

2006 MWMO STEWARDSHIP FUND APPLICATION

ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

Name of Organization: Solstice River/ One River Mississippi/ Center for Global Environmental Education		
Legal Name (if different): at Hamline University		
Address: 1536 Hewitt Avenue		
City, State, Zip: St. Paul, MN 55104		
Employer Identification Number: : 41-0693960		
Primary Phone: 612-788-2349		
Secondary Phone: : 651-523-3105		
Fax: 651-523-3041		
E-mail Address: mlhardenbergh@juno.com		
Name of top staff or board chair: Marylee Hardenbergh		
Title: Artistic Director	Phone: 612-788-2349	E-mail: mlhardenbergh@juno.com
Contact person regarding this application: Marylee Hardenbergh		
Title: Artistic Director	Phone: 612-788-2349	E-mail: mlhardenbergh@juno.com

Next board meeting date: January 27

Is your organization an IRS 501(c)(3) not-for-profit? YES NO

IF NO, is your organization a public agency or local government unit? YES NO

IF NO, check with MWMO for details on using fiscal agents, and list name and address of fiscal agent below.

FISCAL AGENT

Name of Fiscal Agent (if different than Organization):		
Address:		
City, State, Zip:		
Fiscal Agent Employer Identification Number:		
Title:	Phone:	E-mail:

PROPOSAL INFORMATION

Please give a project title and a 2-3 sentence summary of request: Solstice River (expanded nationally as One River Mississippi) is a site-specific performance designed to expand appreciation of and awareness about the Mississippi River. The event, which inspires people, through beauty and a sense of awe, to become better stewards of the watershed, is free and open to the public.	
Project dates: June 24, 2006	
Dollar amount requested: \$7,785	Total project budget: \$32,663
Geographic Area/Community served: Twin Cities and beyond	Population served: Families & General

AUTHORIZATION

Name of top staff or board chair: Marylee Hardenbergh

Signature: _____ Date September 25, 2005

1. ORGANIZATION NARRATIVE:

A. Describe your mission, whom you serve and your track record of achievement

Solstice River performance builds awareness of the Mississippi River. It is an annual project of the Center for Global Environmental Education (CGEE). CGEE, founded in 1990, is affiliated with the Hamline University Graduate School of Education. CGEE's mission is to build sustainable cultural and ecological communities. It accomplishes this mission through building on four cornerstones:

- Professional development for teachers
- K-12 Education programs
- Educational media productions and
- Citizen education

As part of its Citizen Education program, CGEE began its Artist-in-Residence program as an effort to teach water quality to a broader population through the appeal and accessibility of the arts. CGEE invited Hardenbergh to be its Artist-in-Residence and to collaborate on *Solstice River*, which offers audience members an experience of the Mississippi River that is multi-faceted—emotional, intellectual, visceral—and thus can help individuals forge a very personal connection to the environment. Hardenbergh is nationally recognized for her site-specific art. She has a national Water Environment Federation award for her educational performance on a wastewater treatment plant, five McKnight Choreographer Fellowships, a National Endowment for the Arts Choreographers Fellowship, and a Soros Foundation grant for her peace dance in Sarajevo, Bosnia.

The successful *Solstice River* is free and open to the public, and is a wonderful family event. It draws about 2,000 to 2,500 people per night. This is our 10th annual performance. Our population includes the entire metro region, but especially near downtown Minneapolis. It has become a signature event for our area. A photo of it was included in an Upper Mississippi River Initiatives poster. People look forward to it each year, and take pride in it.

In 2006, Hardenbergh and CGEE's *Solstice River* public art performance plans to broaden its reach to become the *One River Mississippi* project. Instead of one performance in one city, there will be seven simultaneous performances in seven venues along the river beginning with the headwaters at Lake Itasca, winding down to Minneapolis, the Quad Cities, St. Louis, Memphis, New Orleans, and ending at the last city at the river's mouth, Venice, Louisiana. Hardenbergh and CGEE are requesting support for the Minneapolis-based site of this artistic endeavor, which has gained a timeliness and a new sense of commitment given the recent devastation downriver.

