000.00

Total Matching Funds

\$0.00

Total Budget

\$50,000.00

Please upload a detailed version of your budget by accessing the link below:

UGP_Project_Budget_ICF 2025.xlsx

Materials and Budget Template (item #9) found here: <https://www.openspaceauthority.org/programs/grant.html#Materials>

Provide a brief budget narrative to explain the expenses listed in each of the budget categories (e.g. Personnel).

The proposed budget of \$50,000 will support implementation of the Green Guides program, a youth-led initiative designed to build environmental literacy, climate awareness, and civic engagement among the Indian American community in Santa Clara County. The requested funds will be used to compensate project staff, engage community experts, and provide stipends for youth fellows who will contribute to storytelling and outreach efforts.

Personnel (\$27,000)

This category covers staff time dedicated to planning, coordination, and content creation:

Project Lead (\$12,000): Responsible for overall program planning, youth engagement, and coordination with community partners and schools. 120 Hours, @\$100 per hour

Engagement Editor (\$6,000): Leads communications strategy, facilitates storytelling workshops, and ensures youth contributions are published and amplified. 80 hours @\$75 per hour

Outreach Coordinator (\$6,000): Develops partnerships with schools, environmental groups, and civic organizations to recruit participants and organize events. 80 hours @\$75 per hour

Managing Editor (\$3,000): Provides editorial oversight, mentoring youth writers, and ensuring high-quality, accurate environmental reporting. 20 hours @\$150 per hour

Contracted Services (\$9,000)

This includes specialized expertise and participant support:

Domain Expert (\$6,000): An ecology and climate professional who will guide program design, review content for scientific accuracy, and lead educational sessions.

Fellowships (\$2,000): Twenty micro-fellowships of \$100 each to support freelance youth contributors who will create articles, videos, or photo essays on local environmental issues.

Promotion and Marketing (\$1,000): Promoting the content generated through the program by students through partner newsletters, social media, publication and syndication infrastructure

All grant funds will be directed toward project execution and community engagement, with no overhead or indirect costs included.

Supplies & Materials (\$3,000)

This includes design and printing of brochures, training materials, and Collateral for events.

Direct Costs (\$7,000)

This includes the cost of logistics - Park permits (reserved areas if required), transportation for youth participants, insurance budgeted at \$2000.

We will provide snacks and water to attendees and students at all community engagement events over the period of 12 months, budgeted at \$1500.

The showcase event at the end of the program may need us to pay a rental fee for the space, any additional fees required as well as awards for \$3500.

Indirect Costs (\$4000)

This includes some Organizational overhead (rent, utilities, administration, accounting, small percentage allowable under grant rules)

The India Currents Foundation will leverage in-kind support through staff time, digital publishing resources, and partnerships with local organizations to expand the program's reach and sustainability.

Award Amount: The Board reserves the right to award partial funding on projects. If your project were to receive partial funding, what would this mean for your project?

If the project were to receive partial funding, India Currents would scale the program accordingly while maintaining its core objectives and learning outcomes. This could include:

Reducing the number of youth participants or cohorts served.

Limiting the number of field sessions or community engagement events.

Prioritizing essential supplies and contracted expertise to ensure quality programming.

Phasing certain content creation or multimedia outputs to fit available resources.

Project Goals

Describe the specific problems, issues, or unserved needs the project will address.

Many youth in Santa Clara County lack opportunities to connect with nature, their peers, and their communities, and are unaware of local conservation challenges. The Green Guides Nature Ambassadors program addresses these gaps by:

Connecting Youth to Nature – Hands-on, NGSS-aligned field learning in South Bay parks to study creeks, marshlands, and watersheds, understand environmental threats, and practice stewardship.

Raising Community Awareness – Youth-created multimedia content will educate the public about the Santa Clara County Habitat Plan and ongoing conservation efforts.

Building Next-Gen Environmental Communicators – Provide youth with skills in science communication, reporting, and social media storytelling, fostering accountability and advocacy for climate and conservation issues.

