

Planning UC Irvine's 6th Annual Sustainival

2021-22 CARBON NEUTRALITY INITIATIVE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

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Carbon Neutrality
Initiative



UCI Sustainability
Resource Center

Introduction

This year I served as the 2021-22 Carbon Neutrality Initiative Student Engagement Fellow at UC Irvine's Sustainability Resource Center. Throughout my fellowship, I worked with my supervisor and peers to promote student engagement with sustainability events on campus. I served as one of two lead planners for the UCI Sustainability Resource Center's 6th annual Sustainival celebration. By meeting regularly with my co-planner, supervisor, and campus partners, I successfully utilized my organizational and leadership skills to ensure that the 200+ person event ran smoothly.

My time as UCI's CNI Student Engagement Fellow provided me with excellent leadership, communication, organizational, and planning skills which I seek to use throughout my academic and professional careers.



Photo Credits: UCI Sustainability Resource Center
Shows student guests talking with a campus organization's booth.

Methods

For the greater part of my fellowship year, I worked with one other peer to plan the UCI Sustainability Resource Center's 6th Annual Sustainival. My duties throughout the planning and organization of this event included:

- Coordinating schedules with peers and supervisors to set the date and time of the event
- Meeting regularly with co-planner and supervisor to communicate updates, discuss next steps, and receive feedback
- Scheduling and attending meetings with campus partners to secure catering, venue space, noise permits, certificates of insurance, funds, etc.
- Conducting community and campus outreach to invite 20+ organizations and companies to host tables at the event
- Organizing a sustainable fashion show as entertainment during the event, which included:
 - Securing 10+ models to present sustainable outfits
 - Communicating regularly with models and volunteers to inform them of the schedule, meeting location & time, and music selection
- Researching & aiding in the purchase of raffle prizes
- Coordinating set-up on the day of the event, managing 10+ volunteers, and ensuring the success of the event for its duration
- Following up with volunteers, organizations, and participants to receive feedback and suggestions for next year's event



Photo Credits: UCI Sustainability Resource Center
Shows student guests visiting booths at the event.

Project Goal

According to the information provided by the UCI Sustainability Resource Center, my duties as the CNI Student Engagement Fellow are as follows:

"The purpose of the CNI Student Fellowship program is to engage and energize students' interest in supporting the UC Carbon Neutrality Initiative and its work towards meeting UC's carbon neutrality goals. Fellows are expected to communicate about campus and UC-wide carbon neutrality goals and gain a greater understanding of UCI's climate mitigation efforts. There will be great emphasis on carbon offsets, which are temporarily necessary to achieve carbon neutrality."

My main responsibility was the organization of the Sustainival, which took place on February 14, 2022, from 11 AM to 2 PM. The Sustainival is an event put on annually by the Sustainability Resource Center at UCI to encourage students to think critically about sustainability issues on campus. Students have the opportunity to meet many campus and community organizations to learn about their mission statements and work. In addition, the event provides many opportunities for students to get involved with sustainability projects on campus.



Photo Credits: UCI Sustainability Resource Center
Shows student guests visiting booths at the event.

