1. WHO
William Payne          UMD School of Fine Arts (Principle Investigator)
Corbin Smyth           UMD Vice Chancellor for Student Life
Matt Rossi             UMD Food/Vending Services
Tom Linderholm        UMD Executive Chef, Food & Vending Services
Cindy Hale             UMD Natural Resources Research Institute
Randy Hanson           UMD Geography, Urban, Environmental/Sustainability
David Syring           UMD Sociology/Anthropology
New Interim Director   UMD Glensheen
Barb Boo               UMD Glensheen Museum Shop
Amanda Kasperson       UMD Glensheen Exec Ofc & Admin Spec
Roger Johnson          UMD Glensheen Gardener/Facilities Management
Steve Schilling        UMD Facilities Management
Shane Peterson         UMD Facilities Management
                                U of M Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

When Chester Congdon built the Glensheen Mansion on the shores of Lake Superior at the dawn of the twentieth century, his estate was a model for sustainability. Throughout his 22 acres of land were verdant flower, fruit tree, and vegetable gardens tended meticulously by a full-time gardener who lived on the grounds. In order to provide for the Main House year-round, 4 large greenhouses were built adjoining the Gardener’s Cottage by Lord & Birnham Company in 1907. “The Greenhouse”, as the series of conjoined houses were collectively known, was comprised of four rooms: the Palm House, the Rose House, the Carnation House, and General Growing House. The Palm House was the largest and most stylistic section of the Greenhouse and was used to store exotic plants such as orchids and banana trees. The General Growing House, the second largest structure, was used for seeding and bedding over 6,000 plants annually- plants that would be transplanted through the estate grounds after the spring thaw. Unfortunately, the cost of heating these beautiful glass structures with coal eventually spelled demise for the Glensheen Greenhouse in January of 1971, shortly before the University of Minnesota acquired the property. Today all that remains are the old roof lines on the back of the Gardener’s Cottage where the Greenhouse once stood.

Forty years after its demolition, discussion has begun about the reconstruction of Glensheen’s Greenhouses, and renovation of the historic Gardener’s Cottage. Plans include state-of-the-art sustainable agriculture classroom space, restrooms, and a tea house inside the renovated Cottage space. Key players in this interdisciplinary plan come from Glensheen and its administrative home the UMD School of Fine Arts, the UMD Sustainable Agriculture Program, UMD’s Food and Vending Services, UMD Facilities Management, and the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station- bringing together Arts & Humanities, Museum Science, Ag & Horticulture, and the Social Sciences. Together, these partners will envision a classroom where students can study better growing methods, space where they can plant, harvest, and research foods that are most successful in the northern Minnesota region, and apply critical and creative thinking skills for farm management.
As a catalyst for this cross-discipline group, we would like to put forth a request for funds to an all-day planning session, featuring a keynote speaker to be determined, to take place at the Bagley Nature Center space during the summer or fall of 2013.

A speaker from the Frick Historic Center in Pittsburg is a likely candidate for this planning session. Originally built in 1881 by artist Henry Clay Frick, the Frick museum has rebuilt their historic greenhouse structures that were also demolished long ago. Reconstructed with original historic plans, the exterior of these greenhouses look just like those which once stood on the estate, but internally, they now house a sustainable agriculture program. Through the Frick Museum’s partnership with Grow Pittsburgh, a community group that promotes sustainable agriculture, a wide variety of vegetable and flowers are grown—many of which are used to prepare foods in the Café on the premise of the museum. This is an excellent, working model of what could be accomplished at Glensheen.

3.EXPECTED BENEFITS AND OUTCOMES
A broader aim of this collaboration is to re-engage the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station (MAES) with northern Minnesota. A key component of the land-grant system is the agricultural experiment station program created by the Hatch Act of 1887. The Hatch Act authorized direct payment of federal grant funds to each state to establish an agricultural experiment station in connection with the regional land-grant institution. Although UMD is a land-grant university, following the closure of the Northeast Experimental Station in 1976, the northern Minnesota region ceased receiving federal Hatch funds and matching state funds for agricultural research. Perhaps due in part to this closure, the MN Department of Health recently collated regional health statistics across MN and our region has some of the worst such numbers.

A rebuild of the Glensheen Greenhouses would provide a new perch for the MAES to conduct regionally specific agricultural research. The visibility of the Glensheen estate would also provide greater opportunities for community engagement with agricultural research building awareness of and participation with the UMD Sustainable Agriculture program and its activities.

4.BUDGET AND SPACE

Bagley Nature Area classroom space: $0
Travel/Hotel for out-of-state speaker: $1,000
Speaker honorarium: $500
Travel/Hotel for MAES guests, Twin Cities: $400
Food/Refreshments provided for all-day seminar: $500
Supplies/Materials: $100

TOTAL: $2,500