B. List other key participants and their roles.

Our artistic director is Marylee Hardenbergh, and she oversees the entire project. Tracy Fredin and the staff at CGEE are advisors for our educational component. Jason Clusman, last year's Project Manager, has agreed to return for 2006. Over 40 dancers, performing kayakers, and singers help to create the entire effect. We work with the Army Corps of Engineers, getting a license from them each year which permits our dancers to perform on their lock, dike and mooring cells. A list of choreographers at the other six sites is available upon request.

2. PROJECT NARRATIVE:

A. Describe the problem or issue to be addressed.

The issue we are addressing is the need to increase appreciation of the preciousness of the river and its watershed, to educate the public about non-point source pollution (NPS) and to raise awareness of the connection between people's personal behavior and the health of the watershed.

The mayor of New Orleans, C. Ray Nagin in May 2005, put it best in his letter when he wrote to Hardenbergh voicing his support of the project, "This is a chance to strengthen the ties between our cities and awaken our consciousness to the environmental impacts associated with our existence. All too often we forget that our

connection to the earth is a connection to each other, and these simultaneous, site-specific performances will create a sense of interconnectedness that transcends our local community relationships, reminding us that we are all one in a great, eternal whole, so we must protect and nurture our bonds.”

This project also seeks to address the ignorance regarding the interconnectedness of the ecosystem, and to increase the awareness of community interconnection that is already provided by the presence of the river. It is clear that the Mississippi itself is badly in need of increased stewardship and attention as well. The people in the northern states seem not to comprehend how their actions affect the people who live downriver.

B. Describe clearly the project objectives and expected outcomes. (and)

C. Describe how the project objective supports one or more of the Stewardship Fund purposes.

Solstice River is the largest watershed event in the city. A large audience watches as the site explodes with color and movement. There are display tables. A “Walking Map” educates people about the water quality in the Mississippi River as they stroll down the bridge. The *Letter from the River*, read over the radio by the “voice of the River” talks about its strength and the ways in which it serves us, and of its defenselessness against our chemicals. The River asks us to be its *stewards* and that it needs strong friends to protect it. At the end of the performance, a “Blue Highway” of fabric that represents the Mississippi River is unfurled, enticing everyone on the bridge to unite in a playful way and to symbolically hold the river. Over and over again, we hear that the Blue Highway creates a deep sense of community and a sense of connection to the river through playful participatory experience. A vehicle brings out the Blue Highway. As the jeep pays out the 1200-foot long blue fabric, the participants are encouraged to help support the river by holding the blue length of the metaphorical river.

By expanding our local Minneapolis concept to include seven sites long the river, we intend to create beauty, joy, and connection along the Mississippi River by engaging community members, dancers and environmentalists as performers, co-creators and audience members in *One River Mississippi*. This will be a free art performance, open to the public, that will truly be a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Through this event occurring simultaneously all along the Mississippi we wish to help unify the various people along its banks and to support awareness of the common thread that binds us not only geographically but emotionally. Our goal is to create one big community of the river.

One River Mississippi (ORM) will have the following outcomes:

- Bring people to the river to experience its power, beauty and needs;
- Create an audience for environmental groups to showcase their information;
- Celebrate and enhance the river so that people feel connected as “one river” and want to protect its waters.
- A sense of joy and beauty on a national scale, with the backdrop of the Mississippi River
- A sense of satisfaction for all who perform and watch the performances;
- Improved community connections along the river through participation in the performance;
- Awareness of the Mississippi River among a broad constituency as viewers gather to see performance;
- Increased awareness of the need for improved water quality at performance sites as a result of community engagement around the river, in addition to the educational, printed programs handed out at the sites that discuss river issues
- Educate citizens about river-related issues in their communities through our handed-out programs and tabling at the performance;
- Improved awareness of the importance of the Mississippi River as an environmental treasure, and historic and cultural icon through telling our story through the media and the handed-out programs;

