

Project: Jewelry Swap

Name: Laura Laver

School: Fletcher

Role: Staff

Description: The Tufts First Annual Green-Fund Accessories Swap – a fun sustainability project for the entire Tufts community. Instead of throwing it out, swap out your unwanted and broken jewelry for something else gently used! Jewelry - lots of people buy these and barely use them and end up throwing out or donating. Students especially don't have the means to always purchase new things, so why not swap your stuff and get brand new, gently worn stuff. Why is this important? Two reasons: (1) Making jewelry is not good for humans nor the environment. Gold mining has been described as one of the most destructive industries in the world: "water and soil polluted with mercury and cyanide, natural areas dug up in the search for the precious metal, native people displaced from their land and workers forced to labor under horrendous conditions." Silver, platinum and gemstone mines are no better. Even "cheap jewelry" isn't a better alternative. "Any industrial jewelry mining can have numerous harmful negative impacts on the environment, ranging from erosion of the land, to leakage of harmful chemicals into the water supply, to the alteration of an entire ecosystem." This doesn't mean that we shouldn't

buy jewelry, just that we need to be much more aware of how it was made (least negative impact) and if we really need to buy another piece (consumerism). Before the event begins, we would weigh all of the jewelry and report on how many pounds/kilos we are saving from ending up in a landfill. However, not everyone has the cultural and financial access to this type of lifestyle, which brings us to reason #2 for this swap: (2) To provide a way for people to access new accessories without financial hardship. Accessories (especially eco-friendly ones) come at a high cost which many (especially students) do not have the finances to afford. This swap provides a place for people to freely "shop" and try to offer a "shopping" experience that is unrelated to their financial access situation. In an effort to be inclusive and safe for all, no donation will be turned away, and donors will get a ticket per thing they donate and use the ticket to get stuff at the fair. We will even take broken jewelry - someone may be up for the challenge of turning it into a whole new piece! Furthermore, anyone who volunteers for the event will receive extra tickets. The event could also include workshops taught by professors or students from the SMFA on how to take care of your jewelry and how to repurpose jewelry (possibly even a station with tools to work on fixing jewelry). Anything left over will be donated to the nearest homeless shelter or donation center.

Budget: I am hopeful this can be a very low cost event - host it at Tufts (so no room rental fee) and offer drinks and snacks (so around \$1500-\$2000 for Tufts catering). I am hopeful professors/staff/students can volunteer for a lot of things so that we can save on money.

Timeline: Timeline: Projected date of event: End of November/Early December 2020 (to coincide with holiday time if people want to use this as an opportunity to get gifts for loved ones). March-April 2020 – Start to advertise event and look for volunteer committee May 2020 – Finalize volunteer committee and to do's for summer break September 2020-November 2020 – Advertise event, organize event, execute logistics, etc. Late November/Early December –Event! Post-event: Debrief and plan for next year's event

People Involved: Anyone that wants to help out! I would reach out to colleagues at the SMFA to see if they would consider volunteering to host a couple workshops.

Benefit to Tufts community: Provide information on the impact of jewelry to the environment, minimize trash and waste on campus, provide a space of inclusiveness for all, promote a campus that is eco-friendly and encourages second-hand items.