

**Project:** Hackathon

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**School:** Arts and Sciences

**Role:** Student

**Description:** The project idea is to promote a 2-day hackaton for students to develop their design thinking skills and, in teams, use technology to solve a major problem of sustainability in Tufts (or optimize a process in order to be more sustainable). Rather than just asking students to submit a project, through this hackaton, we would hold workshops and provide students information for them to go through the whole process of creation and prototyping. Students would subscribe individually to participate in it and, according to their skills, we would allocate them in a team. Ideally, a team would have one person who is business-oriented, other who is STEM-oriented and other who know is design-oriented, following the format of a traditional hackaton. By the end of the 48 hours, the teams would present their ideas to a group of specialists, Tufts professors and entrepreneurs, for example. The winner would receive a prize and a mentorship so that the project could be implemented.

**People Involved:** The School of Engineering, the Tufts Entrepreneurship Center and the Tisch College of Civic Life would likely be involved. The School of Engineering would play a major role by providing the space for it to happen. We would need one room for each team so they could work for 48 hours while the event is happening. Also, a bigger room with capacity for all teams together would be needed. The Tufts Entrepreneurship Center would support the event through the design thinking and business workshops. The Center would also be important in the mentoring program held with the winner. Tisch College of Civic Life would hold workshops on civic engagement. Members of all these departments would also be invited to participate in the final presentation and evaluation of the projects.

**Budget:** The total costs would include catering (U\$2,000), advertisement (U\$100), design services (\$100), swag (U\$500), prize for the winner (U\$2,500). The estimate costs would be U\$5,200.

**Timeline:** First, I would need to find a team that has experience in logistics, communication and design. Second, we would need to contact the centers and make all the advertising material. Third, a selection process of the participants would be held, we would book the location, plan the workshops and hire the catering. Last, all the materials for the event would be produced (including the swag). The event would happen. Although no dates have been set, the idea is that it would take place by the end of the academic year, starting on a friday and ending up on a sunday.

**Benefit to Tufts Community:** The idea is that Tufts students have access to what sustainability is and be trained to think in a critical way making choices regarding it. Most people believe that sustainability only involves reducing waste and throwing trash into the proper spot. However, sustainability is a much broader concept that addresses a wideness of issues. The UN Sustainable Development Goals, for instance, have been a great source of inspiration for young people to take the initiative in their communities and create impact. By spreading knowledge in sustainability and giving students the tools they need, they will be able to create real change by developing their projects and also inspiring other Tufts students on these topics that matter to them. The Tufts Hackaton of Sustainability will create a chain effect and its ultimate goal is that students work towards having a sustainable impact everywhere they go.

