Dear World
Traveler,
We know you’ve got some great stories.
Will you share one with us?

www.gildhumanrights.org/sharingourworld
Table of Contents

Summary .............................................................................................................. 3
The project ........................................................................................................ 3
  Brief description .......................................................................................... 3
  The website ................................................................................................. 4-8
  Contributors & users ................................................................................... 9
Budget .............................................................................................................. 9
  Narrative ...................................................................................................... 9-10
  Data ............................................................................................................. 10
Outcome achieved .......................................................................................... 10
Sustainability of SoW ...................................................................................... 10-11
Selection of ads .............................................................................................. 12-14
IIF Grant Final Report—Sharing our World

Summary

We, GILD & Peace Corps Fellows Program, have finished designing and creating the website and have updated some of the original features. We have included ads that will be used to promote the site as well as contributors. We are creating new partnerships to put contributors in the classrooms and allow them to share their experiences.

The project

Brief description

Sharing our World (SoW) is a partnership project of Global Issues Leadership Development (GILD) and Peace Corps Fellows Program. Both organizations are partnering to create a website (database) to help broaden global exposure in Columbia in various ways. SoW benefits local schools, the University of Missouri Columbia and the community. SoW facilitates conversations from a wider base of individuals with international experiences, increases cultural awareness and educates students about global issues and human rights.

Website/database

There are 3 steps that a user follows while visiting the website and looking for information. From the home page, a user can choose a complete list of posts available from issue, country, speaker and organization pages by clicking the navigation bars. From the list, the user will be able to narrow down the search to a single profile, for example; a speaker.
Home screen: The home page has 7 navigations bars: home, about, countries, organization, speakers, issues and contact. On the home page, we will continually have posts that advertise new speakers, new resources or events. Users who know what they are specifically looking for can search the website for specific profiles of speakers, issues and countries.

From the home page, a user can click on countries, organization, speakers, and issues to generate a full list of content on the website. That list will have a picture and a brief description. From that list, the user will chose a final profile. You can visit the site at www.gildhumanrights.org/sharingourworld.
Country screen: There is space for a picture. The picture can be a map of the country, a flag or a common symbol that will identify the country. There is space for a description, further information and resources. Further information gives contributors the opportunity share their experiences in the country. The section for resources provides various items such as books and films for people to learn more about that country.
Organization screen: Our main focus is to encourage our community to talk about global issues and increase cultural awareness, to promote this we included a section to highlight organizations that work in those realms. Each organization’s profile will have space for a picture or a logo. The space will contain a description of the organization; such as mission, vision and values, contact information as well as resources. Resources can include research, books or other items relating to the topics of their work.
Speaker screen: This section is for individuals who want to share their experiences with an audience. There will be an option for a picture, a biography, presentation details and resources. For the presentation detail section, speakers will have the choice to set the structure of their presentation—age group, length of presentation, style, etc... The section for resources will give speakers an opportunity to share more information about the topic or activity they are willing to talk about.
Issue screen: The issue profile will be very similar to the other profiles. There is space for a picture, description, further information and resources. The section for further information gives various contributors an opportunity to share their role with an issue. For example, a genocide survivor can share a survival story.
For the interface, we are using WordPress, this will enable us to update and contribute new content at our own pace. Other benefits of WordPress are the low cost and less dependency on a developer for upkeep.

**Contributors & users**

We have collected over 100 names of organizations, community members and professors with international experience. Our contributors are either natives or have lived, worked, volunteered, or conducted research abroad. Users are teachers, professors and community organizations who will host speakers and utilize the resources provided.

**Budget**

**Narrative**

The Peace Corps Fellows Program provides $7000 per year per fellow. In exchange, each fellow provides 10 hours a week of service to an organization [10 hours a week x 16 weeks per semester x 2 semesters = 320 hours & $7000/320hours= $21.87/hour.] Guy Liuzzi worked on SoW from June 2010 to May 2011. In his capacity, he attended events and created the contributor pool of professors and community members with international experience. Maya Tarter worked on SoW during the fall semester of 2010 and helped plan the launch event. Megan Gore started May 2011 and will continue to work until May 2012. Megan will be working as the Program Director. By the end of July 2011, she had contributed 55 hours.

We hired Keith Beau Borucki and Sarah Ekart as employees to work on SoW. Keith was paid $10/hour to develop the database and Sarah $7.50/hour for administrative duties. From their paychecks, we deposited taxes $205.93. Robin Wethington, Dana R. Burris, and Ion Gireada were contracted. Robin designed the logo and website blueprint. Dana designed the ads and Ion transferred Keith’s work to WordPress and updated site to make it user friendly.

