



Foundation for World Education

April 2016

NEWSLETTER

Volume 15, No. 1

Inside this issue:

SPOTLIGHT ON
AUROVILLE'S
AFRICA HOUSE

PREVIEW OF
SADHANA FOREST
KENYA

FAQ INSERT ON
FOUNDATION FOR
WORLD EDUCATION

GRANTING
GUIDELINES

GRANT
ALLOCATIONS

AFRICA HOUSE PROJECT

In a way, the Africa House project was initiated long ago by Tekeste Berhan through his contact with Mother. When he concluded his diplomatic career and settled in Auroville in the late nineties, this was the project Tekeste carried in his heart; bringing Africa to Auroville and Auroville to Africa was the focus of his work and effort. With the support of Helmut and Shraddhavan, he brought staff and students from Addis Ababa University Architecture Department to Auroville in 2005, and the idea to plan an Africa House model resulted. The Africa House project was designed by Brook Teklehaimanot, who presently holds the Chair of Architecture at the Addis Ababa University. In contrast to other Pavilion groups who all focused on their own countries, in consultation with Roger Anger Tekeste expanded his project into one large Pavilion Campus for the African Culture which included all nations of Africa.



Drumming circle in session

“Many African students showed great interest and wanted to know how they could come to Auroville for studies and internships.”

It has been amazing to see how, over the years, this approach proved to resonate with visiting Africans as well as with many of the 4,000 African youth studying in Tamil Nadu universities.

While an African Pavilion in Auroville was slow to manifest, in 2011 with the help of Jaya and support by Auroville International (AVI), Tekeste's other dream manifested in a successful International Auroville Conference in Addis Ababa. An opening speech, which was covered by the TV news on prime time, was given on behalf of President Girma Wolde Giorgis and a lot of connections were made on official government and university levels as well as with people genuinely interested in Auroville and what it stands for. Many African students showed great interest and wanted to know how they could come to Auroville for studies and internships.

START OF THE TEMPORARY PROJECT

There followed a very first beginning of the current Africa House project in the form of a temporary settlement in a corner of the land reserved for the African Pavilion in the International Zone.

Through cultural events and fundraising dinners the group of young volunteers, with support from the Unity Pavilion and other friends in Auroville, managed to raise small amounts to prepare the site. Students got together to clear the land. David Nagel helped and let them use his facilities in Aurodam for a nursery. Eric Clapton Ntakirutimana, a young Rwandan volunteer, initiated a tree house project with the help of Philip and a team from the Youth Centre.



Early meeting with Auroville friends

Funding the evolution of consciousness around the globe...

FUNDING FROM THE FWE, AVI GERMANY AND OTHERS

In 2014 a grant was gratefully received from FWE to bring in electricity, construct a water tank, and prepare a perma-culture garden. There was also funding from AVI Germany as well as donations from friends and well-wishers in Auroville. With a generous donation from Chinese friends towards the water connectivity in the International Zone, pipes were laid and water connected to the water tank at this humble beginning of Africa House.

DEVELOPMENTS SUMMER 2015



Work on the communal meeting place begins

In 2015 another donation from FWE came in, this time to construct a kitchen-cum-meeting space, and funds from an Aurovilian facilitated the building of a compost toilet and shower. Plans, which had first been made together with Satprem, were changed when Martin Scherfler offered to include the project in his Summer School programme. This included a welcome financial contribution to the project as well as the participation of Indian students as workers. During the programme, Fabian came in to help with the architecture and design of the communal space, and when it was decided to go for a bamboo & jute-cloth-cement roof, Diego, who had experience with this type of roof, came forward to help.

At this point Shivaya, together with Eric Clapton, Iraguha Yves (Rwanda), and Tahir Kadir (Ethiopia), got the fencing of the whole area done and a proper gate installed. This was a big step and a much needed one to protect the land, making it easier to keep the place materially secure while also protecting whatever planting

is done. It is a substantial wire fence that will support the living fence created by bougainvillea and other plants prepared in David's Aurodam nursery.

The work proceeded during the summer of 2015 when Indian Summer School students joined the core team and other volunteers. Bamboo, cut and prepared at Diego's place, was brought by tractor to the site where it was to be assembled by the enlarged team; the foundations for the three buildings were prepared and walls partly erected; and the roof structure was put in place. At the end of the Summer School, the students departed, their contributions greatly appreciated, and then Eric Clapton, Iraguha, and Tahir proceeded to complete the roof with some further guidance of Diego and with help from Sacha, (a Russian volunteer), two of Iraguha's brothers who had come to join during their university holidays, and Eric Clapton's younger brother, who, together with his mother, had come to volunteer in Auroville for one year.