Since the planning phase for the ORM project was initiated in 2003, an extensive database of contacts has been created, a budget has been developed, and key contacts have been identified and cultivated in all participating venues. Letters of support have been received from many environmental organizations all along the river, including each mayor. Significant fundraising activities are ongoing and on track. The beneficiaries include those who are unable to afford a ticket to see a dance performance, those who will be exposed for the first time to site-specific performance, and the communities-at-large along the river.

We feel that this is a wonderful opportunity to expand the knowledge about our local watershed in the audience members, and to provide education about NPS. The best way to teach is to attach learning to as many senses as possible. This event then becomes a perfect moment for teaching and for the audience to remember to what they learned. This performance has many information for our senses, our ears, eyes, kinesthetic and tactile – and is thereby is a teachable moment. The Watershed Partners will have an educational booth at the bridge. A wide variety of environmental messages created by many other organizations will also be displayed.

The project educates an ever-widening sphere of the public and supports the Stewardship Fund on three levels. 1) *Educate the watershed community about impact of land use on water and other natural resources in the MWMO.* Our program hand-outs provide “what you can do” educational information as will our website. This next year we will also conduct a survey on the impact of the performance on attitudes toward the watershed in Minneapolis, and also in the six other sites. Then we will have these surveys compiled and interpreted by a professional consultant. 2) *Develop educational programs and informational material:* we seek to develop new and better programs to hand out to the audience, to target information about NPS pollution in pointed way, and to expand on our current educational information already included in the program and Walking Map. We will also follow the suggestion of an MWMO staff and create larger laminated walking map signs. 3) *Enhance participation of public and private individuals and entities in MWMO activities:* The community will benefit from a free, open-to-the-public artistic performance that exposes people to the arts. The performance and all its preparations will give residents a joint sense of purpose around the Mississippi, renew their appreciation of the river, and link river communities in a way never conceived before. For example, already the choreographers from the seven sites who had never met each other previously have now bonded; and within each city, artists and environmentalists are working together as never before. People’s attitudes shift due to emotional stimuli. This performance speaks to people on a heart level and encourages them to feel greater respect for the river.

3. PROJECT DETAILS:

A. Attach a project workplan and timeline.

Task	When completed	Who is responsible
Create new educational materials for programs	June 5	Marylee Hardenbergh, with input from various water & environmental groups
Create larger laminated quotes about the preciousness of rivers and waters, and maps of the water quality along the Mississippi River for our Walking Map.	June 12	Jason Clusman with student worker at CGEE
Put up Walking Map	June 24	Hamline students
Layout and design for program	June 12	Corey Sevett
Distribute programs to audience members	June 24	Staff from CGEE
Prepare evaluations	June 10	Jason Clusman
Ask audience members to fill out evaluation forms	June 24	Hamline students
Interpret evaluations	August 25	Jason Clusman working with KC Somdahl
Invite organizations to bring information tables and oversee booth set-up	June 24	Jason Clusman
Media Relations	June 20	Marylee Hardenbergh with Jason Clusman

Sign up & oversee performers, costumes and rehearsals	June 23	Marylee Hardenbergh, Bernadette Knaeble
Liaise with the Army Corps of Engineers	June 24	Marylee Hardenbergh
Procure all insurance permits, permission with Park Board, and surrounding buildings	June 18	Jason Clusman
Create promotional material	May 18	Drew Flack

