

Humboldt Energy Independence Fund Idea Paper - March 25, 2020

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Food Sovereignty Lab</b>
<b>Collaborator</b>	<b>Amanda McDonald</b> Research Assistant, Native American Studies Program Manager, Waste Reduction Resource Awareness Program  B.S Environmental Science and Management Expected graduation: Spring 2021 arm159@humboldt.edu
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>The concept of food sovereignty directly relates to building community resilience and preparing for climate change. There are many interpretations of food sovereignty. To begin to understand the concept for this project, the <u>Declaration of Nyéléni</u>, the first global forum on food sovereignty defines: “Food sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally-appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems. It puts the aspirations and needs of those who produce, distribute and consume food at the heart of food systems and policies rather than the demands of markets and corporations.”</p> <p>The Food Sovereignty Lab will function as a workshop and research center for practicing food sovereignty in multiple innovative ways. Centering Indigenous food sovereignty through Indigenous pedagogies, the location of the lab as part of Native American Studies program at Humboldt State, and respect for Indigenous cultures such as the Wiyot and surrounding peoples of Humboldt Bay. The lab will include a commercially certified kitchen, storage cabinets, large work tables, office space for research and studying, a white board, a large television for use in presentations, and a sound system. May it be proposed the HEIF supports the Food Sovereignty Lab by purchasing energy efficient kitchen equipment and facility renovations. May it be recommended the HEIF funding contribute to the development of non grid tied solar to support the Food Sovereignty Lab and Native American Forum and further demonstrate sovereignty through energy independence.</p>

## **I. Project Description:**

In Fall 2019, students in NAS 331: *Indigenous Natural Resource Management Practices* imagined a class project that would have lasting benefits for the community beyond the scope of one semester. The proposed project was the development of a Food Sovereignty Lab at the BSS building in the former Hilltop Marketplace, adjacent to the Native American Forum. Students worked collaboratively during the semester to conduct interviews, research, and identify funding for the project. Students interviewed Indigenous faculty and staff members about how they would (re)Indigenize the Humboldt State University campus. Interviewees agreed upon the need for workshops and space for making traditional foods, regalia, baskets, and medicines. In November 2019, we applied for space through the University Space and Facilities Committee to remodel the Hilltop Marketplace into a Food Sovereignty Lab and Cultural Workshop Center (Appendix A). The state of the space is pending review by the committee. In December 2019 the NAS 331 class held a public stakeholders meeting to discuss how to best remodel the space, prioritizing the opinions of the stakeholders. The meeting included faculty, staff, students, community members, tribal leaders and elders. Starting in the Spring of 2020, two student research assistants were hired through the Sponsored Programs Foundation to pursue further work on the implementation of the project. Aside from designing the research and lab space, the project is envisioning how the landscape around the Food Sovereignty Lab and Native American Forum can be used to sustainably grow food, basketry materials, and medicine to supplement the Food Sovereignty Lab and course curriculum. Once this project is completed Humboldt State University would become the first university in California with a space dedicated to the research, practice and preservation of food sovereignty. We are requesting funding for the remodeling of the lab space, and adequate solar to offset the energy used by the lab and Native American Forum. The Food Sovereignty Lab is seeking to create a more sustainable campus by promoting energy independence through education and research with food sovereignty. Food sovereignty teaches us that the relationships between people and nature are fundamental to our existence. A Food Sovereignty Lab can provide a platform to educate people on how to repair that relationship and to build decolonized futures.

## **II. Need Statement:**

The Food Sovereignty Lab supports the five primary goals of the HEIF.

*1. The HEIF will achieve its mission through projects that are developed by students...*

This project was conceived by students to support students and the surrounding community. The project was run through our class at HSU with Dr. Cutcha Risling Baldy helping lead the process. Now, the research continues in classes like NAS 325: *Tribes of California* and through research assistant opportunities developed due to the outcomes of this project. We have partnered with the Native American Studies Program (NAS), Indian Tribal and Educational Personnel Program (ITEPP), the Council of American Indian Faculty and Staff (CAIFS), the Environmental Studies Program, and students from across majors/disciplines at HSU to complete the beginning phase of this research project. The students in our class (Appendix B) who helped to design the first phase of this project represented twelve different majors from both the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and the College of Natural Resources & Sciences. The next phase of our project will be designed and implemented by students in NAS 331 and NAS 492 classes, as well as by students through funded research assistant positions. Student employment will emerge to monitor this project post-implementation.

2. *The HEIF will require accountability by measuring and reporting quantitative and...*

Our plan to develop this space utilizing community-based participatory action research methodologies that develop, measure and report on design and implementation of community projects. This lab will provide space to collect and analyze data on projects and programs that develop cutting-edge community informed research. Data will be collected and published to help further the development of sustainable food practices that are informed by and respectful of Indigenous sovereignty and self-determination. The space will host cultural workshops and record metrics on usage and participants as well as outcomes and impact on community engagement with the lab.

