

02

ARTS AND CULTURE





PROJECT #39

The Emory Arts and Culture Hub

Identify the need for the proposed project

The Emory Arts and Culture Hub is a redevelopment project located in the Burton Heights Business District in the City of Grand Rapids, within the South Division-Grandville Corridor Improvement Authority catchment area. The total population for this Business District is 12,959. The population in this area is diverse: 64% Hispanic, 18% Black or African American 14% White, 4% Two or More Races, and <1% American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, or Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander. The target geography is well positioned to benefit from increased investment and community/economic development: 36% of the population is below poverty, 12% are unemployed, and 43% do not have a high school diploma

(1). The business district and corridor The Diatribe is targeting for this development is one of the most underinvested areas in Kent County, which has negatively impacted the surrounding population for generations, the majority of which being people of color. The segmentation of neighborhoods and business districts throughout this community has created pockets like this one, where Black and Brown folks and businesses led by people of color are systematically disenfranchised. The redevelopment of this property is an opportunity to address these historical inequities and invest in a project that is poised for significant community buy in and wide-scale impact. This location was selected because there is significant potential for revitalization. The South Division-Grandville Corridor Improvement Authority was established because the results of a community-driven feasibility study showed that “that safe and thriving neighborhood centers could be made reality in part through the creation of a tax increment financing district which would be structured to provide economic resources to improve and maintain public infrastructure, correct and prevent deterioration, and promote neighborhood aligned economic growth.”

(2) The Corridor Improvement Authority has a 30-year plan in place to implement community and economic development projects. The plan begun in 2019; thus, the target geography is on the cusp of major infrastructure improvements. This project will serve as a catalyzing force to advance the improvement plan, as well as attract other investments. Additionally, the Burton Heights Business District is an important component of the City of Grand Rapids’ historical business growth. In 1891, the City of Grand Rapids extended its boundaries to include the Burton Heights neighborhood. In 1893, street cars began to run down Division to Burton Heights, where small businesses began to emerge and thrive. Through the mid-1900s, the corridor enjoyed a thriving business and entertainment scene. After decades of disinvestment though the area now has several vacant properties. However, Division Street does contain some small, Black- and Latinx-owned businesses, and several authentic Latinx restaurants

(3). The economic development roots of this area, combined with its distinct culture, make this business district primed for successful revitalization.

(1) U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017 5-year estimates. Obtained from Grand Valley State University’s Johnson Center for Philanthropy’s Community Profiles.

<https://data.johnsoncenter.org/community-profiles> (2) South Division – Grandville Development Plan & Tax Increment Financing Plan. Obtained from the City of Grand Rapids.

<https://growgr.grandrapidsmi.gov/Boards-and-Authorities/South-Division-Grandville-Corridor-> (3) Garfield Park/Burton Heights Walking Tour. Calvin University. <https://calvin.edu/dotAsset/d51189a0-d9cd-41de-bbda-065c40f5c3ad>

Brief Description

The Diatribe is a nonprofit organization that uses art as a catalyst to redefine, re-evaluate, and reach the world around us. The organization’s core programming has focused on school programs, assemblies, and creative writing workshops rooted in poetry. While this work continues to flourish, The Diatribe has grown with new programs and partnerships and seeks to expand its impact in the community. To that end, The Diatribe is planning to renovate an 18,342 square foot property located at 2040 Division S in the Burton Heights Business District. This new facility is well positioned to boost community and economic growth in this underinvested neighborhood of southeast Grand Rapids. It will serve as a creative hub for the district, hosting The Diatribe’s permanent home, affordable rental units for local artists, retail space for small business owners, and a performing arts venue that will attract local and national performers.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$5,443,795

Maximum Cost: \$5,443,795

ARPA Request: \$2,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Marcel Price

Organization: The Diatribe

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

The Diatribe has received a commitment of \$1 million from the Wege Foundation toward the project. Furthermore, the organization is planning to request \$250,000 from the City of Grand Rapids Brownfield Redevelopment Authority. The Environmental Site Assessments necessary to finalize that request is being completed at this time.

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$5,443,795

Maximum Cost: \$5,443,795

ARPA Request: \$2,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Marcel Price

Organization: The Diatribe

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

The Diatribe has received a commitment of \$1 million from the Wege Foundation toward the project. Furthermore, the organization is planning to request \$250,000 from the City of Grand Rapids Brownfield Redevelopment Authority. The Environmental Site Assessments necessary to finalize that request is being completed at this time.

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Long-Term Benefit

The Diatribe is working at all levels to create a community of belonging and inclusion. Through a capital campaign, The Diatribe will expand upon its important work to provide greater opportunity for youth empowerment, community-driven economic growth, and an inclusive culture that fosters a sense of belonging for those who have been marginalized and underrepresented. This project will help to cultivate a thriving neighborhood where people can work, live, and play.

Intended Beneficiary

The Diatribe is intentionally putting forth a new model for redevelopment with this project that serves as an example for inclusive community and economic growth, potentially influencing this type of work in communities across the country. Offering affordable rental rates while creating culturally relevant spaces shows a meaningful commitment to authentic placemaking that actually benefits the residents living in the neighborhood. The Emory Arts and Culture Hub will benefit the entire community, and each component of the redevelopment project has a unique purpose that serves different target populations: The Diatribe Headquarters: The new facility will feature over 3,000 square feet of space for The Diatribe to establish its homebase, with administrative offices and space for programming. During the day, it will function as a co-working space for creatives and community advocates and as a hub for neighbors to learn about community resources. During afterschool hours, it will double as a space for young people to learn about the performing arts, civic engagement, and neighborhood impact, allowing The Diatribe to expand and enhance our powerful model of youth programming that centers their experiences and elevates their voices. It will also be a space where young people can access tutoring supports or learn about resources for family support, as well as place to “just be” and hang out with their peers in a comfortable and inclusive space. With our own space, any youth in Kent County can now engage with The Diatribe. Artist Live/Work units: Seven apartments on the second floor will be rented below market rate, along with one permanent short-term rental unit for tourists and creative travelers alike. A live/work project is a residential space in which each unit is designed for artists to use as a studio, in addition to a living space. These units will be designed to accommodate and foster a variety of creative processes. Retail Businesses: The Diatribe will create a space for local business owners of color to establish retail enterprises on the first floor of the building. These four commercial retail spaces for creative entrepreneurs will be offered below market rate to create a space for entrepreneurs to test their products and sustainably grow. Performing Arts Venue: As an organization that believes in the power of the performing arts to inspire and mobilize communities, The Diatribe seeks to build a venue in the basement of its building that will provide space for local artists/creatives to perform and can be used as a rentable venue for other organizations. This 100-person venue will be hyper affordable to local performing artists and accessible to organizations and residents looking to rent space for parties or events. By attending performances or events in this venue, residents across Kent County will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in one of the most diverse corridors in the community.

*Partnership

Garfield Park Neighborhood Association, South Division-Grandville Corridor Improvement Authority, and the City of Grand Rapids to ensure alignment with community and economic development priorities. Steelcase Corporation as a partner providing a generous donation of furniture for the new space. The Wege Foundation, providing a significant lead gift to this project. Grand Rapids Community Foundation, Frey Foundation, and Steelcase Foundation as key prospective funders. Grand Rapids Public School district and other local schools, where core programming is delivered. Pure Architects and Kennari Consulting, providing design/development services and capital campaign consulting, respectively.



Estimated Cost

\$5,443,795.00

Project Management Experience

The Diatribe has significant experience planning, designing, and implementing large-scale projects for its neighborhoods of focus, which are largely centered in the 49507 zip code. The 49507 Project is a strong example of this, as a public arts/placemaking project aimed to raise awareness of racial equity and community building. The Diatribe built this project from the ground up by fostering an inclusive design process that included residents, business owners, artists, and youth; commissioning local artists to create murals; planning a series of community unveilings; and implementing a communications/marketing campaign to promote the project. Additionally, The Diatribe has exponentially grown its in-school programming over the past nine years from a handful of one-time events, to structured, regularly scheduled programming occurring in six-to-nine-week sessions in schools throughout Kent Intermediate School District.

Federal Funds Experience

The Diatribe has administered two grants from the National Endowment for the Arts: one \$50,000 grant and one \$75,000 grant. The Diatribe has also received grants from the Michigan Arts and Culture Council (five grants at varying amounts) and Michigan Humanities (two grants at \$10,000 each), which are state administrators of federal funding.

Studies on Impact

Since 2014, The Opportunity Insights Project at Harvard University has been studying the impact of neighborhoods on resident outcomes. Key findings include: • Rates of upward mobility vary substantially based on where children grow up. • Growing up in a higher-mobility area has a causal effect on children's outcomes in adulthood, in proportion to childhood exposure. • Currently, low-income families are segregated into lower-opportunity areas. • A booming economy does not necessarily lead to increased upward mobility for local children. • Within the same neighborhoods, different subgroups have markedly different outcomes. • Neighborhoods affect children's outcomes at a very granular level. Researchers have interpreted these findings to mean that neighborhood-level placemaking can have a significant impact on a variety of outcomes related to overall wellbeing. That is why a project like this is so important – it can play a role in building a neighborhood that provides opportunities for all its residents. The Diatribe is committed to inclusive community and economic development that promotes upward economic mobility for populations who have historically been ignored and marginalized.

Supporting Documentation

[Letters of Support](#)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$5,443,795
Maximum Cost: \$5,443,795
ARPA Request: \$2,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Marcel Price
Organization: The Diatribe

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life
Project Theme: Arts and Culture
Project Status: New Project
Matching Funds: 51-75%

- Eligibility:**
- Sustainability:**
- Feasibility:**
- Impact:**

Source of Funding

The Diatribe has received a commitment of \$1 million from the Wege Foundation toward the project. Furthermore, the organization is planning to request \$250,000 from the City of Grand Rapids Brownfield Redevelopment Authority. The Environmental Site Assessments necessary to finalize that request is being completed at this time.

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

Eligibility

Eligible under non-profit support

Sustainability

Numerous partnerships identified along with a capital campaign to sustain the project.

Feasibility

Building renovations are a one time expense

PROJECT #132

Catalyzing Our Community's Future



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$3,250,000

Maximum Cost: \$3,500,000

ARPA Request: \$3,279,261

Submitter Info

Name: Mary Tuuk Kuras

Organization:

Grand Rapids Symphony

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Our musicians regularly partner with the Grand Rapids Ballet, Opera Grand Rapids, Frederik Meijer Gardens, Ebony Road Players, St. Cecilia Music Center, New City Kids, Festival Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids Public Museum, Grand Rapids Art Museum, and The Diatribe. GRS is also a leading influencer in the local Arts Working Group, a group comprised of over 30 executive directors of local arts organizations.

Identify the need for the proposed project

The Grand Rapids Symphony (GRS) is the largest professional performing arts organization in West Michigan and second largest performing arts organization in the State of Michigan. More than ninety years ago, advocates for the arts determined that an orchestra would enrich the city and region, while contributing to economic growth and quality of place. For over nine decades, GRS has been a critical asset to our community vibrancy with soul-stirring music, diverse programming, collaborative spirit, and a commitment to learning, all adding to the quality of life that residents expect and local employers need to attract and retain talent. Immediate innovation and creative programs kept orchestral music accessible and in the lives of patrons and our community during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. GRS did not furlough any of its employees during the pandemic, despite orchestra industry trends pointing to the contrary. But, the Symphony endured significant financial losses. In April 2020, the GRS artistic and senior leadership teams took a minimum compensation reduction of 25% to ensure that orchestra musicians would still be fully compensated. In August 2020, as a result of an initial annual ticket revenue decline of approximately 46% and a fundraising revenue decline of 16%, GRS recast its FY21 organizational budget to incorporate tightly managed expenses, including the reorganization of our marketing and patron services operations, a 10% compensation reduction for senior leadership, a 5% compensation reduction for all other administrative employees, and a negotiated 5% compensation reduction for orchestra musicians under their Collective Bargaining Agreement. In order to balance lost ticket and fundraising revenue, GRS applied for and received federal pandemic aid, and secured a series of expanded gifts from generous donors, all intended to support general operations.

We are now completing our 2022 fiscal year and continue to experience COVID-19's impact on our organization. GRS remains committed to prudent financial management; the FY23 budget, which takes effect on September 1, was built following an extensive review of national orchestra audience trends and benchmarking conversations with other similar-structured orchestras and leaders with the League of American Orchestras. These trends suggest audiences will not return to pre-pandemic levels for at least two years; we have noted this trend is accurately represented by our current subscription sales for next season. Patrons are still concerned about the health and safety risks of attending live concerts and have also changed their lifestyles during the two-year pandemic. Significant strategies are underway to reimagine the patron experience and rebuild audiences, but consistent audience return will take time. The current board-approved operating budget reflects 83% of pre-pandemic ticket revenue. The budget also assumes 78% of pre-pandemic fundraising revenue levels considering anticipated economic trends. Expenses remain tightly managed to produce a balanced budget. Nevertheless, the budget contains high-risk revenue assumptions. If those revenue assumptions are not met, it will greatly impact our ability to deliver on our mission in the way our community expects.

