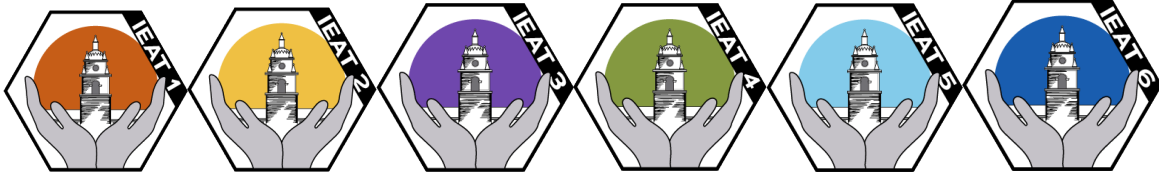# IEAP Initiative Status Report
Spring 2024

Theme Number: IEAT #_3.4a__
Initiative Title: Provide Physical Space to Build Community – Student Union Courtyard
Lead(s):   Helen Alatorre
Status: ___ Not yet started   ___ In progress (ongoing need)   _X__ Concluded
Status Report Due: 8am Monday, June 17 (send to alex.padilla@csuci.edu)

A. 2023-24 Evaluation and Findings

1. Evaluation Strategy:
    a. How did you evaluate the effectiveness of this initiative? (e.g., metrics identified, data collected, timeline).
        i. **Physical Assessment of Enhanced Outdoor Space:** Prior to the initiative, the south area of the Student Union (SUB) courtyard remained largely unused, lacking essential amenities such as tables, chairs, and meeting areas, rendering it inaccessible to patrons. Through our initiative, we transformed this neglected space by introducing a comprehensive array of amenities, including 72 chairs, 40 tables, 2 serpentine benches, 3 rows of amphitheater-style seating, 2 circular patio areas, and 3 covered patio meeting spaces equipped with task lighting, whiteboards, and electrical outlets.

            Furthermore, the north side of the courtyard received enhancements, including additional tables, chairs, and umbrellas, effectively expanding seating, dining space, and event options on the main patio. Simultaneously, the establishment of a Student Union Front Patio next to the SUB Front Lawn created additional opportunities for community engagement. With the inclusion of 100 chairs and 17 tables on both the main Student Union patio and the front patio, we have significantly enhanced the space to accommodate gatherings and foster interaction.

            Overall, this initiative led to a significant augmentation of outdoor spaces conducive to community building. These enhancements offer versatile settings for community gatherings, meetings, dining experiences, and outdoor study sessions.
        ii. **Assessment of Space Utilization:** To measure the effectiveness of our initiative aimed at fostering community, we conducted a comprehensive assessment of the new space's usage. Our evaluation process involved daily tracking of patron utilization through the Student Union Patron Count system. It's important to note that the SUB Patron Count is collected hourly during SUB operating hours, which are from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM Monday through Thursday, and 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Fridays. (Please note that operating hours were extended to 10:00 PM Monday through Thursday for the 2024 Spring semester.) Counts are not collected outside of SUB operating hours or on weekends. For clarity, "patron"

refers to students, staff, faculty, administrators, and guests. The results of our assessment demonstrate a positive impact on our initiative's goal, as evidenced by the consistent and meaningful utilization of the newly constructed space.

During the period of August 1, 2023, to May 30, 2024, the following usage data was recorded:

1. 1,551 uses of the SUB Front Patio
2. 1,609 uses of the SUB Front Lawn
3. 5,942 uses of the SUB Courtyard
4. 620 uses of the Covered Patio Space

These figures provide valuable insights into the community's engagement with the revitalized spaces, reaffirming the success of our initiative in promoting interaction and fostering a sense of belonging among patrons.

   b. Attach or link to your data and/or analysis of data. – see above.