By combining environmental education with storytelling and civic engagement, the program delivers clear social and environmental benefits, cultivating a new generation of informed, empowered conservation advocates.

How does this project serve the community?

Number of people served

50,000

Number of youth served

30

Number of programs provided

4

Other Grantee Goal #1 (optional)

Other Grantee Goal #2 (optional)

Impact

Describe the lasting impact of the project. Please include whether the program is open to the public and whether any materials developed will be available to the public.

The Green Guides Nature Ambassadors program is designed to create a lasting social and environmental impact by empowering youth to become skilled, informed, and creative advocates for nature and conservation. Participants with interests in environmental science, nature, or journalism will receive the resources, training, mentorship, and structured opportunities to channel their passion into storytelling for India Currents' platforms, which reach over 500,000 unique readers, 55,000 social media followers, and 13,000 engaged email subscribers. In addition, youth-created content may reach broader audiences of up to 2 million through syndication, amplifying their environmental and cultural messages.

The program also strengthens the visibility of Indian American culture by engaging youth from diverse ethnic backgrounds to become Green Guide Ambassadors. Participants will highlight plant life that is native to or culturally significant in India, fostering cross-cultural understanding and appreciation of local and global ecosystems.

By combining environmental education, science communication, and cultural storytelling, the project addresses the identified need for youth engagement with nature and conservation, while providing a platform for underrepresented voices in environmental journalism. Over time, this initiative will:

Cultivate a new generation of environmental stewards and communicators.

Increase public awareness and appreciation of local ecosystems, parks, and watersheds.

Unite diverse communities around shared interests in conservation, cultural heritage, and outdoor engagement.

All programs will be open to the public and all materials developed will be available to the public.

Through these efforts, the Green Guides Nature Ambassadors program ensures a profound and lasting impact, fostering informed, connected, and active participants who continue to champion environmental stewardship and cultural awareness well beyond the program year.

Climate Resilience

How does this project enhance and/or raise awareness about climate resilience? Please include any metrics that can be used to help quantify or understand the climate benefits of the project.

The program will raise awareness about climate resilience by:

Amplifying Conservation Narratives: Youth will produce multimedia stories, social media posts, and digital content that explain the importance of ecosystem protection, sustainable practices, and climate adaptation strategies.

Engaging Next-Gen Audiences: By reaching young people through India Currents' 500,000+ unique readers and 55,000 social media followers, the program will make climate and conservation action accessible, actionable, and relatable.

Providing a Blueprint for Action: Participants' content will include practical steps for volunteering, advocacy, study, and outdoor engagement, helping peers translate awareness into tangible contributions to environmental stewardship.

Fostering Long-Term Behavioral Change: By integrating observation, storytelling, and advocacy, the program encourages youth to adopt sustainable practices, participate in conservation efforts, and share knowledge with their communities, creating a ripple effect for climate resilience across the Bay Area.

Through these efforts, the Green Guides Nature Ambassadors program not only educates youth about climate challenges but also empowers them to take meaningful action, building a generation of environmentally conscious leaders who are prepared to protect and enhance the resilience of local ecosystems.

Community Engagement / Stakeholder Support / Community Building

Describe the community support and/or community engagement process. Please upload any community support letters in the Documents Upload section below.

The Green Guides Nature Ambassadors program is designed with broad community engagement and strong public support in mind. India Currents will actively collaborate with a network of community partners, including:

High schools and youth organizations across Santa Clara County to recruit participants and provide educational guidance.

Local parks departments and rangers to facilitate safe, meaningful field experiences and provide expertise on habitat conservation.

Urban farming and environmental nonprofits to incorporate sustainable practices, ecological awareness, and community stewardship into program activities.

Local environmental experts and subject matter specialists to consult on curriculum, field sessions, and content creation.

Community participation and engagement strategies include:

Direct outreach to culturally diverse spaces, schools, and community organizations to ensure a multicultural, inclusive cohort of youth participants.

