

May 10th, 2021

To whom it may concern, be that the SLA administrative team,

In the age of recent events, SLA needs a reminder of community amongst difficult times in our own spaces. Without access to most places, it is difficult to imagine a place where we could all join together, however with the project I am putting together, it could become a way for people at SLA to reconnect once COVID has died down. In the beginnings of the capstone process, I had many questions, questions that would lead to a project to showcase how passionate I am about the SLA community and how committed I am to creating strong ties to our sister school, Ben Franklin High School. I began to ask myself, How can I create an environment for SLA that will simultaneously teach students about nature and community? Which led itself to this, a full-scale proposal for a garden on top of the SLA/BFHS terrace that I hope you take into account. Included is a budget plan, blueprints for planters and flowers, along with ways to showcase student creativity and art. It would prove to be beneficial for all members of SLA and BFHS.

Partnering with engineering students, namely Payson McConnell of the Engineering CTE program, I've done extensive research as to how much something like this would cost. Factoring in the cost of gardening equipment, wood for planters, seeds and seedlings, I have compiled a heavily detailed budget plan. Aside from the budget plan, blueprints, and layouts as to have you see into my vision of a communal garden. These do well in highlighting how we could make good use of the space, and how we could involve other students as well. What drives this project, at its core, is student involvement. This is why this proposal was composed, to give a student the

opportunity to execute what I cannot in the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. These blueprints depict the planters, along with places to showcase student art, comfortable places to sit, and overall depict ways to make the terrace look less like a concrete prison yard. This project has enabled me to positively impact the SLA community by creating a safe space to encourage students to take part in an activity that spurs on reflection within our communities and gives way to have students enjoy an enriching and constructive activity on school grounds. In the age of Covid-19, there are not many alternatives to productive activities, so with this proposal, it is my hope to create one.

The budget is a predominant, if not most crucial part. As we step into a new year, we must acknowledge that a project such as this one will need funding. However, funding for the garden project will come at an annual cost instead of a monthly cost, along with one-time purchases for certain things.

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Koge80rRTgRiZCa9qbe2A1PK4wylxCaGqzCmU1\\_tJg/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Koge80rRTgRiZCa9qbe2A1PK4wylxCaGqzCmU1_tJg/edit?usp=sharing)

Here, in this spreadsheet, is the budget plan for the terrace garden. Most expenses for this project will go toward the cost and assembly of the planting beds, of which there will be four, however this is grouped together in the one-time purchases. The budget is broken down into two main categories; annual and one-time purchases. The annual purchases are necessary elements of replenishing the garden; plants, seedlings, seeds and additional accessories to create a warm and welcoming environment in the garden. One-time purchases include things that do not need replenishing for years to come, such as tools and equipment, resources for the planter boxes, water storage units, and protection such as bird netting to ensure the plants are able to receive as

much care as possible. The one-time or start-up cost is steep, coming in at \$566.22. However, the annual price of the garden's upkeep clocks at \$204.92. There is, of course, the question of how do we accrue this steep price for such a luxury? Well, the garden proposes, for the one-time purchases, a primary fundraiser before being able to open up construction and planting. Something up to the coordinator at the time, such as a bake sale or pizza sales. However, a personal touch is able to be added once the garden is at its peak fruition. Then, for annual expenses, the flowers and herbs that the garden has provided for us can be harvested, and bouquets can be sold for events such as valentines day, educon, and the holiday season. There are so many people who would enjoy fresh herbs or a nice bouquet of wildflowers, and what better way is there to show another member of our community how much we care than supporting the terrace garden with a lovely bouquet of flowers or select herbs? This would prove beneficial to the whole, both Ben Franklin High School and Science Leadership Academy.