Brief Description

The Grand Rapids Symphony is requesting \$3,250,000-\$3,500,000 from Kent County's ARPA funding to help sustain the organization's general operations as we work to rebuild our audiences and further connect with our community. Funds will be used to reimburse employees for pandemic compensation reductions and for future general operations to mitigate risk in ticket revenue projections through calendar year 2026. This project will support the continued growth of Grand Rapids' arts and cultural opportunities, helping to further transform the region into a thriving metropolis that attracts residents and tourists alike.



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$3,250,000

Maximum Cost: \$3,500,000

ARPA Request: \$3,279,261

Submitter Info

Name: Mary Tuuk Kuras

Organization:
Grand Rapids Symphony

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life
Project Theme: Arts and Culture
Project Status: New Project
Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Our musicians regularly partner with the Grand Rapids Ballet, Opera Grand Rapids, Frederik Meijer Gardens, Ebony Road Players, St. Cecilia Music Center, New City Kids, Festival Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids Public Museum, Grand Rapids Art Museum, and The Diatribe. GRS is also a leading influencer in the local Arts Working Group, a group comprised of over 30 executive directors of local arts organizations.

Long-Term Benefit

GRS will continue to be a significant economic driver in Kent County by employing contract musicians, administrative and artistic staff, and supplemental musicians for seasonal concerts. GRS also partners with over 75 local organizations and corporations, providing employee ticket discounts meant to drive Symphony attendance and spending in the downtown area. Having a vibrant arts and culture scene in Grand Rapids will continue to attract more businesses, a talented workforce, and visitors.

Intended Beneficiary

In a typical season, nearly 200,000 attendees from West Michigan experience one of our performances, in the hall or in the community. Approximately one-third of those who benefit are students, senior citizens, those with financial limitations, and people with disabilities, reached through extensive education and access initiatives. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are organic components in GRS operations; we aggressively continue our journey of relevancy to all parts of our community and to reflect our community's demographics both on and off the stage. GRS offers diverse programming in its various series and ensures that at least 20% of our composers, soloists, and guest conductors are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) artists. Through expanded marketing, we will reach new and non-traditional audiences from our inclusive programs, such as: • Neighborhood Concert Series, Presented by Meijer – Free concerts in local parks and neighborhoods across the community. • Access to Music - A free concert that enables everyone with physical, cognitive, or emotional limitations to feel welcome. • Music For Health - Enables our musicians to partner with music therapists at area hospitals for music therapy sessions. • Symphony Scorecard - Allows any citizen who is receiving financial assistance from the State of Michigan, and any active military or National Guard members, to receive up to four tickets to most performances for free. • Mosaic Scholars – With support from Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Steelcase, Inc., Meyer Music, and Pioneer Construction, this program creates opportunities for African American and Latinx students in Kent County who want to further their study of an instrument through private lessons, creative workshops, and unique performances. Students are paired with a GRS musician and take weekly lessons throughout the school year. They have opportunities to play alongside their teacher and peers in select symphony concerts. Schools represented include Grand Rapids Public Schools, Wyoming Public Schools, Godfrey-Lee Public Schools, Grand River Prep, and West Michigan Aviation Academy.

Estimated Cost

\$3,250,000-\$3,500,000

Project Management Experience

GRS has extensive experience leading large-scale, professional orchestra productions, both in the performance hall and in various locations across Kent County. In 2015, GRS presented LiveArts to celebrate its 85th anniversary season. Presented in Van Andel Arena on four stages, with nine performing organizations encompassing more than 1,500 performers, LiveArts also involved the Grand Rapids Symphony Youth Orchestras, the Grand Rapids Ballet Junior Company, and the Opera Grand Rapids Chorus plus the Grand Rapids Symphony Chorus and Youth Choruses. Several hundred school children and marching bands from East Kentwood High School and Grandville High School drew an audience of more than 7,100 people. GRS maintains a close relationship with the Kent County Convention and Arena Authority and with ASM Global. During the 2020-21 season, GRS and ASM Global partnered to present Pathwaves in Van Andel Arena, allowing GRS a space in which to perform livestreamed concerts in order to continue to deliver on its mission while giving ASM a way to maintain employment for its staff and crew. In 2021, GRS recognized both CAA and ASM Global for their partnership with a BRAVO! Award, the Symphony's award for exceptional arts leadership.



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$3,250,000

Maximum Cost: \$3,500,000

ARPA Request: \$3,279,261

Submitter Info

Name: Mary Tuuk Kuras

Organization:

Grand Rapids Symphony

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Our musicians regularly partner with the Grand Rapids Ballet, Opera Grand Rapids, Frederik Meijer Gardens, Ebony Road Players, St. Cecilia Music Center, New City Kids, Festival Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids Public Museum, Grand Rapids Art Museum, and The Diatribe. GRS is also a leading influencer in the local Arts Working Group, a group comprised of over 30 executive directors of local arts organizations.

Federal Funds Experience

GRS has previously received federal funding from pandemic relief programs, such as the Paycheck Protection Program and Shuttered Venue Operators Grant program, as well as arts-specific federal funding from the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA).

Studies on Impact

1. A comprehensive economic impact study found that the arts are a critical economic driver as the industry supports jobs, generates local revenue, and attracts new residents and tourists. In 2015, arts and culture organizations generated \$166.3 billion in economic activity (Americans for the Arts, 2017). Music performances are particularly valuable as they are the most frequently attended arts/culture events among adults (NEA, 2017).

2. Music involvement can increase empathy and prosocial behaviors (Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts, 2019). A series of studies found that youth who have opportunities to engage in the arts tend to have higher grades, test scores, and graduation rates compared to youth with low levels of arts engagement (NEA, 2012). Further, individuals that engage with the arts are more likely to vote, volunteer, and take part in community events (Americans for the Arts, 2009).

3. Music has been found to improve immune system function, reduce stress and cortisol levels, reduce anxiety (Trends in Cognitive Sciences, 2013).

Supporting GRS will ensure that residents have opportunities to engage in arts for many years to come, helping to make our community as strong and healthy as possible.

Supporting Documentation

1. [Letter of Support #1](#)

2. [Letter of Support #2](#)

3. [Letter of Support #3](#)

4. [Letter of Support #4](#)

5. [Letter of Support #5](#)

6. [NYT Article](#)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

Small business support is eligible

 **Sustainability**

In theory, this is a one time expense to offset revenue loss.

 **Feasibility**

PROJECT #77

Arts Marketplace at Studio Park



Identify the need for the proposed project

The Arts Marketplace at Studio Park (AMP) was created to increase accessibility and presence of local makers, artisans, and small businesses in the downtown Grand Rapids Area. Cost of rent, pricing/management of staffing was a need expressed by many local small businesses. There was a small presence of shopping and local goods in the Downtown Grand Rapids Area. After 1 year, 98% of makers/small businesses recommitted to being a part of AMP. In June/July of 2022 we have expanded our space and are hoping to double the amount of inventory available.

Brief Description

In addition to offsetting rent, infrastructure and staffing to our local minority owned businesses/vendors within AMP, we would love to create a space for community to come together. Our proposed Grant Project: Community and Culture Events to promote local businesses and gather community in downtown spaces. Through this grant we would supplement rent, staffing, seating, event support, wifi for some of our Anchor tenants. An example is our tenant: We are Lit- who promotes literacy, diversifies our reading, and brings community together. We would offset all costs for the above. By doing this it supports an already successful small business, creates community and space to gather, and drives traffic, exposure and revenue to newer/small businesses. We debated the category to apply for funding under. Ultimately, our mission of the AMP is to create revenue, presence, innovation, strong jobs while creating a strong local economy.

Long-Term Benefit

1. Create strong jobs and opportunities in retail 2. Diverse revenue spend with artisans & designers 3. Create revenue and exposure for small businesses 4. High Innovation with low risks 5. Provides for strong local economy 6. Gathers diverse community around a variety of events and opportunities

Intended Beneficiary

The vendors will benefit the most. By creating a sustainable funding model for AMP, we will continue to be able to supplement rent, pay for staffing and infrastructure so they earn the majority of revenue. By creating a space that has multiple gifts and anchor tenants they will gain exposure and be a part of a community.

Estimated Cost

\$15,000-\$30,000

Project Management Experience

We launched in 2020 and have a successful pipeline of funding from multiple sources, proven success with makers, have a strong Board, committed staff.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$15,000

Maximum Cost: \$30,000

Submitter Info

Name: Mel Trombley

Organization: The Arts Marketplace at Studio Park

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

We have other funding sources for the Arts Marketplace but not from the County

Partnership

We are Lit



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$15,000
Maximum Cost: \$30,000

Submitter Info

Name: Mel Trombley
Organization: The Arts Marketplace at Studio Park

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development
Project Theme: Arts and Culture
Project Status: Expanded Project
Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

We have other funding sources for the Arts Marketplace but not from the County

Partnership

We are Lit

Federal Funds Experience

We launched in 2020 and have a successful pipeline of funding from multiple sources, proven success with makers, have a strong Board, committed staff.

Studies on Impact

Arts Market Space Finding, conducted by Artspace consulting, in Asheville, NC A qualitative study of shopper experiences at an urban farmers' market using the Stanford Healthy Neighborhood Discovery Tool, A qualitative study of shopper experiences at an urban farmers' market using the Stanford Healthy Neighborhood Discovery Tool

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

This is eligible as small business grants, channeled through this organization



Sustainability

One-time grants



Feasibility

PROJECT #108

Grand Rapids Ballet 50th Anniversary Renovation & Expansion



Identify the need for the proposed project

This year, the Grand Rapids Ballet (GRB), Michigan's only professional Ballet Company, is celebrating its 50th anniversary. As the Board of Directors considered the importance of this milestone, the members realized that in order to ensure a quality arts experience for 50 more years, it was necessary to consider the condition of its facility. The Meijer-Royce Center for Dance was constructed in 2000 and, for 22 years, has hosted Ballet Company rehearsals, community programming, and the Grand Rapids Ballet School. Through the generosity of the philanthropic community, the GRB expanded its facility to include the 300-person capacity Peter Martin Wege Theatre in 2007. The Theatre has facilitated the delivery of quality ballet productions for 15 years. The availability of the Theatre has allowed the GRB to advance emerging forms of dance through experimental programming, such as its Jumpstart Program. The Theatre has also allowed the GRB to partner with other organizations to deliver community programming and expand access to dance. The GRB is unique in that very few professional companies have access to their own Theatre. However, the facility requires investment to address several condition issues, improve accessibility, and to accommodate the growing Ballet School. Improvements to the facility will enhance the experience of dance enthusiasts, the professional Company, and partner organizations.

Through partnerships with organizations and initiatives like Grandville Avenue Arts & Humanities, Artists Creating Together, and Grand Rapids Public Schools, the GRB's facility have been broadly leveraged to bring dance to those traditionally underrepresented within the art (i.e., people of color, boys, and people with a physical or cognitive disability). By making the art of dance more accessible, the GRB is expanding opportunities for diverse participants to express themselves through dance. In a typical year, over 300 students are served through the Ballet School and community programming. These programs include adaptive dance classes for those with Down syndrome and Parkinson's disease.

Over the years, the GRB has identified needed improvements to the facility, including better accommodations to increase handicap accessibility of the theatre and facilities and a more welcoming experience for students learning dance. To determine how best to direct capital investments, a comprehensive facility assessment was completed in consultation with Orion Construction, organization leadership, and community partners. Through these interactions the GRB developed a comprehensive project to address condition issues and enhancements designed to increase accessibility as well as improve services for community partners and students. For instance, in order to attract more school-aged children to the Ballet School, there is a need for a dedicated entry and drop-in space, allowing students to come to the facility right after school to complete schoolwork or socialize with others before their class begins.

