



INVEST ENGAGE ADVANCE | SEATTLE

## 2010 Environment Grant Guidelines

### Social Venture Partners Seattle

SVP Seattle advances the common good by engaging and connecting a community of philanthropic leaders, strengthening local nonprofits, and catalyzing efforts to accelerate system change.

### SVP Capacity-Building Partnerships

SVP believes that stronger management, systems and infrastructure result in nonprofit organizations that are more effective in their program and service delivery. To achieve this, we give more than money. We build long-term strategic relationships with the nonprofits we fund (our Investees). With an eye to increasing the capacity of the nonprofit, we provide high-level volunteer or professional assistance, in addition to grant dollars, to meet the distinct needs of each Investee.

SVP provides the expertise of our network of donors (our Partners) and professional consultants in the following areas:

- Board Development and Governance
- Leadership Development
- Program Evaluation and Performance Management
- Financial Management
- Fund Development
- Information Technology
- Marketing, PR and Communications
- Human Resources
- Strategic Planning
- Legal

By working together, our Investees and Partners develop a unique mutually beneficial relationship. Our Investees gain from the valuable expertise, guidance and mentorship of our Partners. In return, the experience allows our Partners to gain rich insight into community issues and the nonprofit sector, and develop a deep connection to the Investee and to the entire community.

The Environment Grant Committee expects to award one grant of approximately \$40,000. SVP makes initial single-year grants with the intent of establishing longer term partnerships with its Investees (typically 3-5 years). At the end of the first year of funding, the grant outcomes and relationship potential with each Investee are evaluated to determine further support.

### 2010 Environment Giving Priorities

SVP seeks to promote a healthy future for all life in the Pacific Northwest by fostering environmental stewardship that is ecologically based and economically sound. Our grantmaking priorities include:

- Fostering a population of environmentally informed, responsible, proactive citizens;
- Encouraging people from a wide range of interests and disciplines to work together in addressing environmental issues;
- Supporting organizations working to eliminate problems at the source and promote systemic change;
- Supporting organizations that recognize the inter-related environmental, economic and social challenges of this work.

Grantmaking decisions at SVP are made by a committee of Partners, which allows them to learn more about the issue area, review proposals, and attend site visits. As a part of this six month process, this committee refines their giving priorities in each issue area. In the past, additional consideration has been given to environment organizations that:

- Have a focus in advocacy or education as part of their work
- Partner with other organizations in the field, or work to build coalitions
- Address a timely and important issue including: climate change, smart growth, water, preservation

## SVP looks to collaborate with organizations that:

- Understand the importance of building internal organizational capacity in order to achieve their mission.
- Have a long-term vision for the organization's programs and infrastructure.
- Has the capacity to embrace an SVP partnership, which includes intensive self-assessment and working with volunteer and paid consultants.
- Are committed to using outcomes measurement and evaluation to provide the most effective programs possible.

## Application Procedures

Please submit a letter of inquiry addressed to the Environment Grant Committee. The letter must not exceed two pages in length, and should not include attachments. Please include the following information:

**Overview:** Provide a brief summary of your organization's mission and programs.

**Environment:** Provide a summary of the program goals and outcomes you intend to achieve through your environment program(s), both short-term (over the next year) and long-term (over three to five years). If you run several such programs, please describe program outcomes for your largest two programs. Be sure to describe what the need is for these programs and how you gauge you are having a positive impact.

**Organizational Capacity-Building:** In the context of your organizational vision for the next three to five years, describe and prioritize your near term (one year) and long-term (three to five year) organizational capacity-building needs (not just programmatic needs). What will you need to strengthen or develop at the organization level in order to achieve the program goals above? Where could you use SVP consulting resources? Please refer to "SVP Capacity-Building Partnerships" section and the [SVP website](#) for more information.

**Budget and staff figures:** a) current budget for your organization; b) current budget(s) for your environment programs; c) total amount your organization spent for the most recently completed fiscal year; d) total amount spent on environment programs for the most recently completed fiscal year; e) total staff size. Please provide total dollar amounts, not line-item details.

## Submit Letter of Inquiry

Email letters of inquiry to [info@svpseattle.org](mailto:info@svpseattle.org), and make sure to include email and phone contact information in the actual letter. If you cannot email the letter, please fax to (206) 728-0552 or mail to SVP, 1601 2nd Ave., Suite 615, Seattle, WA, 98101. **Letters must be received by 5:00 p.m. on February 5, 2010.**

SVP will acknowledge all letters and invite full proposals (eight pages plus a site visit) from a selected number of applicants. SVP will not accept unsolicited proposals.

## Eligibility

Organization's managing staff must be located in King County of Washington State. Applicants must be classified as a 501(c)(3) public charity. SVP will not consider grant requests from individuals, public schools or school districts, religious organizations for sectarian purposes, pure sports teams, or any organization that discriminates on the basis of race, sexual orientation, gender, age, marital status, national origin, or physical ability. SVP will not make grants to support auctions or fundraising events, debt reduction, endowment funds or capital campaigns.

## Key Dates

February 5, 2010:	Letters of inquiry due
Mid- March, 2010:	Proposals invited
April 14, 2010:	Proposals due
April-May, 2010:	Site visits and proposal evaluation
June, 2010:	Grant decisions announced

We encourage you to visit our website at [www.svpseattle.org](http://www.svpseattle.org) for details on our programs and current funding relationships. The SVP Model at [www.svpseattle.org/about/svp-model](http://www.svpseattle.org/about/svp-model) and [www.svpseattle.org/grantmaking/how-to-apply](http://www.svpseattle.org/grantmaking/how-to-apply) will be particularly helpful.

Please feel free to email **Mike Quinn**, Grant and Program Manager at [mikeq@svpseattle.org](mailto:mikeq@svpseattle.org) with additional questions