Enjoying the community spirit



Standing proud and strong

It has been extremely hard work, done during the hottest months of the year, and it is great to see the difference, to see the project really emerging with its large, round, and dome-shaped communal structure standing proud and strong.

F.W.E. MISSION STATEMENT

The Foundation for World Education awards grants to incorporated nonprofit organizations around the world that support integral education, human unity, conscious evolution, and a transformed world as envisioned by Sri Aurobindo and the Mother.

The FWE provides a continuous stream of funding for current and future generations through responsible management of its endowment, receipt of donations and bequests, and discerning selection of grant recipients.

The FWE aspires to be instrumental in transmuting financial energy to its true purpose in the unfolding evolution and manifestation of a greater consciousness on earth.

Planting seeds of human unity...

PRESENT SITUATION

In the beginning of October, the team met together with Jaya and Shivaya to set priorities on how to proceed with the remaining funds. The work that can go on without much funding is the planting and perma-culture development. Completing the toilet/shower is a priority since it will be useful for people working on the site. A further Rs 50,000 will be needed to complete the bathroom/toilets, and the core team will focus on creating more cultural programmes with fundraising dinners at the Unity Pavilion and at the Africa House site during the coming guest season.

Meanwhile funding applications are being made to find the money to not only complete the present buildings, but also to materialise an onsite caretaker's unit. This will complete phase two of the project. The community space will be in place for activities and events, along with caretakers living there and developing it. Eric Clapton, Tahir, and Iraguha have learned a great deal about alternative and ecologically sound living from participating in Auroville projects like Sacred Groves and



Iraguha, Eric Clapton and Romeo ready to paint

also from working and studying with experienced, knowledgeable Aurovilians like Louis Cohen and Satprem. They are well-prepared to do much of the upcoming work themselves once the prefabricated materials for the housing can be bought.

FUTURE ASPIRATIONS: PHASE THREE

Phase three will be to build about ten “dismantable” living units to then finally have the much needed space to facilitate young Africans to

come, study, and volunteer in Auroville. It's envisaged that they will also be contributing to the development of the Africa House while here and will learn on the site itself about perma-culture, tree planting, water management, and ecological ways of living and using resources.

Article by Jaya, an advisor to Africa House and a key facilitator at the Unity Pavilion and the Auroville initiative, “Sourcing Our Oneness.”

Main Participants at Africa House:

Eric Clapton, Iraguha and Tahir are well known by those AVI members who participated in the Emergence Workshops or with the Sacred Groves project. Tahir came to Auroville after attending the AVI Conference in Addis Ababa. Eric Clapton and Iraguha found out about Auroville and started getting involved while studying in Pondicherry.

PREVIEW: SADHANA FOREST KENYA INSPIRED ECOLOGICAL RENEWAL

Our next issue will revisit Auroville's Africa connections with an article on an affiliate of Sadhana Forest, one of Auroville's most dynamically thriving communities. Sadhana Forest hosts ecologically



Community tree planting

minded volunteers from around the world, and Sadhana Forest Kenya, following on the model programs in Auroville and the highly successful Sadhana Forest Haiti, gathers volunteers to collaborate with the Samburu tribe to plant “forest gardens” in an arid, ecologically vulnerable region to restore disappearing top soil, improve groundwater retention, and create a significant, self-renewing source of nutrition for the people. The spirit of this work is best captured in the words of an inspired volunteer: “May there be many forests to grow people.”

“May there
be many forests
to grow people.”

SOCIALLY-RESPONSIBLE INVESTING

Over the years the FWE has continued to shift its investment portfolio to more and more socially-responsible funds as they become increasingly stable investments for the endowment. Find out more at:

info@FoundationForWorldEducation.org

Long-term giving to transform the earth.

GUIDELINES FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Foundation for World Education invites grant applications from individuals, programs and groups who share the vision for a transformed world espoused by Sri Aurobindo and the Mother. **All proposals must be presented to the FWE through the auspices of a nonprofit organization** and are subject to review by members of the board before a decision is taken. Proposals must be received by the board **four weeks in advance** of a scheduled meeting. Please email your proposal to the secretary. If your organization is submitting a proposal for the first time, please include a copy of its nonprofit tax exemption status. See below for upcoming application due dates.*