The area around the GRB has changed significantly since it was opened in 2000. The facility anchored a growth of development southwest of Downtown Grand Rapids. Since 2000, Founders Brewery opened, the Rapids station was built, and several apartment developments were completed. The area surrounding the GRB is once again experiencing a development boom, including over 1,000 new housing units, a 12,000-seat amphitheater, and a planned upgrade to Wealthy Street to improve the walkability of the US 131 intersection. The GRB will play a critical role in enhancing the lives of the new residents who will call this neighborhood home and who will travel to the area. Investing in the physical spaces where the GRB brings ballet alive with and for the community will ensure the organization can continue to provide safe, inclusive opportunities for all that aspire to express themselves through dance. The performing arts enrich our community and provide an important outlet for students to express themselves, remain active, and socialize with their peers. These impacts have driven the GRB to pursue improvements to the organization's facility.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,500,000

ARPA Request: \$750,000

Submitter Info

Name: Glenn Del Vecchio

Organization: Grand Rapids Ballet

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Grand Rapids Public Schools, Grand Rapids Symphony, Grandville Avenue Arts & Humanities, Artists Creating Together, Spectrum Health, and Kendall College of Art and Design of Ferris State University.



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,500,000

ARPA Request: \$750,000

Submitter Info

Name: Glenn Del Vecchio

Organization: Grand Rapids Ballet

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Grand Rapids Public Schools, Grand Rapids Symphony, Grandville Avenue Arts & Humanities, Artists Creating Together, Spectrum Health, and Kendall College of Art and Design of Ferris State University.

Brief Description

The GRB is proposing a \$1.5 million renovation and expansion of its facility. The project will include significant exterior improvements including resurfacing of its parking lot, roofing repairs, upgrades to the HVAC system, and upgrades to the facility's solar panels. Interior improvements include new flooring throughout, new ceiling tiles in the school lobby and studios, new paint throughout the facility, renovation of the restrooms and locker rooms, addition of two new restrooms in the Peter Martin Wege Theatre, and new LED lighting throughout the facility. The proposed project also includes an upgrade to the Peter Martin Wege Theatre seating to add wheelchair accessibility for more patrons with physical mobility limitations. Finally, the project includes a 3,200 square foot addition that will serve as the new entrance and lobby for the Grand Rapids Ballet School. This space will provide a landing area for students to relax after school.

Long-Term Benefit

Overall, the project will further enhance Grand Rapids' arts and culture sector, attracting more patrons to the area. Furthermore, the proposed project will increase the number of students in Kent County who have access to high quality ballet instruction and perform in Junior and professional Company productions. It will also assist in diversifying the students who are recruited to the school. As a result, students will improve their mental and physical health.

Intended Beneficiary

The project will benefit residents of the region who enjoy dance, with the GRB drawing over 50,000 audience members annually. It will also benefit students and other participants of ballet programming, particularly those within the City of Grand Rapids who would not otherwise be able to access professional ballet instruction, programming, or performances. Post-secondary institutions in Michigan that have dance programs will benefit from the increased pipeline of students. Institutions with quality programs include Western Michigan University, Hope College, Grand Valley State University, University of Michigan, and Oakland University. Finally, the numerous high school theatre programs in the region will benefit as students have an additional outlet to receive world-class ballet and dance instruction.

Project Management Experience

The GRB's mission is to lift the human spirit through the art of dance. As Michigan's oldest professional ballet company, we represent the past, present, and future of the art. The GRB plays a significant role in Michigan's effort to mobilize arts and culture to improve quality of life and create economic impact. We do this by creating collaborations that bring together individuals, corporations, arts organizations, and schools that create environments that lift everyone. By doing so we serve under-resourced communities and regions around the county and state providing educational opportunities for young people, regardless of economic status, where they can express themselves through dance. Each year, the GRB present a full season of professional ballet productions that draw audiences from all over the county, region, and state. Additionally, the GRB operates the Ballet School which delivers age-appropriate educational programs to children during afterschool programming and through a summer intensive. The curriculum, delivered by professional dancers, incorporates elements from the French, Italian, and Russian ballet techniques. Students between the ages of 10 and 19 who show promise can audition for the Junior Company.



Estimated Cost

\$1.5 million

*Source of Funding

Due to the success of fundraising efforts, the Grand Rapids Ballet is lowering its request to Kent County from \$1 million to \$750,000. The Ballet has already secured contributions in the amount of \$352,000 for the project from the following sources: Wege Foundation - \$165,000, Frey Foundation - \$75,000, Michigan Arts and Culture Council - \$62,000, and Mary Nelson - \$50,000. The remaining \$398,000 will be raised from philanthropic sources using the Kent County ARPA funds as leverage. One source of funds will be the Grand Rapids Ballet 50th Anniversary Gala taking place in October 2022, which is projected to raise \$100,000. The Grand Rapids Ballet has engaged Kennari Consulting to assist with the fundraising effort. With an investment from Kent County, the Grand Rapids Ballet is confident it can secure the remaining amount from its community funders.

Federal Funds Experience

The GRB receives funding from the Michigan Arts and Culture Council, a portion of which comes from the National Endowment for the Arts. The GRB has successfully reported on the expenditure of funds every year and has met all federal requirements. Additionally, the GRB received COVID-19 relief funding to sustain the operation during closures necessary to protect public health. The GRB received \$519,000 through the Payroll Protection Program (in two separate rounds) and \$843,000 through the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant program. The organization met all federal requirements for these programs.

Studies on Impact

The health benefits of dance and ballet have been studied at length. One particular research review conducted in 2012 by the Institute of Health Sciences at the University of Leeds found that ballet and dance can improve cardiovascular fitness and bone health of children and young people as well as prevent or reduce obesity. There is also evidence that suggests dance participation can improve self-concept and body image and reduce anxiety. The study can be accessed here: <https://bit.ly/3OZ5zfu>.

Studies on Impact

- [1. Budget Proposal](#)
- [2. Letters of Support](#)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,500,000

ARPA Request: \$750,000

Submitter Info

Name: Glenn Del Vecchio

Organization: Grand Rapids Ballet

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Grand Rapids Public Schools, Grand Rapids Symphony, Grandville Avenue Arts & Humanities, Artists Creating Together, Spectrum Health, and Kendall College of Art and Design of Ferris State University.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Eligible under non-profit support. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.

PROJECT #245

Hermitage at Diamond: Where Arts and Community Meet



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$4,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$5,000,000

ARPA Request: \$350,000

Submitter Info

Name: Carol Moore

Organization:
Hermitage at Diamond, Inc

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life
Project Theme: Arts and Culture
Project Status: Existing Project
Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

We anticipate that the ARPA investment will be incentive to leverage funding from private donors and philanthropy. Once the entire project is completed, it will be eligible for historic tax credits up to 20% of the cost of renovation.

Partnership

Grand Rapids Public Schools, Grand Rapids Symphony, East Fulton Business Association, Uptown GR, Midtown Neighborhood Association, East Hills Business Association, Girls Choral Academy, Grand Rapids Women's Chorus

Identify the need for the proposed project

2019: Neighborhood-wide open house attracted 300 people 2021: Virtual focus groups were conducted with local artists, arts organizations, neighborhood businesses, area residents Reclaiming building – the city had condemned the structure, but it was on the National Register of Historic Places, so it couldn't be torn down. Someone had to take it on, and Carol Moore, a local preservationist, stepped up to purchase the building and begin renovation.

Brief Description

Hermitage at Diamond, located at 1009 Hermitage SE in Grand Rapids, is the site of the former Third Reformed Church built by Dutch immigrants in 1875. The property has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places since 1982. Despite its historic significance, the property fell into serious disrepair and was condemned by the city. In 2017, the property was acquired by Hermitage Partners LLC, to be restored as a community arts center. In 2020, the nonprofit Hermitage at Diamond Inc was formed to support the restoration and preservation of the property for the creation, performance, display and teaching of the arts. The project will create not only a beautifully restored historic structure, it will also provide a significant resource for the community. Its reuse as an arts hub will strengthen community through diverse arts and cultural offerings. Potential uses include concerts, recitals, rehearsal space, plays, dance, art shows, recording studio, speaker series, hosting artists in residence, community gatherings and receptions, and institutional kitchen rental. The size and configuration of the property make it a versatile space conducive to a wide variety of uses. See our website, at hermitage-at-diamond.org for more details, pictures, and documentation of progress to date.

Long-Term Benefit

Repurposing this historic neighborhood church as a hub for the arts will 1) stimulate the local economy, 2) increase residential property values, 3) contribute to urban liveability, 4) provide a facility for arts programming that is accessible & affordable, 5) support afterschool exposure to the arts for children attending Congress School, 6) demonstrate an authentic example of environmental sustainability, and 7) provide a community gathering spot for learning, socializing, & cultural exchange.

Intended Beneficiary

- 1) Local residents in adjacent neighborhoods of East Hills, Eastown, Baxter, Cherry Hill, Heritage Hill, Midtown, East Fulton
- 2) Local artists and arts organizations who need rehearsal, concert, and display space. As well as other arts organizations that want to expand their audience to neighborhoods
- 3) Local businesses
- 4) Children attending Congress School

Estimated Cost

\$4-\$5 million for the entire renovation. We are requesting \$350,000 in ARPA funds to complete the exterior renovation and provide seed funding to stand up our capital campaign to raise the remainder from philanthropists, individual donors, and other public funding sources, including historic tax credits.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$4,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$5,000,000

ARPA Request: \$350,000

Submitter Info

Name: Carol Moore

Organization:
Hermitage at Diamond, Inc

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life
Project Theme: Arts and Culture
Project Status: Existing Project
Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

We anticipate that the ARPA investment will be incentive to leverage funding from private donors and philanthropy. Once the entire project is completed, it will be eligible for historic tax credits of up to 20% of the cost of renovation.

Partnership

Grand Rapids Public Schools, Grand Rapids Symphony, East Fulton Business Association, Uptown GR, Midtown Neighborhood Association, East Hills Business Association, Girls Choral Academy, Grand Rapids Women's Chorus

Project Management Experience

Managing and leading large county-wide projects: Our board chair, Maureen Kirkwood, has managed a number of large county-wide projects in the health and healthcare arena. If funding is awarded, she will lead the administration and provide oversight.

Federal Funds Experience

Three board members have extensive experience running nonprofit organizations and managing large state and federal grants. Maureen Kirkwood has secured several multi-million dollar state and federal awards, including an Accountable Health Communities grant from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS). Vince Lambert, our board treasurer, is the CFO for the Area Agency on Aging of West Michigan. Marjorie Kuipers, board secretary, was the executive director of UICA for several years and led a major capital campaign as that organization grew.

Studies on Impact

Preservation promotes heritage tourism and neighborhood revitalization. These positive economic impacts create jobs, stimulate the local economy, and source labor and materials locally so the money stays in the community. There is a great deal of research linking involvement in the arts with healthy youth development, building resilience, and growth of empathy and appreciation of diversity. Many studies link youth arts involvement with increased academic and social success. Arts promote community cohesion, unite people of diverse backgrounds, and teach discipline, focus and mastery. For every \$1 invested in nonprofit arts organizations, \$6 is generated in taxes through tourism and investment in the local economy.

Supporting Documentation

1. [Letter of Support #1](#)
2. [Letter of Support #2](#)
3. [Letter of Support #3](#)
4. [Letter of Support #4](#)
5. [Letter of Support #5](#)
6. [Letter of Support #6](#)
7. [Pop Up Poster](#)
8. [Architectural Drawings](#)
9. [Pictures 1895 2017 2022](#)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

 **Sustainability**

 **Feasibility**

The blight remediation part of this project would be eligible if it was in QCT. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.



PROJECT #123

Asian American/Pacific Islander Studies Center

Identify the need for the proposed project

During the pandemic, we became more aware of how language, culture, and identity affected these families attempting to transition. We believe that there is a need for a more specialized level of engagement.

Brief Description

Grand Rapids is home to a significant number of Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) citizens. This group represents a fast-growing and diverse population that can represent over 100 different languages and over 50 distinct ethnicities. These citizens often face barriers that limit their identity development and economic engagement in the community. During the pandemic, we became more aware of how language, culture, and identity affected these families attempting to transition. We believe that there is a need for a more specialized level of engagement. Our commitment to heritage celebrations, cultural education, and local businesses are the pillars of our nonprofit organization, the Grand Rapids Asian Pacific Islander Foundation (GRAPF). Our annual cultural festival drew 25,000 people in 2022, and we are proud to have outstanding community partners. We are a powerful connection within the Grand Rapids area to many groups that are underserved and underrecognized and uniquely positioned to spearhead a community engagement initiative. A learning center focused on Asian American Pacific Islander studies would create a platform to examine the value of diversity, retain potential locally, and establish worth. Additionally, the center will add programs to educate the Asian American-Pacific Islander communities regarding mental health and wellness. We believe this center will attract and develop talent, creating a foundation for longterm economic growth, and engaged communities.