B. Attach a project budget.

Solstice River PROJECT BUDGET / EXPENSES

CATEGORY	EXPENSE	MWMO	NOTES SPECIFICALLY for MWMO
1. Personnel			
Artistic Director	\$6,000.00	\$800.00	For env ed, 20 hrs@\$40/hr (consultant)
Project Director	\$4,000.00	\$750.00	For Env. Ed 30 hrs @ \$25/hr (consultant)
Staff time to create 40 new maps	\$300.00	\$300.00	20 hours @ \$15
Other talent	\$6,000.00		dancers, co-choreographers, cast-coordinator
Graphic Designer	\$1,500.00	\$225.00	20 hrs@ \$75; 8 hrs on water quality
Publicist	\$1,200.00	\$200.00	pro.publicity stipend
Hand out programs people	\$360.00	\$360.00	6 people @ \$60 stipend
Subtotal	\$19,360.00	\$2,635.00	
2. Event Education			
Laminating	\$370.00	\$370.00	40 new laminated 17"x22"
Print new maps	\$400.00	\$400.00	1"x17" are \$1.98 each; 18x24 are \$10
walking maps affixed on bridge	\$175.00	\$175.00	affix so wind doesn't blow away; take down
Watershed Exhibit	\$1,000.00		Table with water & education about watershed
Tabling stipends	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$100/table or one person to collect all
Subtotal	\$2,345.00	\$1,345.00	
3. Supplies			
Props & radios	\$1,200.00		
Batteries	\$200.00		
Decorations for bridge	\$400.00		
Subtotal	\$1,800.00	\$0.00	
4. Printing & Postage			
Program printing	\$1,000.00	\$500.00	2000 programs with NPS, etc info
Postcard printing	\$825.00	\$125.00	8000 postcards printed
Postage	\$800.00		
Other	\$150.00		
Subtotal	\$2,775.00	\$625.00	
5. Evaluations			
Env. survey takers	\$480.00	\$480.00	8 people @ \$60 stipend
Compilation	\$200.00	\$200.00	10 hrs @ \$20/hr
Evaluation Consultant.	\$4,000.00	\$2,000.00	CGEE & MWMO to split the fee
Subtotal	\$4,680.00	\$2,680.00	
6. Other			

Insurance	\$250.00		
Hospitality	\$700.00		
Park Jeep	\$500.00	\$500.00	Jeep necessary for Blue Highway
Miscellaneous	\$253.00		160 miles @ \$0.33 / mile
Subtotal	\$1,703.00	\$500.00	
TOTAL Expenses	\$32,663.00	\$7,785.00	
Solstice River PROJECT BUDGET / INCOME			
MRAC (secured)	\$7,495.00		
Target Request	\$4,000.00		
Beim(pending)	\$10,000.00		
QHF Foundation (pending)	\$3,000.00		
TOTAL INCOME	\$24,495.00		

C. Attach a letter of support from the landowner if the project is property specific. (N/A)

4. PROJECT EVALUATION:

A. Describe how the project will be monitored and evaluated.

The following indicators will be used in the evaluation process:

Performance-related:

- Did the event attract people to the performance and how many?
- Did the event inspire continued collaboration between environmental and artistic disciplines?
- Did the event model a process that can engage communities on an annual basis?

Community-related:

- Did the event provide communities with a joyful experience?
- Did the event expand communities' awareness re: water quality by getting people's attention, helping them to believe they can make a difference, and encouraging them to act?

Communication-related:

- Did the event receive three stories in the media ?
- Have new communication avenues developed between participating communities down the river?
- How effective was the website in spreading the message of water quality and stewardship?

B. How will the results be distributed and to whom?

The information will also be distributed to all groups that participated in this year's event, MWMO, and will also be made available to any other environmental groups upon request. When appropriate, the information may also be published on the One River Mississippi web site, and in CGEE's literature.

C. What additional project(s) could be initiated from the result of this project?

Solstice River is becoming the annual water quality centerpiece for the City of Minneapolis. With stable secure funding, this event will grow in participation from community groups, summer youth programs, and environmental organizations.

Since this year's performance of *Solstice River* became an expanded version of itself into *One River Mississippi*, it is our hope that this new event will blossom also, and that all of the participating sites will repeat their performances of their own accord.