3. *The HEIF will strive to make its projects derive from and be connected to the curriculum of the university.*

The Lab will facilitate student learning and engagement with both environmental and social justice. By working with and learning about Native foods, students will be better equipped to think about the sustainability of local food production and its impact on our ecosystems. At least two classes within the NAS department will use this space in their curriculum: NAS 331, *Indigenous Natural Resource Management Practices*, NAS 325 *California Indian Tribes*. In addition, there is a relationship between Environmental Studies and working groups to implement a Food Studies minor and Sustainability minor that could use the space in their curriculum.

4. *The HEIF will support the dissemination of information about its projects through ...*

An information campaign on food sovereignty can be used to reach the campus community about the Lab. Hands on educational workshops will be a center use of this space.

5. *The HEIF will seek to publicize accomplishments and experiences associated ....*

The project will develop a website for the Food Sovereignty Lab and use the Native American Studies department social media (Facebook and Instagram) to publicize accomplishments and experiences. We also anticipate publications, reports and multimedia projects as part of this lab.

### **III. Outcome:**

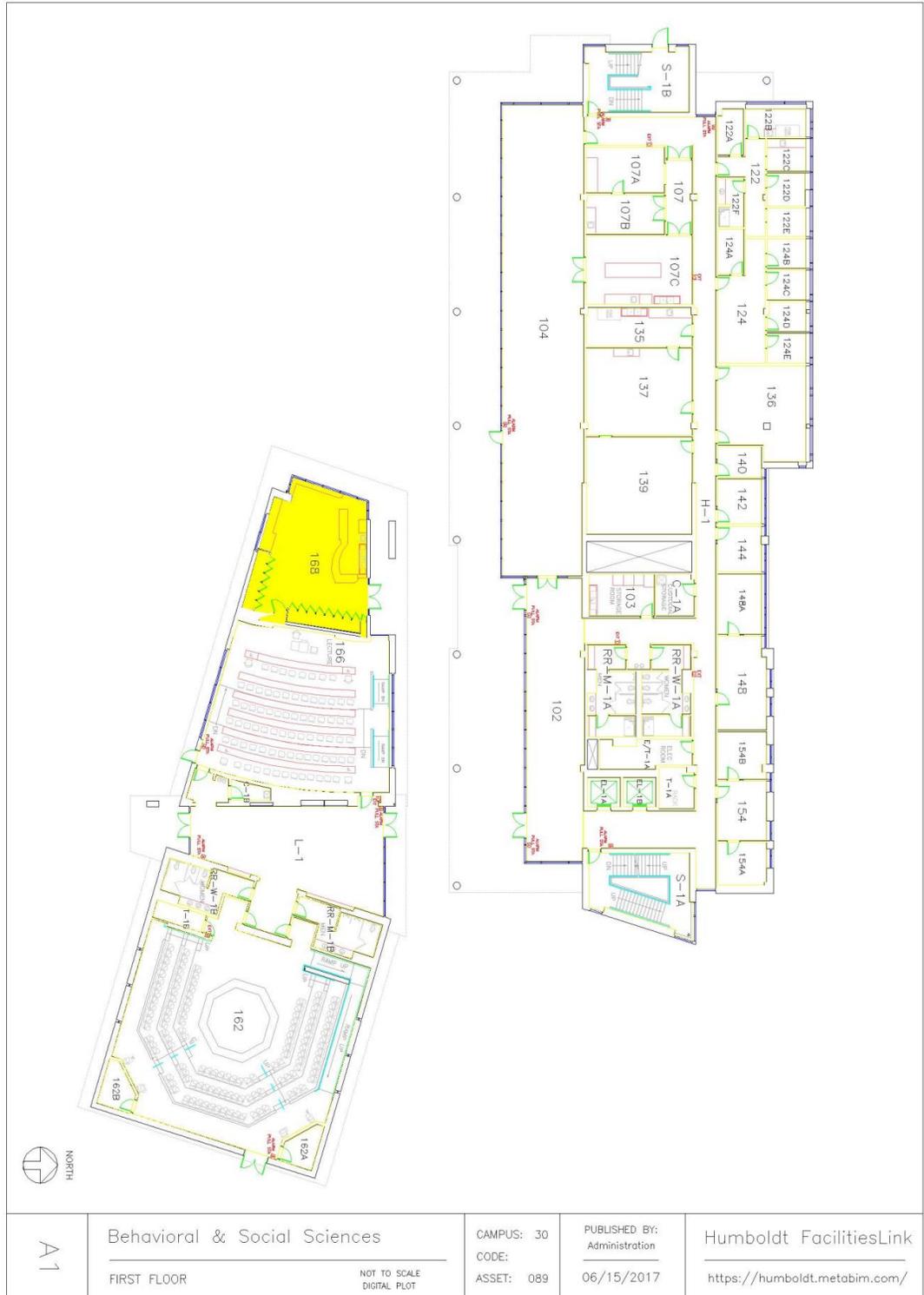
- Increased Indigenous representation on campus.
- Cutting edge research on food sovereignty to support campus wide climate action, sustainability and climate resilience.
- Valuable hands on learning experience to students across multiple disciplines.
- Increase energy independence in relation to food transportation, production and gathering.
- Meaningful collaborations between campus and off campus organizations