Long-Term Benefit

The project will create a potential employee pool to build a new source of employees and support for the workforce. The Asian American- Pacific Island studies will help the diversity training of Kent county residents to help build relationships and belonging to help attract and retain residents. AAPI Business incubation and Talent pipeline Host networking & local business events (12/year) Develop pop-up events (6/year) Provide job transitioning support Paid Intern Partnerships

Intended Beneficiary

Kent County residents, schools, workforce, government entities, small and large businesses, and organizations.

Estimated Cost

5.5 Million Total Budget - (1.5 Million building purchase, 750K fees and licences, 2.5 Million project ongoing, 500K fundraising budget, 750K administrative budget)

Project Management Experience

We are experienced with event planning and plan execution.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$5,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$5,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Ace Marasigan

Organization: Grand Rapids Asian-Pacific Foundation

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a



Federal Funds Experience

The extent of our experience is managing \$10,000 by Kent County to help create a community feeding program to help the residents during the height of the pandemic in 2020.

Studies on Impact

Asian American Studies is an academic discipline that critically examines the history, issues, sociology, religion, experiences, culture, and policies relevant to Asian Americans. It is closely related to other Ethnic Studies disciplines.

https://www.pbs.org/education/blog/why-teach-asian-american-history_

Outcomes:

1. Enhanced Social Awareness and Cultural Understanding
2. Improved Critical Thinking and Intellectual Reasoning Skills
3. Better Communication and Collaboration Skills <https://www.bestcolleges.com/blog/what-is-asian-american-studies/>

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$5,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$5,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Ace Marasigan

Organization: Grand Rapids Asian-Pacific Foundation

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

 **Sustainability**

 **Feasibility**

Eligible under non-profit support. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a



PROJECT #73

Fuse Opera: Hip Hop

Identify the need for the proposed project

A common issue Opera Grand Rapids (OGR) has encountered while trying to diversify audiences is that sometimes young and non-white community members would like to attend an opera but do not feel comfortable in the space. This is partially because opera and other forms of classical music have historically been attended by majority older, white audiences in the United States. It is also because additional efforts need to be made to ensure inclusivity, such as specifically marketing toward people of color and making diverse programming decisions. The Fuse Opera: Hip Hop performance that will take place next summer will address these issues head on by hopefully appealing to a younger, more diverse cross section of community members while standing out programmatically in the opera industry nationwide.

Brief Description

Opera Grand Rapids (OGR) is in the midst of planning an event in summer 2023 that fuses hip hop and opera called Fuse Opera: Hip Hop. One performer OGR is in communication with is hip hop artist and opera singer Babatunde Akinboboye, who refers to himself as a "Hip Hopera Artist." OGR is also planning to hire the "Hiplot Troupe" from America's Got Talent (or a similar dance troupe) to perform alongside break dancers and ballet dancers. By providing a visual fusion between the dance styles of hip hop and ballet OGR hopes to elevate its musical direction. Additionally, OGR is partnering with other hip-hop artists, opera singers, and TV networks to execute this first production of the Fuse Opera Series.

Long-Term Benefit

By producing this concert, Opera Grand Rapids hopes to stand out in the opera industry globally as an innovator of creative programming. Generating connections between diverse pools of community members in West Michigan is an additional benefit. By focusing on how vastly different genres of music can come together (along with their respective patrons), Opera Grand Rapids seeks to stand out programmatically while bringing people together to appreciate the diversity of the performing arts.

Intended Beneficiary

The Grand Rapids community; young audiences; racially diverse audiences

Estimated Cost

171800

Project Management Experience

Annually, Opera Grand Rapids executes a production schedule that draws patrons from all over the state of Michigan (and beyond). Through a partnership with PBS, OGR has been able to draw national attention to its programming in recent years. The goal with Opera Fusion: Hip Hop is to continue to bring national attention to West Michigan.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$171,800

Maximum Cost: \$171,800

ARPA Request: \$25,000

Submitter Info

Name: Emilee Syrewicze

Organization: Opera Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Wege Foundation - committed - \$25,000, federal - National Endowment for the Arts - pending - \$50,000, Unrestricted Funds from Donors - committed - \$39,000, Towels Foundation - pending - \$10,000, Licensing Agreement with TV network - pending - \$22,800

Partnership

Our intent is to partner with other community organizations, but before we are able to reach out to them, we need to have a better idea of the scale of this event. That, in large part, will be determined by the level of support we get at the early stages.



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$171,800

Maximum Cost: \$171,800

ARPA Request: \$25,000

Submitter Info

Name: Emilee Syrewicze

Organization: Opera Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

Wege Foundation - committed - \$25,000, federal - National Endowment for the Arts - pending - \$50,000, Unrestricted Funds from Donors - committed - \$39,000, Towels Foundation - pending - \$10,000, Licensing Agreement with TV network - pending - \$22,800

Partnership

Our intent is to partner with other community organizations, but before we are able to reach out to them, we need to have a better idea of the scale of this event. That, in large part, will be determined by the level of support we get at the early stages.

Federal Funds Experience

OGR has received a National Endowment for the Arts grant, and the Michigan Arts and Culture Council grants OGR receives every year includes federal funding. Additionally, OGR has been a recipient of PPP Funds and SVOG grants throughout the pandemic and is familiar with reporting/apply for Federal Funds on various levels.

Studies on Impact

Here is the featured artist (Babatunda Akinboboye) in his first viral video and a demonstration of the musical style OGR is trying to create: <https://youtu.be/F07VAXKXGWE> Here is a study that shows that diverse arts programming has an impact on creating a more inclusive environment for people of color: https://www.encatc.org/media/5747-issue1_04_m.-crystal-yingling.pdf

Supporting Documentation

[Budget Overview](#)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

 **Sustainability**

 **Feasibility**

Potentially eligible under support for non-profits. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.

One series

PROJECT #107

After Dark



Identify the need for the proposed project

Our organization, Lions & Rabbits Center for the Arts (LRCFA), surveyed hundreds of local artists in the Grand Rapids area and discovered that they largely did not feel supported by the community. We then created After Dark to provide these artists with the support they needed and ensure the arts community would thrive in Grand Rapids.

Brief Description

After Dark partners local artists and businesses on projects to promote creative expression and independence in our community. Through After Dark, an average of ten projects a year are created including exterior murals and installations, and artists are provided with LRCFA's hands-on professional development training. Projects range in difficulty, giving artists at all levels the opportunity to gain experience in public art projects. Examples of skills these artists learn include budgeting, time management, client communication, scissor lift training, and scaling work. Alongside our public art projects, After Dark events are hosted including artist and business vendors, live entertainment, art activities, food, drink, and games to support our cause. By uniting the community at exciting and engaging events, LRCFA is able to advocate for local artists and public art projects. These events allow artists a chance to sell their work, network, and have fun as community members from different neighborhoods join us in celebrating our local creatives.

Long-Term Benefit

One long-term benefit is increased quality of life for our community. After Dark creates impactful public art, making Grand Rapids an art hub for residents and visitors. Individuals visit different areas of the city to explore public art and engage with local businesses. Another long-term benefit is economic innovation and workforce development. Through After Dark, artists receive paid opportunities and professional development skills, creating a sustainable and resilient artist workforce.

Intended Beneficiary

The intended beneficiaries are local artists; our programming is centered on making sure they receive paid opportunities and professional development. Other beneficiaries include local businesses and community members as they are positively impacted by impactful public artworks, events, and increased foot traffic to different areas of Grand Rapids.

Estimated Cost

250000

Project Management Experience

Before LRCFA became a nonprofit, it was operating as an LLC since 2016 completing public art projects in Grand Rapids. In total, our organization and staff have six years of experience with these projects and have fine-tuned processes with the city to ensure the entirety of the program runs smoothly.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$250,000

Maximum Cost: \$250,000

ARPA Request: \$25,000

Submitter Info

Name: Montana Major

Organization: Lions & Rabbits Center for the Arts

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

We run two Patronicity campaigns each year that crowdfund (from individual donors & sponsors) \$100,000, this funding then gets matched by the MEDC for a total of \$200,000 in funding

Partnership

n/a



Federal Funds Experience

LRCFA has not received federal funds, but has received funding from local foundations, city government, state government, and local businesses

Studies on Impact

n/a

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$250,000

Maximum Cost: \$250,000

ARPA Request: \$25,000

Submitter Info

Name: Montana Major

Organization: Lions & Rabbits Center for the Arts

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

We run two Patronicity campaigns each year that crowdfund (from individual donors & sponsors) \$100,000, this funding then gets matched by the MEDC for a total of \$200,000 in funding

Partnership

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

 **Sustainability**

 **Feasibility**

Potentially eligible under non-profit support and aid to impacted industries. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.

PROJECT #296

Celebrating our Mexican heritage



Identify the need for the proposed project

Covid took away a lot of independence from Mexicans in our community who make up 12% of our community. We are proud hardworking people Who found ourselves in the middle of a pandemic without the help and resources that we need for mental health housing resources job security healthcare and many more issues.

Brief Description

All of these issues we address at our Mexican festival that's held every year this will be the 53rd year and we need to help empower Mexicans living in Kent County by providing resources through our Mexican heritage festival event which is well attended by thousands (more than 35,000) of people each and every year it is the only Mexican heritage festival in Kent county.

Long-Term Benefit

Being able to work together and make them feel part of this community. By actively working and participate in the change that we need to make our county more inclusive.

Intended Beneficiary

We are requesting \$50,000 of ARPA funds to use over the next two years to add more resource components to our event. And the beneficiaries will be our Mexican community the new generations and those who came before us.

Estimated Cost

80,000 per year

Project Management Experience

This is our 53rd anniversary and we do have experience in leading projects and events

Federal Funds Experience

This will be our first time if choose tor receive the support

Studies on Impact

No that I am aware, but as a Mexican and know the great need of opportunities.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$80,000

Maximum Cost: \$80,000

ARPA Request: \$50,000

Submitter Info

Name: Gabriella de la Vega

Organization: Mexican Heritage Association Of West Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life
Project Theme: Arts and Culture
Project Status: Existing Project
Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:

Sustainability:

Feasibility:

Impact:

Source of Funding

Sponsorships, We work to bring sponsorship to our event and cover the cost of having different activities.

Partnership

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Eligible under non-profit support. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.

PROJECT #259

Grand Rapids African American Museum & Archives



Identify the need for the proposed project

Established in 2015, the Grand Rapids African American Museum & Archives (GRAAMA) has served its mission, collecting and retelling the rich, colorful stories which composes the historic African American tapestry of Grand Rapids. In African culture, oral history was performed by the griots or storytellers; they kept the history and traditions of the family, tribe, and nation. The GRAAMA is carrying this tradition so that the African American culture and history is not lost to future generations. The work that GRAAMA does in our community is invaluable. Racial equity and social justice have become more a part of the national, state, and local dialogue over the past two years. Starting with the horrible murders of George Floyd and Grand Rapids native Breonna Taylor, and running up to today, these topics are front of mind. In April 2022, Grand Rapids was thrust into the national limelight as an African refugee was killed by a police officer. There is a call across the country to remember their names. Our communities' storytellers will do just that as the GRAAMA is active in community discussions around these difficult topics and helps frame the narrative in a historical context. Grand Rapids was an active part of the national civil rights movement, with residents making a real contribution, such as Emory Douglas, the Minister of Culture and Revolutionary Artist for the Black Panther Party through the 1960s and 1970s; and Helen Claytor, the first African American President of the Board of the YWCA and tireless advocate for equal rights. Highlighting this history and capturing the stories of all the African Americans past and present who contribute to our society is a critical step toward healing and not forgetting the past. Grand Rapids is the only major city that does not have a permanent African American museum. Our community storytellers need a home and the necessary resources to serve out its mission. Since 2015, the GRAAMA has hosted its exhibit in a retail space generously donated by Downtown Grand Rapids Inc. However, this space is small and limits the types of programming that the organization can provide. Due to this lack of space, the organization is planning an expansion that will be a major investment in the future of young people, Black families, and a growing community, all symbols of pride and accomplishment. GRAAMA hired Jones Lang LaSalle IP, Inc. to identify the ideal location for the new museum. After a long search, the organization has entered into a purchase agreement for a building located at 245 State St SE, Grand Rapids. The facility neighbors the City of Grand Rapids archives, the new Grand Rapids Public Museum High School, and the historic Calkins Law Office, the oldest building in the city. After the agreement was reached, GRAAMA contracted with Isaac V. Norris & Associates, P.C. to complete a conceptual design of the facility. The cost estimate was developed in partnership with Rockford Construction.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$7,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$7,500,000

ARPA Request: \$2,500,000

Submitter Info

Name: George Bayard

Organization: Grand Rapids African American Museum & Archives

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Grand Rapids Public Schools, Grand Rapids Art Museum, Grand Rapids Public Museum, Grand Rapids Historical Commission, West Michigan Center for Arts and Technology, Festival of the Arts, City of Grand Rapids Archives and Records Center, Heritage Hill Neighborhood Association, Gerald R. Ford Museum, and ArtPrize.