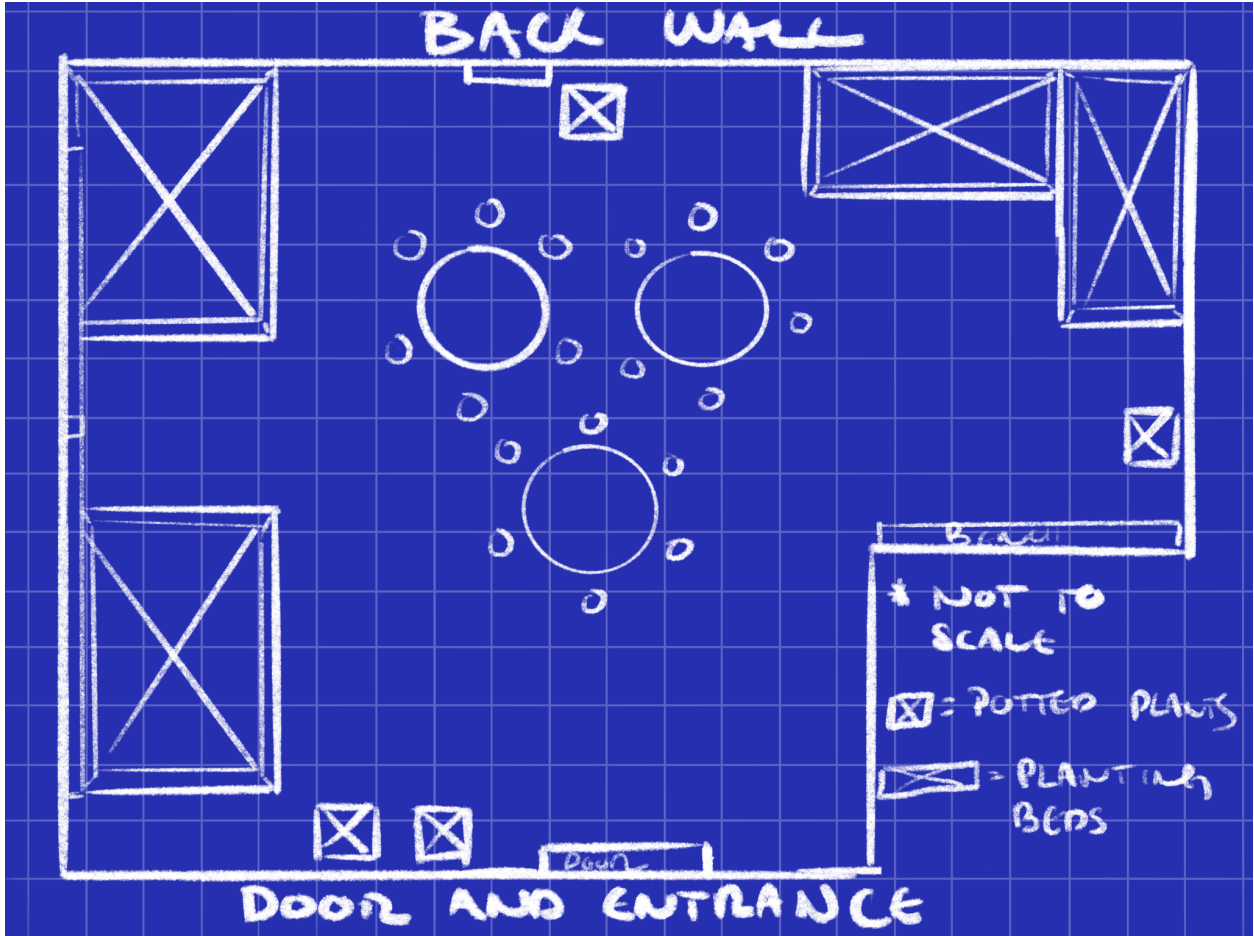
To highlight the vision I've had for the terrace garden, I have compiled a blueprint along with four layout images with drawings to assist in the visualization of the project (attached below). The point of this project is not only community, but opportunity. The ability to come together and have different jobs for every person that may come through the terrace. Whether Ben Franklin or SLA, the foot traffic on the terrace has room for everyone. From artists putting student art on the blank walls, engineering students arranging or making seating and planters, performances taking place on the terrace, everyone has a place there. So, to create a garden will not only open up room for students to be able to explore a new passion of gardening, but have room to explore new passions solely in its presence. For students to come together in this common area and be calm and feel its warm environment. This is what I would like to contribute

to the SLA community, and the Ben Franklin community. And this is why I bring you this proposal. I sincerely hope that the SLA administrators take it into consideration, so that this project may be passed down to someone who can execute it much better than I, and not in the midst of a global pandemic.

Sincerely and truly yours,

Eliana-Eliyas Isabella Alfaro-Allah





EVANA ALPANO - AUSA  
CAPSTONE



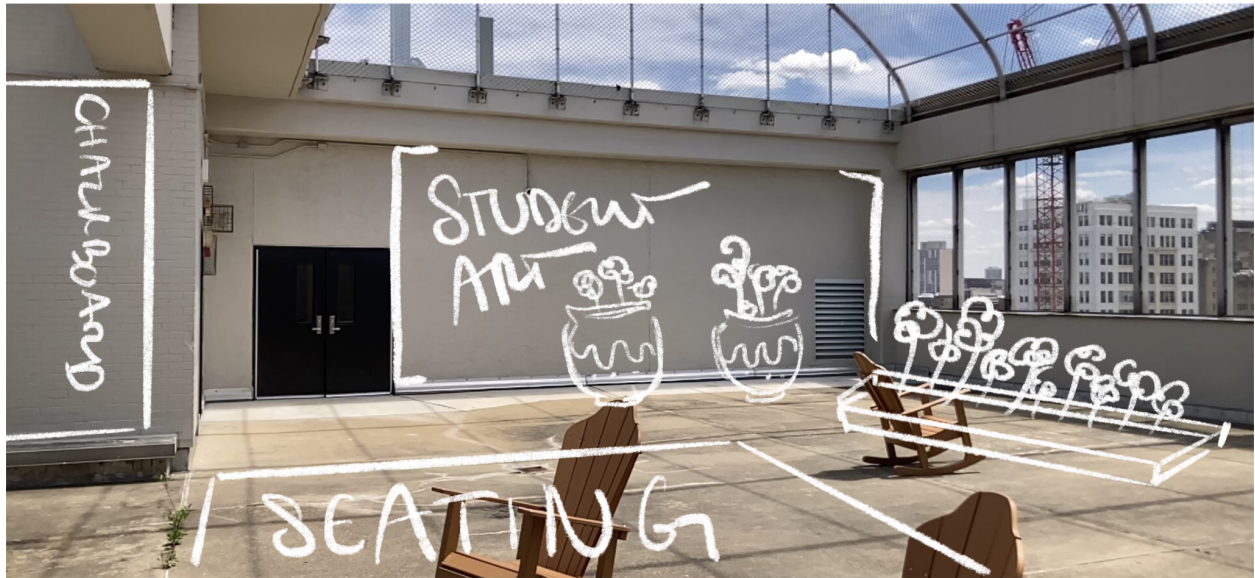
LAYOUT 1

EMMA ALPARAZA  
CAPSTONE



LAYOUT 2

SUJANA ALPINO-ALLAH  
CAPSTONE



LAYOUT 3



SUANA ALFARO-AQUINO  
CAPSTONE



Layout 4

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