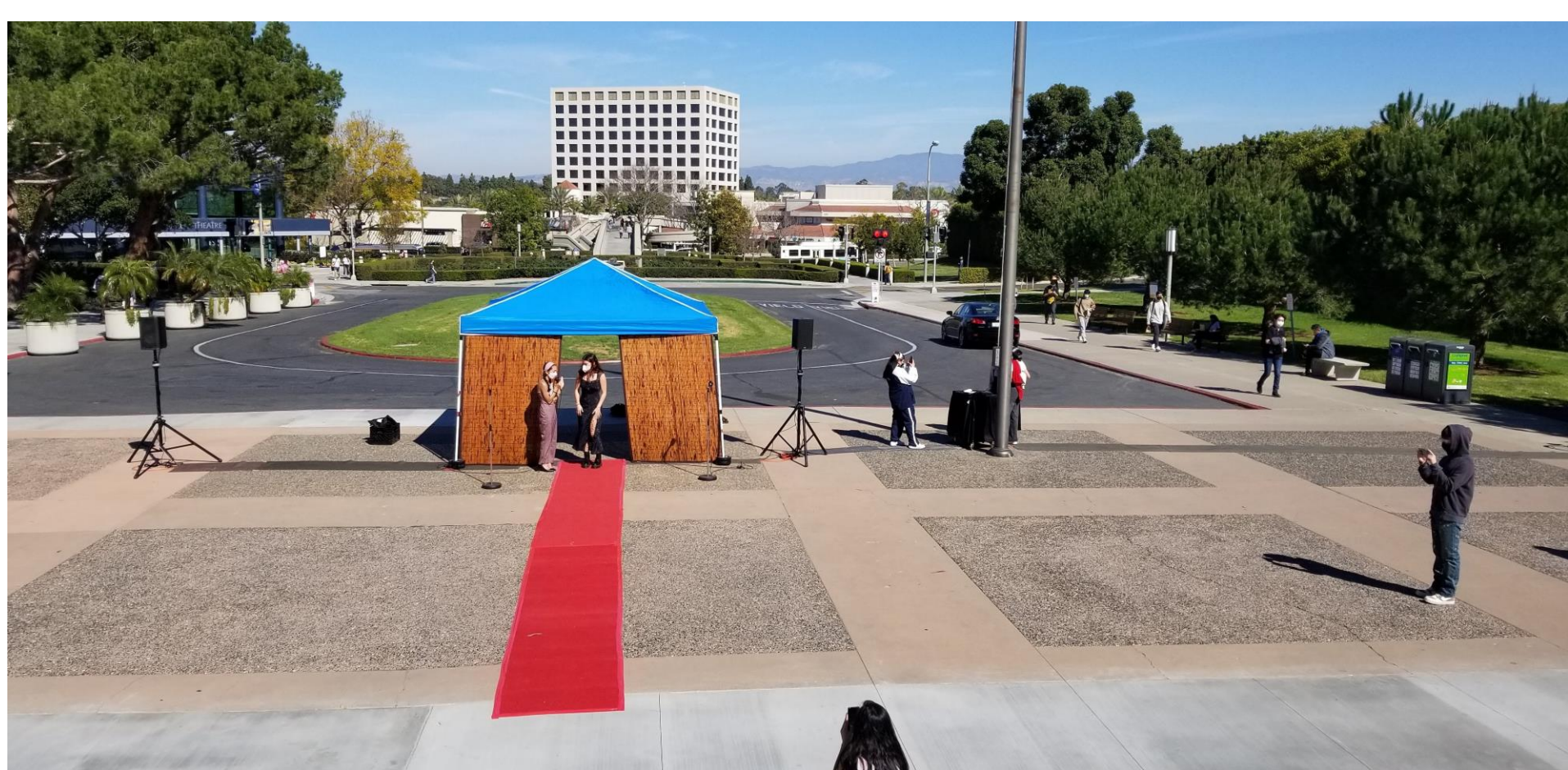


Photo Credits: UCI Sustainability Resource Center
Shows the sustainable fashion show before it begins.

Results and Outcomes

The 6th Annual Sustainival was an extraordinary success! With 200+ guests and 20+ featured organizations including:

- Irvine Ranch Water District
- City of Irvine Environmental Programs Division
- California State Parks (Orange Coast Division)
- Climate Action Campaign

After the conclusion of the event, we sent out an evaluation survey to receive feedback from participants. In this survey:

- **60%** of people rated the quality of the event a 7 (excellent), on a scale from 1-7
- **46%** strongly agreed that the event helped them better understand what sustainability is
- **47%** strongly agreed that they better understand how behaviors and consumer habits have ecological impacts.
- **44%** strongly agreed that they understand how environmental, social, and economic issues are interrelated.
- **52%** strongly agreed that they will be more actively involved in sustainability related events at UCI after the event

Conclusions & Future Goals

My experience in planning this event over a period of six months was invaluable in providing me with leadership, communication, and organization skills. Before this, I did not have any experience with planning an event of this scale. Working closely with my supervisor and peers has been an irreplaceable experience, and I am proud of my work in promoting student engagement over the course of my fellowship.

In the future, I hope to continue working to promote student engagement at UC Irvine and beyond. I am extremely passionate about climate change mitigation & adaptation strategies, as well as promoting community resilience. The skills I have gained from my fellowship will be indispensable for my future career in the environmental field.



Photo Credits: UCI Sustainability Resource Center

Acknowledgements

Thank you so much to Rachel Harvey, my supervisor, Sage Wu, my co-planner for this event, and everyone else who supported me throughout this project. I have a deep appreciation for everyone at the Sustainability Resource Center who helped us make this event a reality.