Social media promotion via India Currents' channels, which reach younger audiences and help attract youth with interests in nature, conservation, and journalism.

Collaboration with partners to co-host events, workshops, and park-based activities, providing meaningful interaction between youth, experts, and the public.

Inclusive recruitment messaging that is visible, welcoming, and accessible to anyone interested in participating, fostering equity and community trust.

India Currents has a long history of collaboration with public agencies, nonprofits, and community groups throughout the Bay Area. Leveraging this extensive network, the project ensures active engagement, stakeholder support, and opportunities for meaningful participation, strengthening community connections and building a cohort of youth leaders dedicated to environmental stewardship and cultural awareness.

Underserved Communities

Describe how the project addresses open space needs for sensitive populations such as residents of park-poor neighborhoods, underserved, or disadvantaged communities, youth, seniors, persons with disabilities, or is located within an under-resourced community.

Targeted Recruitment: Direct outreach to youth in under-resourced schools, community centers, and park-poor neighborhoods.

Inclusive Access to Open Space: All activities held in public park spaces accessible to underserved communities, providing hands-on environmental learning.

Skill Development & Job Training: Participants gain experience in environmental observation, science communication, multimedia content creation, and social media storytelling.

Mentorship & Guidance: Structured mentorship from India Currents staff and local experts supports youth personal and professional growth.

Cross-Cultural Engagement: Multicultural cohort fosters inclusive learning and encourages collaboration across diverse communities.

Outcome: Provides underserved youth with access to nature, educational experiences, and professional skills, building a pipeline of empowered environmental stewards and storytellers.

Organizational Capacity

Briefly describe the organization and its ability to successfully implement this project. This might include successful past projects, key staff qualifications, financial resources, etc.

For 38 years, India Currents has been a trusted voice documenting the Indian American experience, particularly in Santa Clara County, home to the second-largest Indian immigrant population in the U.S. Our organization bridges communities, connects residents to essential resources, and fosters civic engagement through high-quality, award-winning journalism and strategic community initiatives.

India Currents has a demonstrated capacity to successfully implement projects, evidenced by:

Past Successful Projects:

Led voter education campaigns funded by Meta and census outreach initiatives for the United Way Bay Area.

Developed a multilingual 2024 voting guide highlighting Indian American candidates and conducted voter outreach during the 2021 recall elections.

Partnered with the Santa Clara County Office of Education to provide COVID-19 vaccination outreach for children.

Conducted a two-year community program, supported by the California State Library, to educate the public on recognizing and reporting hate crimes.

Expertise and Recognition:

Received six awards at the 2024 San Francisco Press Club Gala for journalistic excellence.

Reporters have presented at USC Annenberg's Health Journalism Board, the National Association of Hispanic Journalists Conference, and Indiaspora's annual summit.

Strong Partnerships and Community Support:

Collaborates with Bay Area nonprofits such as East Palo Alto Center for Community Media, CalMatters, Asian Americans for Community Involvement, Ethnic Media Services, Hindu American Foundation, DingDing TV, India Community Center, Narika, and Parivar.

These partnerships strengthen our ability to engage underserved communities, combat racial hatred, and promote social justice.

Proven Reach and Engagement:

Civic Leadership Forums have engaged over 1,000 students, parents, community leaders, and elected officials.

Stories and videos from these forums have reached more than 200,000 people across Silicon Valley.

Through our decades of experience, extensive network, and history of producing impactful programming, India Currents has the resources, expertise, and organizational capacity to successfully implement the Green Guides Nature Ambassadors program. Our team is well-equipped to manage all aspects of the project—from curriculum development and youth recruitment to content creation, community engagement, and evaluation—ensuring measurable, lasting outcomes.

Leadership & Innovation

Describe how this project employs innovative approaches or encourages collaboration and partnerships.

The Green Guides Nature Ambassadors program employs innovative approaches to environmental education and youth engagement, combining digital media, NGSS-aligned curriculum, and hands-on field experience to create a unique learning and storytelling platform for young participants.