2. Findings & Recommendations: There is no length requirement or word limit for your narrative responses. Please be thorough yet succinct, keeping in mind that initiative status reports are published via the IEAP website.
   a. What did you learn?
      i. **Efficiency in Construction Projects:** One takeaway from this initiative is the recognition of the slow pace of in-house construction projects on campus due to the wide need for construction project support across campus. It became evident that outsourcing certain aspects of the project could have expedited the process and ensured more timely completion, particularly when it came to enhancing student spaces. This realization highlights the importance of strategic decision-making in project management, emphasizing the need for agility and flexibility to meet the evolving needs of the community.
      ii. **Navigating Large-Scale Projects:** Undertaking this initiative provided invaluable learning experiences for our ASI team. As the first significant project since the construction of the Student Union in 2010, we encountered various challenges and complexities inherent in managing a large-scale endeavor. We gained insights into the intricacies of project management on campus and the importance of effective communication and collaboration. Moving forward, these lessons will inform our approach to future projects, enabling us to better navigate and execute initiatives aimed at enhancing campus infrastructure and fostering community engagement.
      iii. **Flexibility and Adaptability:** Flexibility emerged as a crucial trait in successfully executing the initiative. From adjusting timelines to accommodating unforeseen challenges, our ability to adapt to changing circumstances was essential in overcoming obstacles and achieving goals towards the initiative.
      iv. **Celebration of Achievements:** Reflecting on the completion of the initiative, it's essential to celebrate achievements and recognize the collective effort on campus that contributed to its success. Acknowledging milestones and accomplishments fosters team/campus morale and reinforces a sense of pride and ownership in campus initiatives. Celebrating this achievement with a grand opening to share the initiative's journey could be a positive next step for us to take.

   b. Were the values of diversity, equity, inclusion, and/or accessibility measurably advanced through this initiative in 2022-23? How do you know?
      Advancement of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility:

i. **Enhanced Accessibility:** The initiative prioritized accessibility by introducing cement pathways and ensuring ADA-compliant layouts and access points for all new patios. Additionally, furniture selections, such as ADA table heights and armless chairs, were made to promote inclusivity and accommodate the diverse needs of our community members.

ii. **Fostering Community Engagement:** The expansion of communal spaces not only provides increased opportunities for gathering but also facilitates meaningful interactions among our diverse community members. These spaces are utilized for various activities, including educational programming, classroom discussions, study groups, student-led club meetings, and dining, thereby fostering inclusivity and enhancing community cohesion.

iii. **Diverse Seating Options:** The introduction of multi-purpose seating, lounging areas, study spaces, classrooms, and meeting areas caters to the diverse preferences and needs of our community. This diverse range of spaces ensures that every individual can find a place where they feel a sense of belonging and connection.

iv. **Equitable Access:** The newly created spaces are accessible to all community members on a daily basis without the need for reservations. Furthermore, for those who require reserved spaces, access is facilitated through the SUB reservation process. This approach ensures equitable access for the entire campus community and guests, promoting inclusivity and accessibility for all.

c. Based on what you experienced and learned through this IEAP initiative in 2023-24, what are your recommendations specifically relative to the value of, ongoing need for, and/or necessary revisions to this initiative, going forward?

i. **Continuous Assessment:** As we move forward, it's essential to engage in continuous assessment of the initiative to ensure its effectiveness. This includes soliciting feedback from the campus community, monitoring utilization patterns, and identifying areas for improvement or refinement. By remaining responsive to the evolving needs of our diverse community, we can ensure that the initiative continues to serve its intended purpose of fostering inclusivity and enhancing the campus experience.

ii. **Long-Term Sustainability:** As we look ahead, it's important to consider the long-term sustainability of the initiative and its impact on campus infrastructure. This includes assessing maintenance needs, allocating resources for ongoing upkeep, and exploring opportunities for future enhancements or expansions. By adopting a proactive approach to sustainability planning, we can ensure that the benefits of the initiative are sustained for years to come, enriching the campus environment for current and future generations of students, faculty, and staff.

B. **Budget Report:** Complete this section only if the initiative received dedicated IEAP funding or reallocated divisional funds.

1. Total budget for 2023-24:
   a. IEAP funding:
   b. Reallocated divisional funding:

2. Expenditures: What are the categories of goods/services on which funds were spent, and how much was spent per category?

3. Unexpended funds of total budgeted, as of 6/14/2024:

C. 2023-24 Reflections, Comments, and Suggestions: Is there anything else about this initiative that you would like to add? e.g., Have new questions or opportunities come up through your experience in leading this initiative?

    Additional Observations of Usage:

      i. Faculty utilize the space for outdoor classes, making use of the covered patio meeting structures and the amphitheater-style bench area.

      ii. The community utilizes the increased dining space on a daily basis.

      iii. Student-led clubs frequently use the area for meetings and events.

      iv. There has been a notable increase in SUB reservation requests for the space.

      v. Students heavily utilize the circular patio areas and front patio for studying.

      vi. The addition of a Front Patio increased use of the Student Union Front Lawn space for community events, and student space.

      vii. There is a significant demand to reserve the front patio for events and student outreach activities by campus partners and student-led clubs.

      viii. Students frequently use the outdoor whiteboards for studying and group study sessions.