PROPOSAL FORMAT

- **Summary/overview:** Name of your project/program and brief explanation of what you plan to do.
- **Need/rationale:** Justify the significance of your project /program in relation to your organization's mission and the work of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother.
- **Program implementation and schedule:** Explain how you will implement this project. Include a time line and statement of the future viability of this project. Is it self-sustaining after initial seed money from the FWE, or will there be future requests to support the program?
- **Personnel:** Names and qualifications of groups and individuals directly responsible for project.
- **Project's contribution:** What is the duration and extent of influence your project will have for Sri Aurobindo and the Mother's vision of the Integral Yoga? How is your project related to other organizations or individuals currently engaged in the work of the Integral Yoga?
- **Current and future funding:** List sources of income and/or other funding sources for your project.
- **Budget:** Detail income and expenditure.
- **Final and progress reports:** Indicate method proposed to evaluate effectiveness of the project/program while in progress; written final report to be submitted within one year of completion of the grant or grant renewal. Indicate name of person who will prepare the final report.

* DUE DATES FOR NEW GRANT APPLICATIONS:

- AUGUST 29, 2016
- JANUARY 7, 2017 (for main granting session)

THE FOUNDATION FOR WORLD EDUCATION FUNDS:

- The Eleanor Montgomery Endowment Fund
- Mickey's Fund (bequest of Eugene "Mickey" Finn)
- Ron's Fund (bequest of Ron Anastasia)
- Anuradha Sapru-Kohls Dedicated Fund

The FWE thanks the following non-profit organizations for their role in sponsoring grant recipients during 2015: East West Cultural Center, Matagiri and Sri Aurobindo Sadhana Peetham.

GRANT ALLOCATIONS 2015

Grants \$65,708.92

Auroville (via the Projects Coordination Group).....	\$33,526.30
- Management, Training & Development.....	\$5,000.00
- Ecological Restoration in Greenbelt	3,600.00*
- Auroville Higher Ed. Scholarship Fund.....	3,000.00
- Eluciole Circus School Equipment.....	3,000.00
- Auroville Unity Fund	2,893.30
- Africa House Workshop/Storeroom.....	2,500.00
- Africa House Workshop/Kitchen.....	2,500.00
- Musical Theatre "Millidacious".....	2,500.00
- Last School/Film Editing and 3D Class.....	2,000.00
- Auroville Film Festival Outreach.....	2,000.00
- Organic Food Course Deepanam School.....	1,833.00*
- Integrating Horticulture in AV Schools.....	1,700.00
- White Peacock Club/Landscaping Equip.....	1,000.00

Antioch-Auroville Teacher Exchange.....	6,500.00**
Auromira, Columbia "On Education" translation.....	5,000.00
Vanaver Caravan Dance Tour in Auroville.....	3,500.00
Integral Art Outreach/ SA Ashram Delhi Br.....	3,460.00
AUM 2015 Conference Scholarships.....	3,000.00
Koham Soham Oratorio on Poem "Who".....	2,500.00
Brenda Johnson Teacher Support in Auroville.....	2,340.00
Auro Mira Vidya Mandir.....	2,000.00***
Overman Foundation Research Publication.....	1,500.00
CIIS Integral Psychology PhD Program.....	1,500.00
Mickey's Fund Disbursements	882.62
- Matrimandir.....	\$441.31
- Matagiri.....	291.26
- Sri Aurobindo Center of Boston.....	150.05

* (this grant was dedicated in memory of June Maher)

** (this grant was sponsored by Ron's Fund)

*** (this grant was disbursed from the Anuradha Sapru-Kohls Fund)



FWE Board Members: Heidi Watts, John Schlorholtz, Bhuvana Nandakumar, Jerry Schwartz, Dakshina Vanzetti, Margo MacLeod, Jean Eisele and Mateo Needham.



Advisory Board Members: Anie Nunnally, Paula Murphy

Founder: Eleanor Montgomery

How you can participate ...

The Foundation for World Education allocates annual grants through disbursement from its endowment. Since grant requests keep growing, we are able to fund only a portion of the worthy projects we consider each year. We therefore seek to grow in our ability to give grants by increasing the endowment. The FWE encourages donations, bequests, long term giving, and tax advantaged estate planning. We also welcome the establishment of designated funds for areas of special interest-- see our website for further details. As we are a 501(c)3 non-profit foundation, contributions within the U.S. may be partially or fully deductible for income or estate taxes. Please consult with your own tax advisor to determine the specific tax benefits that may be available to you. Your gift to the FWE is a gift to future generations and to conscious evolution in diverse fields of human endeavor.

Foundation for World Education

P. O. Box 11135 • Loudonville • NY • 12211 • U.S.A • ph: 518-458-7774

E-mail: info@FoundationForWorldEducation.org • Website: www.FoundationForWorldEducation.org



PRINTED ON
RECYCLED
PAPER