### **IV. Partners:**

Campus: Department Chair of Native American Studies, Dr. Cutcha Risling Baldy. Native American Studies Student Research Assistant, Cody Henrikson. Academic Advisor, Paula Tripp-Allen. Program Leader in Environmental Studies, Dr. Sarah Ray. Campus Center for Appropriate Technology, Benjamin Nguyen. Oh SNAP Student Food Programs, ITEEP, INRSEP, Office of Sustainability. Off campus: Potawatow Community Food Garden, Jude Marshall. Blue Lake Rancheria, Jason Ramos

V. **Appendix:**

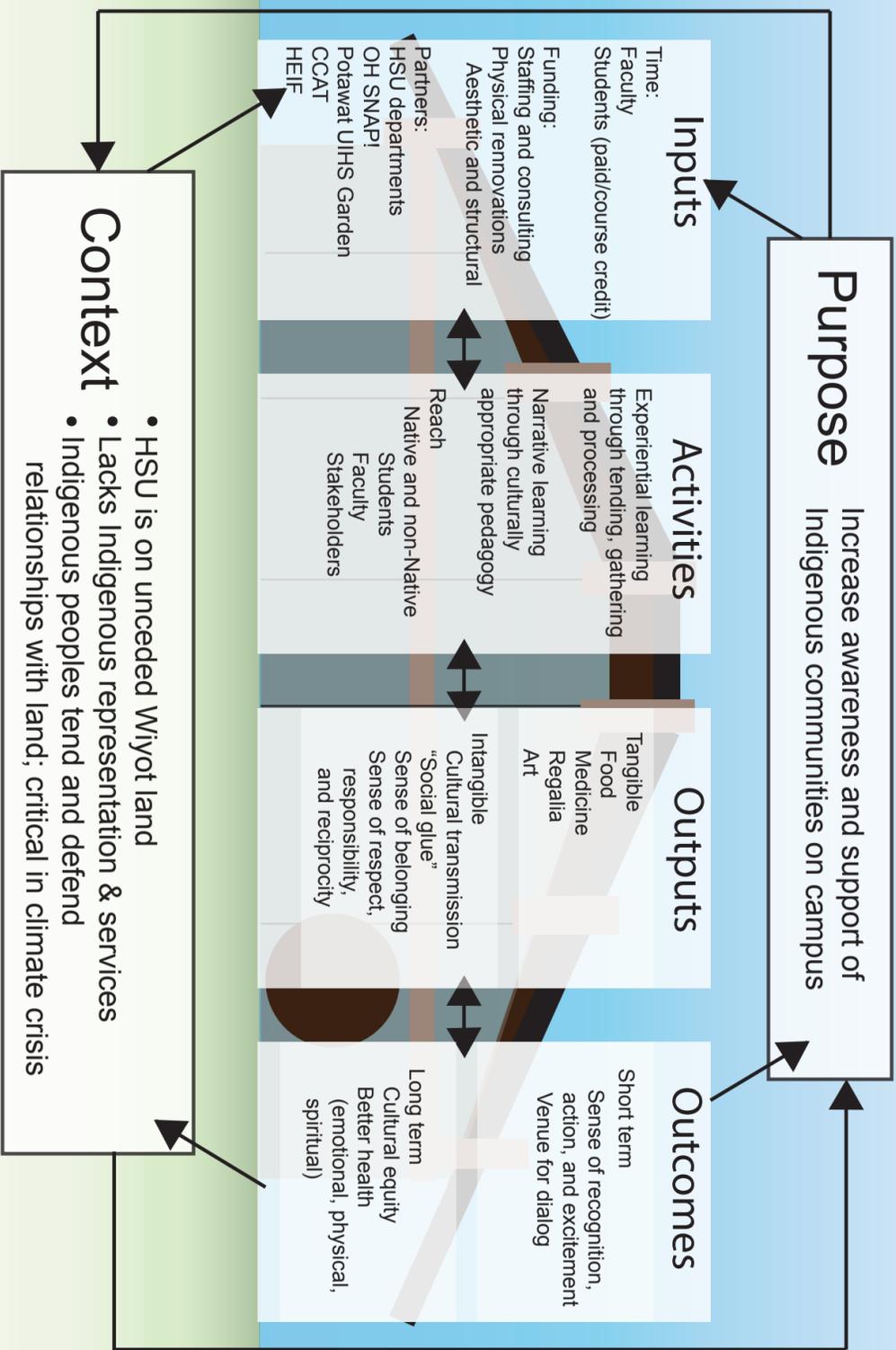
A. Map of the BSS. Highlighted in yellow is the proposed Food Sovereignty Lab.



B. Picture of the Students.



# Food Sovereignty Lab Logic Model



C. Logic model