Brief Description

GRAAMA is planning to develop a new 18,000 square foot facility, located at 245 State Street SE, Grand Rapids, that will provide an opportunity for an expanded permanent exhibit dedicated to telling the regional story of African American residents, provide space for programming, and allow the organization to host pop-up and traveling exhibits. The facility's proximity to the City of Grand Rapids Archives, the Grand Rapids Public Museum's Community Archives & Research Center, and the Grand Rapids Public Museum High School provides an opportunity for expanded community partnerships centered on the region's history and cultures. Additionally, this transformational facility will provide office, programming, and event space for other cultural organizations focused on the heritage of West Michigan's Black and African American residents. As a result, visitors will have an opportunity to celebrate the achievements and contributions of Black and African American residents to Grand Rapids and surrounding areas. This facility will be a beacon to residents and visitors that our community honors the contributions of African Americans.



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$7,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$7,500,000

ARPA Request: \$2,500,000

Submitter Info

Name: George Bayard

Organization: Grand Rapids African American Museum & Archives

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life
Project Theme: Arts and Culture
Project Status: New Project
Matching Funds: 51-75%

- Eligibility:** 
- Sustainability:** 
- Feasibility:** 
- Impact:** 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Grand Rapids Public Schools, Grand Rapids Art Museum, Grand Rapids Public Museum, Grand Rapids Historical Commission, West Michigan Center for Arts and Technology, Festival of the Arts, City of Grand Rapids Archives and Records Center, Heritage Hill Neighborhood Association, Gerald R. Ford Museum, and ArtPrize.

Long-Term Benefit

GRAAMA will continue to provide African American residents with a space to share their stories, highlight our community’s history, and help shape discussions to bring greater racial justice and equity to West Michigan. Also, Grand Rapids has a strong arts and cultural industry that draws visitors from around the world and the permanent GRAAMA museum will attract more cultural tourists to our city, supporting the economy and ensuring visitors understand the diverse history of our community.

Intended Beneficiary

This proposed project will help make Grand Rapids a more culturally inclusive, compassionate, and equitable community, which benefits us all. Currently, Grand Rapids receives many accolades as being one of the fastest growing cities in the United States and one of the best places to raise a family. However, there is an underlying issue that taints these honors. Yet in 2015, Forbes contributor Joel Kotkin named Grand Rapids as one of the worst communities economically for African Americans, citing factors such as homeownership rates, entrepreneurship or self-employment, and median household income. In 2016, Grand Rapids was ranked as one of the worst five cities in terms of the income gap between Black and White populations (CNN Money, 2016). Compounding these issues are disparities in health coverage and outcomes, educational attainment, employment, and housing. Within Grand Rapids, 22 percent of African American residents live below the poverty line, compared to only 9.5 percent of White residents. As noted, our community’s inequities are also present in how our regional history is told. Like many regions, our streets and buildings are named after the White leaders who have contributed to making Grand Rapids what it is today, and their stories are important. However, what has been lost is the contributions of African Americans in the building of this city and region. From civil rights, to sports, to civic leadership, to business, the African American story is an important one to our community. If we lose the stories of these contributors, it would be a disservice to residents and damage our legacy as a diverse community. GRAAMA was founded to bring light to these stories and ensure that residents and visitors have a resource to learn about the role African Americans have played in Grand Rapids and beyond. Doing so provides our African American youth with role models they can aspire to as they seek to make their own contributions. Further, GRAAMA ensures that the entire population does not forget that African Americans had an equal part in building Grand Rapids into one of the most prosperous regions in the country, racial and ethnic disparities notwithstanding. Moving to a new, larger building and creating a permanent home for GRAAMA is an important step in furthering its mission and helping to make Grand Rapids a safer, more just place to live for all.

Estimated Cost

\$7,500,000.00

*Source of Funding

The remaining gap will be covered through philanthropic support raised in a capital campaign that will be launched later this year. The Grand Rapids African American Museum & Archives is working with Kennari Consulting to finalize the campaign. Funding is also being sought through the City of Grand Rapids Brownfield Redevelopment Authority and the State of Michigan.



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$7,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$7,500,000

ARPA Request: \$2,500,000

Submitter Info

Name: George Bayard

Organization: Grand Rapids African American Museum & Archives

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Grand Rapids Public Schools, Grand Rapids Art Museum, Grand Rapids Public Museum, Grand Rapids Historical Commission, West Michigan Center for Arts and Technology, Festival of the Arts, City of Grand Rapids Archives and Records Center, Heritage Hill Neighborhood Association, Gerald R. Ford Museum, and ArtPrize.

Project Management Experience

During over seven years in service to the West Michigan community, GRAAMA has managed many county-wide projects. All projects are designed to reach a county or statewide audience. While still a growing organization, GRAAMA has collaborated with community partners to develop its exhibits and deliver programming. A few of the organizations, exhibits (i.e., "Poor Peoples Campaign," "A Place for All People," and "Active Participation") were co-produced with the Smithsonian Institution. "American Freedom" was also a Smithsonian exhibit we collaborated with the Grand Rapids Public Museum to display. GRAAMA has produced documentary films (i.e., "Rhythm and Race," "Brushback and Riot Race," and "Reconciliation") which all reach a county-wide and world-wide audience online. Additionally, GRAAMA is still the reigning Most Outstanding Venue for their international ArtPrize event, during which the organization drew 4,000 to 5,000 people per day. In total, GRAAMA has created, lead, and managed over 1,000 county-wide arts, history, and culture projects.

Federal Funds Experience

GRAAMA does have experience working on federally funded projects. The organization partnered in the development of the West Michigan Minstrel Show, The Immortal Cells of Henrietta Lacks, The Stinney Art /Opera Project, and "The River of Time" video game project, each of which were funded by federal grants in which GRAAMA guided. GRAAMA has never received federal funds for operations or capital expenditures. However, the organization has partnered with the Grand Rapids Public Museum to advise and implement projects that were federally funded. The organization has built a team of consultants who have extensive experience with federal funding, including Kennari Consulting, Rockford Construction, and Isaac V. Norris & Associates, P.C.

Studies on Impact

In 2018, a study found that for every \$100 of economic activity created by museums, an additional \$220 is generated in economic impact and that museums contribute approximately \$50 billion to the U.S. economy each year. Another study surveyed more than 2,000 people and found that 97% believe that museums provide valuable educational experiences to their communities and 89% recognize the important economic contributions and jobs that museums bring (American Alliance of Museums, 2018 - <https://bit.ly/3o3fTHv>). Building upon this research, the GRAAMA will bring both economic vitality to the community as well as diverse cultural experiences for community members. Further, there is significant research around the power of storytelling to drive social change. Recently, researchers found that stories are processed in a different part of the brain than other types of information and can have a greater impact in shifting people's perspectives. Researchers concluded that providing ways for people to share their perspectives through storytelling initiatives can contribute to changes in society, help reduce prejudice, build empathy, promote cooperation, and motivate change (Coronel et. Al, 2019 - <https://doi.org/10.1177/0093650219876844>).

Supporting Documentation

- [1. Letters of Support](#)
- [2. Schematic Layout](#)



Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Eligible under non-profit support. Additional information is needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$7,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$7,500,000

ARPA Request: \$2,500,000

Submitter Info

Name: George Bayard

Organization: Grand Rapids African American Museum & Archives

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Grand Rapids Public Schools, Grand Rapids Art Museum, Grand Rapids Public Museum, Grand Rapids Historical Commission, West Michigan Center for Arts and Technology, Festival of the Arts, City of Grand Rapids Archives and Records Center, Heritage Hill Neighborhood Association, Gerald R. Ford Museum, and ArtPrize.

PROJECT #149

Creative Learning Center at the Grand Rapids Art Museum



Identify the need for the proposed project

The Grand Rapids Art Museum's Education Center serves tens of thousands of people annually, through exceptional art-based learning programs. Over the past decade, Kent County's need for art education has grown, surpassing the Grand Rapids Art Museum's (GRAM) current capacity. With its current footprint, GRAM can only teach one interactive, art-making session at a time. When a school group visits, GRAM's hands-on programs are closed to the public; when community programs occur, students cannot tour. And, tucked away in the Museum's lower levels, the Education Center is concealed from the main lobby and galleries. Classes and program participants must constantly shuffle between the two spaces, which can be time consuming and confusing. In order for GRAM to meet present-day demand, improvements to the Education Center are necessary. GRAM commissioned respected architect Progressive AE to re-envision the space, uplifting the Education Center to the brightly lit, main lobby level of the Museum. Through capital renovations, a new Creative Learning Center will address the aforementioned needs, thereby benefiting the greater Grand Rapids community.

Brief Description

Following capital renovations, GRAM's restructured Creative Learning Center will enable the Museum to serve more people, allow multiple audiences to participate in hands-on programming simultaneously, and improve the guest experience through easier navigation of the education spaces. Investing in GRAM's new Creative Learning Center will... ..Expand Capacity The Museum will have the capacity to engage approximately 10,000 more students, teachers, and visitors of all ages annually through exceptional art education experiences. The Creative Learning Center will be able to serve multiple groups at once, through reconfigured studios and classrooms (currently, we can only serve 2 groups simultaneously). ...Enrich Group Experiences At present, challenging logistics—the time needed to shuffle groups from lobby to galleries to education spaces—impact precious art and education time, eroding the experience. The Creative Learning Center will have improved access to the lobby, which will increase the time that groups spend actively engaging with art by 33%. A larger-capacity elevator will lead to quicker navigation and greater accessibility for guests with wheelchairs, families with strollers, and large groups. ...Offer Visitors More Hands-on Art Experiences As part of the renovations, a new Discovery Gallery will be established. This interactive space, open during all Museum hours, will enhance GRAM's "choose-your-ownadventure" style of visitation.

Long-Term Benefit

The project will greatly benefit Kent County by: 1) contributing to our community's flourishing arts and cultural sector, 2) expanding GRAM's art education programming for area students, teachers, and individuals, 3) and strengthening our local economy. The new Creative Learning Center at GRAM will help promote community livability and pride, inspire dialogue and connections among residents, draw residents and tourists to downtown Grand Rapids, and attract new families and talent to the region.

Intended Beneficiary

Kent County students, teachers, and people of all ages.

Estimated Cost

\$4,600,000.00

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$4,600,000

Maximum Cost: \$4,600,000

ARPA Request: \$200,000

Submitter Info

Name: Brad Ter Haar

Organization:
Grand Rapids Art Museum

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Through the new Creative Learning Center, the Grand Rapids Art Museum will have the capacity to grow and strengthen our existing partnerships with schools and community groups, such as: Grand Rapids Public Schools, Head Start for Kent County, Comstock Park Public Schools, Wyoming Public Schools, YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids, Spectrum Health, West Michigan Center for Arts + Technology, St. Ann's Home, Clark Retirement Community, and many more



*Source of Funding

Funding from Kent County would be matched by \$200,000 in received funds from The Meijer Foundation.

Project Management Experience

While we do not have experience leading county-wide projects, we do have substantial experience leading projects and programs with community partners that serve to benefit the region. For example, many of our art education programs are co-created with area early learning centers, K-12 schools, and colleges and universities. We also partner with community and arts organizations on public programming that benefit people of all ages. Examples include major exhibitions, therapeutic art programs, artmaking initiatives, and a summer concert series.

Federal Funds Experience

GRAM is very experienced working with federal funds. We regularly receive federal funding through National Endowment for the Arts grants. During the pandemic, GRAM managed and received federal funds through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) established by the CARES Act. Each loan we received was forgiven.