Key innovative elements include:

Integration with the "Rooted" Initiative: Builds on an established program framework to ensure sustainability, alignment with organizational goals, and continued engagement of diverse audiences.

Digital Media and Science Communication: Uses social media tools and professional content creation standards to train participants as journalists, creators, and science communicators. Youth produce multimedia content, build portfolios, and develop a digital footprint that can be leveraged for future educational and professional opportunities.

Cultural and Language Inclusion: Actively addresses disparities driven by language barriers and cultural insecurity by engaging diverse communities online and inviting them to explore Santa Clara County's parks, biodiversity, and natural resources.

Partnerships and Collaboration: Leverages existing collaborations with the Santa Clara County Office of Education, journalism programs at three high schools, and community-based organizations such as Indians for Collective Action and the India Community Center. The project also builds new partnerships with youth organizations, student groups, and other CBOs to expand reach and deepen community engagement.

Youth Leadership Development: Encourages participants to take active leadership roles in environmental stewardship, content creation, and community outreach, fostering the next generation of conservation advocates and science communicators.

By combining NGSS-aligned field education, professional digital storytelling, and inclusive community engagement, this project demonstrates a new model of youth-driven environmental education and conservation reporting, advancing leadership in the field and fostering collaboration across schools, nonprofits, and public agencies.

Documents Section

Document Uploads (please combine into one file if possible)

ICC letter of support for India Currents.pdf

Additional files (if needed)

Asm Kalra Letter of Support for India Currents.pdf

Additional files (if needed)

Submitted Date - Internal

Summary Field:

Name: Average Score (no bonus)

Form: Staff Review

Summary Type: average

Field: Base Score Total

Decimal: 2

Currency: No

Description/Help Text: NONE

Short Name: NONE

Field Purpose: NONE

Filter:

- ALL:
 - isComplete | is | true

Summary Field:

Name: Total Count of Submitted Reviews

Form: Staff Review

Summary Type: count

Field: NONE

Decimal: NONE

Currency: No

Description/Help Text: NONE

Short Name: NONE

Field Purpose: NONE

Filter:

- ALL:
 - isComplete | is | true
 - Folder | is | Submitted

Program Application: File Attachments

Please upload a detailed version of your budget by accessing the link below:

UGP_Project_Budget_ICF 2025.xlsx

Document Uploads (please combine into one file if possible)

ICC letter of support for India Currents.pdf

Additional files (if needed)

Asm Kalra Letter of Support for India Currents.pdf

Instructions

Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority | 2025 Urban Grant Program

INSTRUCTIONS

Please provide a detailed project budget. More information, including a detailed list of direct and indirect costs, is available in the Urban Grant Program Guidelines (<http://www.openspaceauthority.org/urban>). A sample budget is included in a separate tab.

The Budget Form in a separate tab in this document. The budget categories are listed below with a description of each field.

PROJECT

Project Name:

The name of the project

Organization:

The name of the organization requesting funding

PERSONNEL

Estimate employee and volunteer time directly related to the project. Hourly rates for employees can include salary plus fringe benefits, payroll tax, etc, but can not include indirect costs. Note: please list position titles only.

Position title:

Title of each employee working directly on this project. Note: please list position title only.

Description of Budget Item:

The amount of time (e.g. hours) and the hourly rate for each employee. Hourly rates can include salary plus fringe benefits, payroll taxes, etc, but can NOT include indirect costs. Please provide adequate detail to show how totals were calculated.

Grant Request:

The amount requested from this Grant (if applicable).

Matching Funds:

The amount funded through matching funds (if applicable).

Total:

This column will be automatically calculated.

CONTRACTED SERVICES

Labor, supplies, and materials to be provided by consultants/contractors for project implementation.

Item:

The item listed

Description of Budget Item:

Please provide a description of the item with adequate detail to show how totals were calculated.