We also partnered with the C.A.R.E Program which is part of the Parks & Recreation Department for the City of Columbia. Ryan Logan worked alongside Beau to learn about developing a database. His work was during the summer of 2010 which ran June 14-August 6. Ryan’s wages and liability insurance were covered by the City of Columbia. He earned $7.25/hour for 15 hours a week for 8 weeks.

SoW spent a total of $6586.32 from IIF, and received in-kind contribution of $12,817.85. We have $263.68 left over from wages and $847.99 from advertising. This amount will be rolled over into the project for 2011-2012 fiscal year.

**Accounts**

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Outcome achieved

As a technological tool, SoW serves as a multi-media platform. Individuals will be able to post pictures, videos and articles. Both contributors and users will be able to share information via social media. In addition, MU can showcase the international experience of their faculty, staff and students. As SoW grows, contributors and users will be able to interchange their roles. Professors can share their research with other teachers and students can complement and supplement the materials in the class through their international experience when they travel abroad. In addition, the professor and students will benefit the community as whole when they share their knowledge with in primary and secondary school classrooms.

Sustainability of SoW

Staff: Megan Gore, a Peace Corps Fellow, is going to be the Program Director for 2011-2012. In her role she is responsible for the following tasks:

- Connect with individuals and organizations to share their international experiences on the website
- Reach out to local groups with international interest and both primary and secondary school teachers to promote the website
  - Facilitate connection between users, contributors and resources
- Identify other opportunity for presentation to increase international awareness
- Maintain and sustain the website

As new Peace Corps Fellows arrive, we are going to ask them to be part of the website –become speakers and share information about the country and issue of their service. In addition, they will have the opportunity to contribute hours and help Megan with the work.

Partnership: We have partnered with The National Geographic Alliance in Missouri, to gain access to teachers who are looking for more speakers in their classrooms. We will be working with Dr. Shannon White, a geo-specialist for the state.
In addition, we are working with Columbia Public School District through school coordinators and department chairs to gain access to primary and secondary school teachers. We will work to match them with contributors and get input about topics and speakers they need for their classrooms.

We will continue to forge new partnerships at the University and create programs that will give contributors an opportunity to share their stories. Currently, we have partnership with the International Center, Chancellor’s Diversity Initiative, Black Cultural Center, Missouri International Student Council, and MSA/GPC/Student activities. We are looking forward to building new partnership with more student organizations, centers and departments with international focus such as the Asian Affairs Center and Cambio Center.

Programs: Although college students are a transient population, they are incredible resources. We plan to start a journal program through study abroad. Students would be asked to keep a journal of their experiences while studying abroad. Upon return, they can submit their entries to be added to SoW. The other option, provided student are in areas with internet access, we can provide a blog platform for students to blog about their experiences.

We also plan to start a program that interviews visiting scholars. The program is an interdisciplinary approach with journalism students and computer science students. Journalism students would interview the scholars and computer science students would animate the stories. The result would be a combination of TED talk and StoryCorps’s animated shorts into something comparable to the Story of Stuff Project. Already TED talks provide conversations with experts from various fields and StoryCorps documents family stories. The animated interviews will help us reach visual learners and a younger audience.

In the future: As technological advances continue to multiply each year, we would like to utilize interactive platforms that are continually created. For example, we will not need to restrict our speakers to physical contact. If a local speaker cannot travel to a classroom, we can use Skype, Oovoo, Google video chat, or websites like Ustream.com. Doing so will allow us to bridge the gap between citizens of the world by bringing SoW’s contributors to the rest of the world via technology. Furthermore, this will allow students and community members to interact with individuals and organizations while doing field.
Selection of ads
In addition to our website, we will circulate ads in the various media outlets of our partner—their websites or newsletters to encourage contributors to be part of the site.
Dear World Travelers,

We know you’ve got some great stories to tell. Will you share with us?

www.gildhumanrights.org/sharingourworld

We will start by using return Peace Corps volunteers as a way to encourage others to share their stories. With more speakers, we can highlight speakers per country or issue.

Lindsay Oetker
Peace Corps
Mongolia
2009 - 2011

I spent 2 years teaching in Mongolia. Afterwards I joined Sharing Our World because I think it’s important to spread the love that Mongolia has given me. They taught me so much and now it’s my turn to bring their lessons to light.

www.gildhumanrights.org/sharingourworld
While working in Guyana I shared in the vibrant culture, including Phagwah, a festival of color. At Sharing Our World I share my story with students because I believe through global knowledge we can better understand each other as citizens of the world.

To read the rest of my story, click here.

www.gildhumanrights.org/sharingourworld

Please see attached sample for a flyer of a return Peace Corps volunteer sharing her work.