Studies on Impact

The new Creative Learning Center will benefit visitors and program participants through art education experiences. Children who participate in the arts demonstrate stronger school readiness skills entering kindergarten, and K-12 students who receive art education record higher test scores in core academic subjects and achieve higher GPAs, as compared to those who do not participate in the arts (Winsler, Gara, Alegrado, Castro, and Tavassolie, 2020). Exposure to art education improves student behavioral skills, enhances their engagement in the classroom, increases the empathy children feel for others, and contributes to higher graduation rates and college aspirations (Bowen and Kisida, 2019). Furthermore, research has found that field trips to art museums are highly beneficial to students, as they improve their critical thinking skills through observation and interpretation, develop more complex and inquisitive questioning skills, demonstrate greater emotive recall of their learning experiences, and are more likely to be accepting of multiple points of view and opinions (Randi Korn & Associates, 2018)

Supporting Documentation

- 1. [Project at a glance](#)
- 2. [Campaign Brochure](#)
- 3. [GRAM Learning Center Renderings](#)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$4,600,000
Maximum Cost: \$4,600,000
ARPA Request: \$200,000

Submitter Info

Name: Brad Ter Haar
Organization:
 Grand Rapids Art Museum

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life
Project Theme: Arts and Culture
Project Status: Expanded Project
Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 




Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

Through the new Creative Learning Center, the Grand Rapids Art Museum will have the capacity to grow and strengthen our existing partnerships with schools and community groups, such as: Grand Rapids Public Schools, Head Start for Kent County, Comstock Park Public Schools, Wyoming Public Schools, YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids, Spectrum Health, West Michigan Center for Arts + Technology, St. Ann's Home, Clark Retirement Community, and many more

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 Eligibility	 Sustainability	 Feasibility
<i>Eligible under non-profit support. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.</i>	<i>Lacking guaranteed funding after 2026 though partners were identified</i>	

PROJECT #215

Third Thursdays



Identify the need for the proposed project

While downtown Grand Rapids continues to recover from the economic impact of the pandemic, we still see a high number of downtown business vacancies, and new businesses working to find their footing. The city is seeing a 65% increase in vacancy over a five-year average, according to Downtown Grand Rapids Inc., with current vacancy levels ranging from 13%–37% in the neighborhoods that we are targeting with our event. The average current vacancy period is 2.5 years. In addition, the downtown currently hosts around sixteen art exhibitions annually outside of the two museums, down from a high point of around eighty in 2017. This leaves less-established local artists with few opportunities to show and sell work and the public with a greatly reduced opportunity to connect with the creative talent of our city.

Brief Description

We are seeking funding for a new downtown event called Third Thursdays. Since May of 2022, it has been a monthly multi-site showcase of locally owned art galleries, shops, bars and restaurants within Grand Rapids' downtown and Heartside neighborhoods. On the third Thursday of every month from 5–9PM, downtown Grand Rapids becomes the place to connect with local artists and business owners, as people experience art openings, food and drink specials, musical performances, live art creation, student artwork, and more. Third Thursdays is inspired by the former downtown event, First Fridays, a monthly arts walk along the South Division corridor which ran from 2013–19. This new event takes the successful template of First Fridays and expands its footprint throughout the whole of downtown. We plan to run Third Thursdays monthly for the foreseeable future.

Long-Term Benefit

Third Thursdays reconnects residents with the center of our community. In a city as segregated as Grand Rapids, it is an event which seeks to bring all parts of our city together. With increased foot traffic, we aim to bolster local businesses and reduce storefront vacancy. The event would provide opportunities for emerging and mid-career artists to show their work and connect with the public. This is crucial as Grand Rapids currently has less than ten art spaces accessible to such artists.

Intended Beneficiary

Local entrepreneurs and artists

*Partnership

Grand Rapids Art Museum (GRAM), Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts (UICA), Monroe Community Church, ArtRat Gallery, 106 Gallery, Little Space Studio, The Arts Marketplace at Studio Park, Periwinkle FOG, Old World Olive Co., Aroma Labs, Oh Hello Paper & Gifts, Courage & Soar, SHOW Boutique and Salon, City Flats Hotel, House of Wine, Gazelle Sports, Social House, Grand Vin, 12th House, The Darling Style, Color Forest, Basic Bee, Otono

Estimated Cost

12000

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$12,000

Maximum Cost: \$12,000

Submitter Info

Name: Zachary Trebellas

Organization: Avenue for the Arts

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

We received initial funding from a Creative Industries Rebound Grant through the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce. We are currently planning to apply for a Downtown Grand Rapids Inc. grant that will become available this autumn.

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$12,000
Maximum Cost: \$12,000

Submitter Info

Name: Zachary Trebellas
Organization: Avenue for the Arts

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life
Project Theme: Arts and Culture
Project Status: Expanded Project
Matching Funds: 26-50%

- Eligibility:**
- Sustainability:**
- Feasibility:**
- Impact:**

Source of Funding

We received initial funding from a Creative Industries Rebound Grant through the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce. We are currently planning to apply for a Downtown Grand Rapids Inc. grant that will become available this autumn.

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Project Management Experience

UICA has worked on large scale art projects which have involved many members of our county. One such project, The Heartside Community Meal, connected county farms to downtown Grand Rapids service and arts organizations to present a community meal as a part of the ArtPrize competition. This project included over 15 county-wide partners.

Federal Funds Experience

In the past eight years, UICA has received four grants from the National Endowment for the Arts ranging from \$10-40,000. As a founding partner for the Avenue for the Arts Third Thursday project, UICA has agreed to provide oversight and guidance for the use of any federal funds received. UICA's Executive Director has also served on the NEA's grant panels in the past, including the distribution of CARES funding.

Studies on Impact

The Americans for the Arts' most recent study on the economic impact of arts events states that on average, local (in-county) attendees spend \$23.44 on expenditures related to an art event (dinner, parking, etc.). Tourists, who make up one-third of average attendees, spend an average of \$47.57 per person. Further info here: <https://www.americansforthearts.org/by-program/reports-and-data/research-studies-publications/arts-economic-prosperity-5/learn/national-findings>

Looking at the Michigan data available, which covered the greater Ann Arbor region (a population 28% the size of Grand Rapids' metro area), the study reports \$50,031,630 in arts attendee spending in 2015. That number and more details can be found at the PDF at the bottom of this page: <https://www.americansforthearts.org/by-program/reports-and-data/research-studies-publications/arts-economic-prosperity-5/learn/local-regional-findings>

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

- Eligibility**
- Sustainability**
- Feasibility**

Eligible under non-profit support. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.

Lacking guaranteed funding after 2026 though partners were identified

PROJECT #200

BIPOC2 Community Cultural Center



SEEDS
of PROMISE

Identify the need for the proposed project

A lack of accurate knowledge regarding BIPOC contributions to world progress creates distrust and promote ignorance. Research shows that the more humans know about real human historical contributions of BIPOC2 humans, we realize we have much more in common than we ever will have that is different. If we know better, we do better. This is research based and best practice economic and cultural development.

Brief Description

Curating a community BIPOC2 laboratory that celebrates that internationally researched and agreed upon history and cultural contributions of original humans is unifying. We want to create and cathedral of BIPOC2 contributions to the local community, created and curated by residents of 49507. In collaboration with the GRPD, GVSU Center for Civil Discourse, Food Co-op and GRCC & Technical Center, we hope to produce a replicable community tourist attraction.

Long-Term Benefit

The long-term benefit is the promotion of robust dialogue based on internationally certified historical facts. Creating a homegrown, regional human engagement strategy that transforms communities public safety profiles.

Intended Beneficiary

All residents.

Estimated Cost

\$50,000-\$150,000

Project Management Experience

Local partners have a long standing history of leading county-wide projects.

Federal Funds Experience

Extensive experience working with federal funds.

Studies on Impact

Please see the attached link:

<https://www.ims.gov/sites/default/files/publications/documents/museumslibrariesandcomprehensiveinitiatives.pdf>

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$50,000

Maximum Cost: \$150,000

Submitter Info

Name: Regenail Thomas

Organization: Seeds of Promise

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Local philanthropic efforts.

Partnership

Seeds of Promise



Guidehouse Ranking Notes

Eligibility

Sustainability

Feasibility

Eligible under non-profit support. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.

Lacking guaranteed funding after 2026 though partners were identified

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$50,000
Maximum Cost: \$150,000

Submitter Info

Name: Regenail Thomas
Organization: Seeds of Promise

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development
Project Theme: Arts and Culture
Project Status: New Project
Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:

Sustainability:

Feasibility:

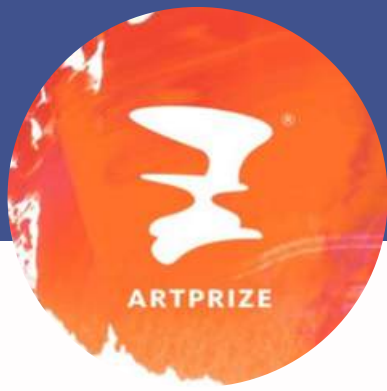
Impact:

Source of Funding

Local philanthropic efforts.

Partnership

Seeds of Promise



PROJECT #184

ArtPrize Equity Grants

Identify the need for the proposed project

After each event, ArtPrize does an internal evaluation. One of the trends we have noticed is the lack of diversity in the demographics of artists applying and connecting with venues. ArtPrize is committed to developing programming and opportunities that better represent the diversity of our community and the world at large. The ArtPrize Equity Grants will be a pillar of our event and give marginalized members of our Kent County community the opportunity to use ArtPrize as a catalyst for expressing their creativity and sharing their voice. We hope that this increase in diversity will echo the demographic diversity within Kent County, generate a sense of belonging, and create a more inclusive spirit within our community.

Brief Description

The ARPA funding will allow ArtPrize to revitalize the "ArtPrize Equity Grants" program that was piloted in 2021 and support more individuals in Kent County from underrepresented backgrounds to participate in our event. Artists interested in participate are asked that their work be intentional and focus on diverse, innovative, challenging, and engaging themes. Through your support, ArtPrize will be able to support more community members than ever before and grant them substantial funds to assist with costs associated with education, fabrication, installation, and other considerations necessary to support their creative practice and enable them to participate in ArtPrize.

Long-Term Benefit

The long term goal of this program is to connect these grant recipients with organizations within Kent County and explore opportunities to install their art artwork into permanent locations whether that is inside a business's lobby, in a community park, or a street corner to name a few examples. This will enable the creative placemaking that ArtPrize facilitates each fall to have a lasting impact on the Kent County community.

Intended Beneficiary

Underrepresented communities in Kent County are the primary beneficiaries of our grant program. However, the impact of uplift voices in our community and create opportunities for permanent creative placemaking will impact the Kent County community at large.

Estimated Cost

\$200,000-\$250,000

Project Management Experience

The ArtPrize team represents a diverse group of professionals who are committed to executing world-class programs. Our dedicated Exhibitions and Development departments are experienced in developing, facilitating, evaluating, and maintaining large scale projects including artists grant programs. Featured Public Projects (FPP) is our longest running grant program. Launched in 2016, FPP funds large, ambitious public art projects for multiple high-visibility public sites. Artists receive grants ranging from \$10,000-\$15,000 per project, along with in-kind donations in construction, shipping, and engineering assistance. Past grant recipients, including Gustavo Prado, Site:Lab, and The Urban Conga, have gone on to produce exceptional work highlighted at the international level in ArtRio, Art Basel, and NYCxDESIGN.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$200,000

Maximum Cost: \$250,000

Submitter Info

Name: Craig Searer

Organization: ArtPrize

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

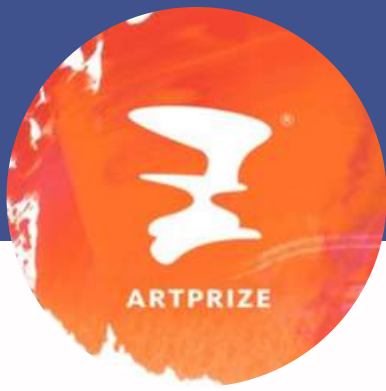
Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

We will identify appropriate community partners to help with awarding the grants and to fund the project (if additional funding is needed). Previous supporters of our DEI initiatives include Steelcase, WOOD TV8, Rockford Construction, LIFEWTR, and DGRI.



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$200,000

Maximum Cost: \$250,000

Submitter Info

Name: Craig Searer

Organization: ArtPrize

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

We will identify appropriate community partners to help with awarding the grants and to fund the project (if additional funding is needed). Previous supporters of our DEI initiatives include Steelcase, WOOD TV8, Rockford Construction, LIFEWTR, and DGRI.

Federal Funds Experience

ArtPrize has been a recipient of the Michigan Arts and Culture Council's (MACC) Operational Support grant for over 9 years. A portion of this funding has come from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). ArtPrize consistently complies with any and all regulations that the MACC and/or NEA have in terms of funding restrictions, compliance, and final reporting.

Studies on Impact

The research on DEI-A (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility) and Creative Placemaking is immense. ArtPrize strives to educate ourselves on the subject so that we can ensure our programming is intentional and effective. We also actively partner with organizations who have a better understanding of these issues and represent the communities we are looking to better serve. Steelcase, The National Endowment of the Arts, and Culture Advocacy Network of Michigan are just a few organizations who provide research, professional development, and guidance on DEI-A and creative placemaking.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

Eligible under non-profit support. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.