Instructions

Grant Request:	The amount requested from this Grant (if applicable).
Matching Funds:	The amount funded through matching funds (if applicable).
Total:	This column will be automatically calculated.
SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS	
Supplies and materials that are <u>directly related</u> to the project.	
Item:	The item listed
Description of Budget Item:	Please provide a description of the item with adequate detail to show how totals were calculated.
Grant Request:	The amount requested from this Grant (if applicable).
Matching Funds:	The amount funded through matching funds (if applicable).
Total:	This column will be automatically calculated.
OTHER DIRECT COSTS	
Other direct costs that are <u>directly related</u> to the project. This might include travel, service fees for fiscal sponsorship, or newly-acquired equipment.	
Item:	The item listed
Description of Budget Item:	Please provide a description of the item with adequate detail to show how totals were calculated.
Grant Request:	The amount requested from this Grant (if applicable).
Matching Funds:	The amount funded through matching funds (if applicable).
Total:	This column will be automatically calculated.
INDIRECT COSTS	
Indirect costs are eligible for grant funding only for 501(c)(3) Nonprofits and are <u>limited to 20%</u> of grant funding. Indirect costs cannot be counted as matching funds.	
Item:	20% Administrative overhead for Nonprofits
Description of Budget Item:	Any additional description
Grant Request:	The amount requested from this Grant (if applicable).
	The percent of grant funding
Total:	This column will be automatically calculated.

Instructions

GRAND TOTAL	
Grant Request:	This column will be automatically calculated.
Matching Funds:	This column will be automatically calculated.
Total:	This column will be automatically calculated.
COST SHARE	
A minimum of 25% of grant request in matching funds is required. A project budget with less than 25% of the grant request in matching funds does NOT meet the grant requirements and will not be considered for funding.	
Matching Funds:	This column will be automatically calculated.
MATCHING FUNDS	
Please describe the source of matching funds listed above. This might include cash match (e.g. grantee's own funds, donations, grants, etc) or in-kind match (non-cash contribution such as volunteer time).	
Source:	The source of funding (e.g. In-kind contributions, Organization's contributions, Donations, Grant, etc.).
Description:	Any additional description.
kind)	Indicate whether the funding is cash or in-kind match.
Pending)	Indicate whether the matching funds are secured or pending.
Matching Funds:	The amount funded through matching funds.

Budget Form

Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority | 2025 Urban Grant Program

PROJECT BUDGET

Highlighted cells are automatically calculated.

PROJECT				
Project Name:	The Green Guides Project			
Organization:	India Currents Foundation			

PERSONNEL

Estimate employee and volunteer time directly related to the project. Hourly rates for employees can include salary plus fringe benefits, payroll tax, etc, but can not include indirect costs. Note: please list position titles only.

Position Title	Description of Budget Item	Grant Request (\$)	Matching Funds (\$)	Total
				\$ -
Project Lead	The Project Lead will be responsible for planning, coordinating, and	\$ 12,000.00		\$ 12,000.00
				\$ -
Engagement Editor	Engagement editor will lead engagement efforts with in-person events,	\$ 6,000.00		\$ 6,000.00
				\$ -
Outreach Coordinator	Outreach Coordinator will develop an outreach strategy, and coordinate	\$ 6,000.00		\$ 6,000.00
				\$ -
Managing Editor	Will lead storytelling training, editing of multimedia stories and publishing. 20	\$ 3,000.00		\$ 3,000.00
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
TOTAL PERSONNEL		\$ 27,000.00	\$ -	\$ 27,000.00

CONTRACTED SERVICES

Labor, supplies, and materials to be provided by consultants/contractors for project implementation.

Item	Description of Budget Item	Grant Request (\$)	Matching Funds (\$)	Total
				\$ -
Domain Expert: Ecology, Climate,	Domain expert will advise on forest health, wetland conservation, soil quality,	\$ 6,000.00		\$ 6,000.00
				\$ -
Fellowships	20 fellowships of @\$100 per article for freelancers over 12 months	\$ 2,000.00		\$ 2,000.00

Budget Form

				\$ -
Promotions	Prmoting the content generated through the program by students through	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
TOTAL CONTRACTED SERVICES		\$ 9,000.00	\$ -	\$ 9,000.00

SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS

Supplies and materials that are directly related to the project.