 **Sustainability**

Lacking guaranteed funding after 2026 though partners were identified

 **Feasibility**

PROJECT #137

Dynamic Community Engagement for Social Impact



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$5,665,000

Maximum Cost: \$5,665,000

ARPA Request: \$5,665,000

Submitter Info

Name: Mary Tuuk Kuras

Organization:

Grand Rapids Symphony

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

GRS regularly partners with the Grand Rapids Ballet, Opera Grand Rapids, Frederik Meijer Gardens, Ebony Road Players, St. Cecilia Music Center, New City Kids, Festival Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids Public Museum, Grand Rapids Art Museum, and The Diatribe. GRS is also a leading influencer in the local Arts Working Group, a group comprised of over 30 executive directors of local arts organizations.

Identify the need for the proposed project

The Grand Rapids Symphony (GRS) is the largest professional performing arts organization in West Michigan and second largest performing arts organization in the State of Michigan. More than ninety years ago, advocates for the arts determined that an orchestra would enrich the city and region, while contributing to economic growth and quality of place. For over nine decades, GRS has been a critical asset to our community vibrancy with soul-stirring music, diverse programming, collaborative spirit, and a commitment to learning, all adding to the quality of life that residents expect and local employers need to attract and retain talent. Rapid innovation and creative programs kept orchestral music accessible and in the lives of patrons and our community during the height of the COVID19 pandemic. While digital programming allowed the symphony to deliver on its mission safely and responsibly while increasing accessibility, large-scale community reach was adversely impacted by both economic realities and public health necessities. There has never been a more critical time to reengage with all segments of our community in big and bold ways. GRS remains committed to prudent financial management; the FY23 budget, which takes effect on September 1, was built following an extensive review of national orchestra audience trends and benchmarking conversations with other similar-structured orchestras and leaders with the League of American Orchestras. The current board-approved operating budget reflects 83% of pre-pandemic ticket revenue. The budget also assumes 78% of pre-pandemic fundraising revenue levels considering anticipated economic trends. The need for additional support goes hand in hand with GRS's ability to create dynamic organizational and artistic programs to ensure we are relevant in every part of our community. Expenses remain tightly managed to produce a balanced budget. Nevertheless, the budget contains high-risk revenue assumptions. If those revenue assumptions are not met, it will greatly impact our ability to deliver on our mission in the way our community expects.

Brief Description

The Grand Rapids Symphony requests \$5,665,000 to create and enhance a series of bold initiatives as we work to rebuild our audiences and further connect with our community, leveraging community input first and foremost as a foundation for the initiatives. Funds will be used to support multiple large-scale artistic and organization initiatives including, but not limited to:

- Bold and exciting performances in partnership with county-wide arts organizations such as LiveArts performances, a community-wide arts "Open House," and collaborative student-led events in area high schools.
- Investing in capital infrastructure and technology enhancements (ex. outdoor performance shell investment including full lighting, sound, and staging as well as storage facilities, transportation, and additional staff to manage infrastructure).
- Hiring a Community Engagement Officer responsible for managing our complimentary and discount ticket programs for community residents, enhancing our DEI-centered fellowship program for African American and Latinx students, and expanding our free Neighborhood Concert Series.
- Implementing orchestral musician diversity fellowships to create immediate visible, transformational change in intentional representation of the community onstage.
- Expansive marketing initiatives to expand relevance in all parts of our community, including an extensive brand awareness campaign with institutional marketing to tell the story of our community through the Symphony.

Long-Term Benefit

The projects will celebrate cultural uniqueness on a large scale and have an immediate impact on diversity within the organization and our patrons, allowing Kent County residents to better identify with the Symphony. These enhancements will remove barriers to entry, while the capital investments and technology investments will allow the Symphony to increase its reach in building new audiences and expand its community relevance in all parts of our community.



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$5,665,000

Maximum Cost: \$5,665,000

ARPA Request: \$5,665,000

Submitter Info

Name: Mary Tuuk Kuras

Organization:

Grand Rapids Symphony

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

GRS regularly partners with the Grand Rapids Ballet, Opera Grand Rapids, Frederik Meijer Gardens, Ebony Road Players, St. Cecilia Music Center, New City Kids, Festival Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids Public Museum, Grand Rapids Art Museum, and The Diatribe. GRS is also a leading influencer in the local Arts Working Group, a group comprised of over 30 executive directors of local arts organizations.

Intended Beneficiary

In a typical season, nearly 200,000 attendees from West Michigan experience one of our performances, in the hall or in the community. Approximately one-third of those who benefit are students, senior citizens, those with financial limitations, and people with disabilities, reached through extensive education and access initiatives. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are organic components in GRS operations; we aggressively continue our journey of relevancy to all parts of our community and to reflect our community’s demographics both on and off the stage. GRS offers diverse programming in its various series and ensures that at least 20% of our composers, soloists, and guest conductors are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) artists. Through expanded marketing, we will reach new and non-traditional audiences from our inclusive programs, such as:

- Neighborhood Concert Series, Presented by Meijer – Free concerts in local parks and neighborhoods across the community.
- Access to Music - A free concert that enables everyone with physical, cognitive, or emotional limitations to feel welcome.
- Music For Health - Enables our musicians to partner with music therapists at area hospitals for music therapy sessions.
- Symphony Scorecard - Allows any citizen who is receiving financial assistance from the State of Michigan, and any active military or National Guard members, to receive up to four tickets to most performances for free.
- Mosaic Scholars – With support from Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Steelcase, Inc., Meyer Music, and Pioneer Construction, this program creates opportunities for African American and Latinx students in Kent County who want to further their study of an instrument through private lessons, creative workshops, and unique performances. Students are paired with a GRS musician and take weekly lessons throughout the school year. They have opportunities to play alongside their teacher and peers in select symphony concerts. Schools represented include Grand Rapids Public Schools, Wyoming Public Schools, Godfrey-Lee Public Schools, Grand River Prep, and West Michigan Aviation Academy.

Project Management Experience

GRS has extensive experience leading large-scale, professional orchestra productions, both in the performance hall and in various locations across Kent County. In 2015, GRS presented LiveArts to celebrate its 85th anniversary season. Presented in Van Andel Arena on four stages, with nine performing organizations encompassing more than 1,500 performers, LiveArts also involved the Grand Rapids Symphony Youth Orchestras, the Grand Rapids Ballet Junior Company, and the Opera Grand Rapids Chorus plus the Grand Rapids Symphony Chorus and Youth Choruses. Several hundred school children and marching bands from East Kentwood High School and Grandville High School drew an audience of more than 7,100 people. GRS maintains a close relationship with the Kent County Convention and Arena Authority and with ASM Global. During the 2020-21 season, GRS and ASM Global partnered to present Pathwaves in Van Andel Arena, allowing GRS a space in which to perform live-streamed concerts in order to continue to deliver on its mission while giving ASM a way to maintain employment for its staff and crew. In 2021, GRS recognized both CAA and ASM Global for their partnership with a BRAVO! Award, the Symphony’s award for exceptional arts leadership.

Federal Funds Experience

GRS has previously received federal funding from pandemic relief programs, such as the Paycheck Protection Program, as well as arts-specific federal funding from the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA).



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$5,665,000

Maximum Cost: \$5,665,000

ARPA Request: \$5,665,000

Submitter Info

Name: Mary Tuuk Kuras

Organization:

Grand Rapids Symphony

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

GRS regularly partners with the Grand Rapids Ballet, Opera Grand Rapids, Frederik Meijer Gardens, Ebony Road Players, St. Cecilia Music Center, New City Kids, Festival Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids Public Museum, Grand Rapids Art Museum, and The Diatribe. GRS is also a leading influencer in the local Arts Working Group, a group comprised of over 30 executive directors of local arts organizations.

Studies on Impact

The efforts described in this proposal to make GRS more diverse, inclusive, and equitable – both internally and externally – are rooted in existing best practices. According to an article published in the New York Times, symphonies/orchestras remain among the America’s least racially diverse institutions, especially in regard to Black and Latino artists. Experts recommend that symphonies act intentionally to diversify, focusing on increasing diverse representation among artists (Tommasini, 2021). Continuing a fellowship program for African American and Latinx students, expanding our Neighborhood Concert Series, and implementing orchestral musician diversity fellowships align with this focus on intentionality. Our programming will bring diverse musical experiences to residents all across Kent County, strengthening our community as a whole. A study sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) found that, among children and teenagers from socially and economically disadvantaged backgrounds, those with higher levels of arts engagement showed more positive outcomes on indicators such as school grades, test scores, and high-school graduation rates, compared with youths with low levels of arts engagement (NEA, 2012).

Supporting Documentation

[1. Letters of Support](#)

[2. Tessitura Proposal](#)

[3. Supplemental Information and Sustainability Plan](#)

[4. NYT Article](#)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Eligible under non-profit support. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.



Sustainability

Proposal seems to have a plan to sustain itself after ARPA funds



Feasibility

PROJECT #52

Four Star Theatre Renovation



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$4,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$4,000,000

ARPA Request: \$1,600,000

Submitter Info

Name: Marcus Ringnalda

Organization:

Friends of Four Star Inc

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

\$200,000 Local Revolving Brownfield Fund, \$10,000 Local Facade Grant, \$50,000 from operations. Pledges and LOI's make up the balance and are included in supplemental uploads.

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Identify the need for the proposed project

This project has been formally planned since the summer of 2019. The need was identified by two significant master planning initiatives focusing on the communities along South Division Avenue in Grand Rapids--The South Division Corridor Plan and Division United. The developer for this project owned the property and participated in the community engagement efforts that were part of those planning efforts. The renovation of the Four Star Theatre for community use is specifically identified in the South Division Corridor Plan, City of Grand Rapids Master Plan, and meets many objectives of the Community and Identity Theme identified in Division United: Objective C1. Support and development community events celebrating corridor history and culture. Objective C2. Preserved iconic and historic buildings that add character to the corridor for adaptive reuse when possible. Goal GC2: Community amenities and prominent indicator will reflect the history and culture of the corridor. Objective C4. Development of narratives and media that highlight the unique history of the corridor. Objective C5. Invest in public art/placemaking/third place

Brief Description

The project is to renovate the historic Four Star Theatre and convert it to a world class multi-use cultural arts venue--As of May 2022, the 501c3 formed for this development voted to acquire the property and operate the facility after the renovation. Our website is <https://fourstargr.com>. It is defined as an "expanded" project because as of June 2022 we expect to have "Phase I" occupancy, which involves strategic repairs to the nearly 30 year old infrastructure and occupying the first floor only for event hosting up to 250 patrons. The proposed project is an approximate \$4 million capital expense which will include an addition and renovations allowing the building to host events of up to 1,000.

Long-Term Benefit

A venue hosting up to 200 events and 50,000 visitors annually will be a resource that will improve quality of life for residents and be a catalyst for growth in new and existing businesses. The renovation and operations is expected to create 65 jobs, bring in \$190,000 in state and local government revenues & add \$1.4 million in household incomes. It is expected to draw 1/3 of its audience from other counties, and those visitors spend more than double than that of their local counterparts.

Intended Beneficiary

Local businesses and the 15,000 people who live within a walkable distance of the theatre will benefit most. But the overall community benefit is much larger.

*Partnership

Kendall College Masters of Architecture Program has assisted with planning efforts. The Grand Rapids Center For Community Transformation partnered with us for workforce training on premises. Please refer to the summary letter uploaded with this submission for operational/programmatic partnerships.

Estimated Cost

4000000



Project Management Experience

The applicant/project lead has managed large scale construction projects for over 15 years in municipalities all over the state of Michigan and now presently works as a consultant on building expansions and real estate developments in Kent, Grand Traverse, and Leelanau Counties. The applicant has managed municipal projects, and multi-site healthcare projects, but nothing that would be considered a county-wide project. The general contractor partner has built large scale municipal projects.

Federal Funds Experience

The applicant/project lead has managed complex construction projects utilizing Low income housing tax credits, historic tax credits, and HUD funds, which in turn have required Davis-Bacon compliance and reporting, Section 3 compliance, and other federal compliance including National Parks Service standards for Historic Preservation. The general contractor is Pioneer Construction who will be relied upon for reporting and compliance.

Studies on Impact

This project is in a qualified census tract. It has been evaluated by the South Division-Grandville Ave Corridor Improvement Authority as an excellent example of equitable development. It is identified as a catalyst project in the South Division Area Specific plan which has been incorporated into the City of Grand Rapids master plan. Economic Impact studies by the Americans for the Arts and League of Historic American Theaters have been referenced for data that is included in this application. The project addresses priorities identified in the multi-jurisdictional Division United initiative supported by federal funding, Interurban Transit Authority, and the cities of Grand Rapids, Kentwood, and Wyoming. The studies support the economic impact and quality of life improvements for the community that the project will bring.