Item	Description of Budget Item	Grant Request (\$)	Matching Funds (\$)	Total
				\$ -
Training materials	Training binder and name badges for 50 volunteers @ \$10 per person	\$ 500.00		\$ 500.00
Marketing and display printing	Collateral for events and general distribution	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
TOTAL SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS		\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00

OTHER DIRECT COSTS

Other direct costs that are directly related to the project. This might include travel, service fees for fiscal sponsorship, or newly-acquired equipment.

Item	Description of Budget Item	Grant Request (\$)	Matching Funds (\$)	Total
				\$ -

Sample Budget

				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
TOTAL SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS		\$ 1,600.00	\$ -	\$ 1,600.00

OTHER DIRECT COSTS

Other direct costs that are directly related to the project. This might include travel, service fees for fiscal sponsorship, or newly-acquired equipment.

Item	Description of Budget Item	Grant Request (\$)	(\$)	Total
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
TOTAL OTHER DIRECT COSTS		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

INDIRECT COSTS

Indirect costs are eligible for grant funding only for 501(c)(3) Nonprofits and are limited to 20% of grant funding. Indirect costs cannot be counted as matching funds.

Item	Description of Budget Item	Grant Request (\$)	(\$)	Total
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Sample Budget

TOTAL MATCHING FUNDS				\$ 6,692.00



India Community Center

Unite. Serve. Celebrate

Date: October 12, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the **India Community Center (ICC)**, I am delighted to offer our support for the **India Currents Foundation's Green Guides program**.

At ICC, our mission is to *build community, inspire leadership, and promote civic engagement* among the Indian diaspora. We believe that empowering youth to take an active role in shaping a sustainable future is essential to that mission. The Green Guides program aligns beautifully with our values — offering young people the knowledge, mentorship, and real-world experience to become thoughtful stewards of the environment and engaged citizens of tomorrow.

We commend India Currents Foundation for creating a platform that connects environmental awareness with community action, and we look forward to exploring opportunities for collaboration as we collectively nurture the next generation of changemakers.

Sincerely,

Manoj Goel

CEO

India Community Center (ICC)

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0025
(916) 319-2025
FAX (916) 319-2125

DISTRICT OFFICE
111 W. ST. JOHN STREET, SUITE 1150
SAN JOSE, CA 95113
(408) 286-2535
FAX (408) 286-2560

E-MAIL
Assemblymember.Kalra@assembly.ca.gov



COMMITTEES
CHAIR: JUDICIARY
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
NATURAL RESOURCES
UTILITIES AND ENERGY

October 14, 2025

Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority
Grant Programs
33 Las Colinas Lane
San José, CA 95119

RE: Support India Currents Foundation's Green Guides Program

Dear Select Committee,

I urge you to support India Currents Foundation's Green Guides program, an initiative that empowers youth to take meaningful action on environmental sustainability and community resilience. As an elected representative for Santa Clara County and the heart of Silicon Valley in the State Legislature, with a total of 17 years in elected office, including my time on the San José City Council, I recognize the Foundation's long-standing advocacy in fostering civic engagement and environmental stewardship among our youth.

India Currents Foundation has a decades-long, state-recognized record of community service and storytelling that uplifts and connects diverse voices across our County and beyond. The Green Guides program is an innovative extension of that mission, cultivating the next generation of informed, engaged, and environmentally conscious leaders. This program aligns with the shared priorities of the Open Space Authority and our office: to inspire young people to lead with purpose, develop environmental awareness, and contribute to a greener, more equitable California.

This grant application has my full support. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact my staff for environmental issues at Tuan.Nguyen@asm.ca.gov or reach my office at (408) 286-2535.

Sincerely,

ASH KALRA
Assemblymember, 25th District