Supporting Documentation

1. [ARPA Response Summary](#)
2. [Brochure](#)
3. [Renovation and Addition Design](#)
4. [Pioneer Estimate](#)
5. [Combined Finance Letters](#)
6. [Combined Letters of Support](#)
7. [Obsolescence Statement](#)
8. [Combined Proformas](#)
9. [SHPO and Photos](#)
10. [South Division Plan Excerpt](#)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$4,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$4,000,000

ARPA Request: \$1,600,000

Submitter Info

Name: Marcus Ringnalda

Organization:

Friends of Four Star Inc

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 51-75%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

\$200,000 Local Revolving Brownfield Fund, \$10,000 Local Facade Grant, \$50,000 from operations. Pledges and LOI's make up the balance and are included in supplemental uploads.

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Eligible under non-profit support. Could be blight remediation eligible as well. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.



Sustainability

Post-rehab operations costs are a risk.



Feasibility

Risk for 2026 completion

PROJECT #260

Kenneth Cortez Productions LLC



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$200,000

Maximum Cost: \$200,000

ARPA Request: \$200,000

Submitter Info

Name: Kenneth C. Reed II

Organization: Kenneth Cortez Productions LLC

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

Kenneth Cortez Productions LLC is a Live event company that will be helping fundraise and promote the Baxter UNITED organization. Habitat for Humanity of Kent County is a current funding partner in the Baxter UNITED operations budget. We are currently working on city grants within Grand Rapids budget.

Partnership

Habitat for Humanity, Baxter Community Center

Identify the need for the proposed project

Baxter UNITED identified our needs based on the community we serve. Our mission is to empower the Baxter Neighborhood with educational programming designed to build marketable and equitable skills. There are proportionately less arts and media-related skills programs and businesses in our neighborhood than in any other locations in Grand Rapids. We want to increase the number of people entering the arts and media-related workforce.

Brief Description

We want to build a studio and school dedicated to teaching the elements of media and art production. We will focus specifically on Pre-production, production, and Post-production in Music and Media. We will emphasize impact, while building leaders through a diverse lens of instructors and scenarios.

Long-Term Benefit

This project helps with the disproportionate educational disparities of our city and county because it offers the opportunity for video and artistic media education for those who generally would not have it available. We will build creators who are capable of capitalizing the market in the progressive society we live in and continue expanding in.

Intended Beneficiary

The people of the third ward in Grand Rapids

Estimated Cost

\$200,000

Project Management Experience

0-1 years. We are a new organization and will have completed our third successful event as of July 16th. We are expanding our projects to affect more people throughout every event, and are looking to begin our studio project asap.

Federal Funds Experience

We have been involved with fundraising for federal level representatives during our events this summer.

Studies on Impact

<http://criminal-justice.iresearchnet.com/crime/school-violence/arts-based-programs-and-school-violence/>

<https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/ojdp/178927.pdf> <https://fundforthearts.org/art-is-crime-prevention/>

<https://www.publicartarchive.org/2017/07/31/can-public-art-reduce-crime-expert-interview/>



Supporting Documentation

[KCPLLC Mission Statement](#)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$200,000

Maximum Cost: \$200,000

ARPA Request: \$200,000

Submitter Info

Name: Kenneth C. Reed II

Organization: Kenneth Cortez Productions LLC

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

Kenneth Cortez Productions LLC is a Live event company that will be helping fundraise and promote the Baxter UNITED organization. Habitat for Humanity of Kent County is a current funding partner in the Baxter UNITED operations budget. We are currently working on city grants within Grand Rapids budget.

Partnership

Habitat for Humanity, Baxter Community Center

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

Eligible as evidence-based services to address the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of students

 **Sustainability**

Lacking guaranteed funding after 2026 though partners were identified

 **Feasibility**

PROJECT #330

HIPHOP for Mental Health



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2.5M

Maximum Cost: \$2.5M

Submitter Info

Name: Victor Williams

Organization:

The Love Movement Inc

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Grants

Partnership

Clinicians of color

Identify the need for the proposed project

Mental Health issues are becoming more and more prevalent in our society everyday. This program was created in 2008 and recognized by Senator Debbie Stabenow and needs to be full blown in all of our schools and throughout the community. .

Brief Description

HIPHOP for mental health is an awareness program. Using HIPHOP Kulture as a tool to reach the youth. We teach relaxation and coping techniques through the music and various elements of HIPHOP culture.

Long-Term Benefit

HIPHOP Saves Lives. If we can reach one child and keep them from killing the selves and others through their interaction with authentic HIPHOP Kulture it'll be worth it.

Intended Beneficiary

Depressed teenagers and our community as a whole.

Estimated Cost

\$2.5M

Project Management Experience

Through my music industry experience, I've managed National promotion campaigns.

Federal Funds Experience

No federal funds.

Studies on Impact

This program like others that I offer are cutting edge. We are global change agents without approach to teaching through authentic HIPHOP Kulture.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

It could be eligible. More info on actual funding plan is needed.



Sustainability

Expanding existing program



Feasibility

Unclear without further information

PROJECT #299

National Broadway Theatre

NATIONAL
BROADWAY
THEATRE

Identify the need for the proposed project

"The National Broadway Theatre is a non-profit positioned to give back to the community by creating sustainable jobs for a diverse and disproportionately impacted population, positively impacting the quality of life for each person who is participating or viewing these productions and give a safe space for people of all ages to learn and grow. Theatre is an industry that has taken one of the worst hits from the COVID-19 pandemic. Having to limit interaction between people meant a lot of theatres were forced to cancel their productions or worse shut their doors completely. That in turn caused local artists to become severely impacted with their careers coming to a screeching halt. What The National Broadway Theatre is going to do is give the theatre industry here the kickstart it needs and elevate the existing talent while simultaneously providing financial and sustainable opportunities for these artists. For that to be possible we will be doing something no other theatre company is currently doing and bring in top tier artists to this area so they can work with and educate these local artists. The growth potential is enormous since The National Broadway Theatre will operate within the economic environment of Grand Rapids. As productions draw large crowds, the overall health of the economic community rises on show nights; because of the increased foot traffic it will no doubt benefit local restaurants, bars, and hotels. We will be helping to retain members of our community, who would normally move away while simultaneously tying in other larger cities' economies with the hired national talent. Our main focus is to give back to the local community and help lift the local economy by creating jobs and opportunities that aren't currently available.

Brief Description

Employ Local Artists and Bring Professionals To Grand Rapids: The National Broadway Theatre will collaborate and employ local and national artists, holding auditions in Grand Rapids, New York City, and Chicago to bring high quality, professional artists to Grand Rapids. NBT is creating a space for local talent to thrive and national talent a destination to work. NBT is slated to produce 4 shows a season, including one completely community based production. Only Paying Theatre In Grand Rapids: NBT has a window of opportunity to introduce its services and gain a significant piece of the market share. Currently, all theaters in the area are community and volunteer based. Bringing in a company that gives back to the people in the community through involvement and compensation allows all local businesses to thrive. Requiring the national talent to be housed in Grand Rapids, also guarantees tourism growth and an additional boost to the local economy. A Higher Caliber Of Arts Education In Grand Rapids: At NBT education is one of our "three pillars of importance". We go right to the source to transform the community of Grand Rapids by bringing Broadway talent right here to our city. Through our strong networks in New York City, we are slated to run educational workshops where community members can take workshops with current Broadway performers right here in Grand Rapids. We have contracted local Dance Studios to host the events, and local hotels to house our visiting artists.

Long-Term Benefit

Reported in data by the Theatre Communications Group, the nonprofit theater sector added over \$2.8 billion to the U.S. economy through direct payments of goods and services, but the true impact is actually far greater. Nonprofit theaters operate within the economic ecosystem of the given community; as productions draw crowds to the area, it supports jobs and brings business to local restaurants, bars, hotels. Our main focus is to give back to the local community and help lift the local economy.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$350,000

Maximum Cost: \$350,000

ARPA Request: \$250,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jacob Dunham

Organization:

National Broadway Theatre

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

No

Partnership

No

Intended Beneficiary

The Kent County Community, the local economy, and professional artists who will come here from around the nation.

Estimated Cost

350000

Project Management Experience

Not only do we have Broadway theatre operations experience in our leadership positions, we also have a variety of grant writers and financial assistants that all work in tandem.

Federal Funds Experience

As a non-profit we have a local professional Grant Writer, who has worked in non-profit theatre grants for over 30 years. We also have an experienced financial board as well. They work in tandem with their federal fund experience.

Studies on Impact

Yes, we are very aware of the factual contexts that back up the success of this company. We have created our business model off of other professional and very successful theatre companies such as: Steppenwolf in Chicago, The Purple Rose in Detroit, Roundabout Theatre in NYC to name a few. Our research also included data, reported by the Theatre Communications Group, that the non-profit theater sector added over \$2.8 billion to the U.S. economy through direct payments of goods and services, but the true impact is actually far greater. Nonprofit theaters operate within the economic ecosystem of the given community; as productions draw crowds to the area, it supports jobs and brings business to local restaurants, bars, hotels. This is a large portion of the local economy that is taken from Grand Rapids, the moment these artists have to relocate to other cities to find work. Creating a business that keeps artists here in Grand Rapids is essential for donors and investors to see long term returns on their gifts and investments.

Supporting Documentation

[NBT Plan](#)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$350,000

Maximum Cost: \$350,000

ARPA Request: \$250,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jacob Dunham

Organization:

National Broadway Theatre

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

No

Partnership

No

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

Eligible under non-profit support. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.

 **Sustainability**

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.

 **Feasibility**

PROJECT #160

Broadway Arts Access



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$100,000

Maximum Cost: \$150,000

ARPA Request: \$100,000

Submitter Info

Name: Meghan Distel

Organization:

Broadway Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

No

Partnership

No

Identify the need for the proposed project

The mission of Broadway Grand Rapids is not only to entertain, educate, and engage diverse audiences but also to eliminate barriers – whether they are physical, economic, or cultural to make all feel welcome when they attend a Broadway show at DeVos Performance Hall. Broadway Grand Rapids currently has several programs that help keep the arts within reach for the West Michigan community. Seats4Kids targets economically disadvantaged school children through a scholarship fund that provides free tickets for those at Title 1 schools. A Hearing and Visual Accessibility program provides ASL Interpretation, Open Caption, and Audio Description services. Broadway Grand Rapids is looking to expand their Community Outreach programs with a new program called Broadway Arts Access. This new program would use funds to identify new audience members that have economic, physical, or cultural barriers and give them the experience of a live Broadway show.

Brief Description

Broadway Arts Access would continue to fund Seats4Kids and Hearing/Visual Accessibility programs but would also expand in 2 additional areas: Seats4Families which would allow economically challenged families to attend a show together; Seats4Community would identify new audiences in Kent County that have never had access to Broadway as well as provide tickets to other charitable organizations so they can raise funds for their causes. The goal of Broadway Arts Access is to break down barriers and to make theater welcoming for all regardless of background or circumstances.

Long-Term Benefit

The arts have the power to teach, inspire, unify, and truly transform individuals of all ages and backgrounds. Time and time again, research shows that young people who are engaged in the arts do better in school and are more involved in their communities. Making arts accessible for more people in Kent County will help to inspire many people and improve the quality of life for all in our community.

Intended Beneficiary

Children and families who are economically disadvantaged in Kent County.

Estimated Cost

\$100,000-\$150,000

Project Management Experience

Not much experience in managing county wide projects.

Federal Funds Experience

Payroll Protection Loans

Studies on Impact

No



Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 Eligibility

 Sustainability

 Feasibility

Eligible under non-profit support. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$100,000

Maximum Cost: \$150,000

ARPA Request: \$100,000

Submitter Info

Name: Meghan Distel

Organization:

Broadway Grand Rapids


Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

No

Partnership

No

PROJECT #162

Improve government operations through innovative, interactive and immersive cultural competency experiences



Identify the need for the proposed project

1. Through town halls with community leaders and discussions with friends from immigrant communities.
2. The death of Patrick Lyoya was an example of what happens when cultural differences and their ramifications are not at play.
3. All young people should be educated, healthy, and ready to thrive in the workforce however black kids feel the most disconnected.

https://nationalequityatlas.org/indicators/Disconnected_youth#/?geo=04000000000026081 4 Racial and cultural diversity create thriving and prosperous communities and our community is becoming more and more diverse. However, segregation is stopping community members from diverse communities to meet and learn from each other. "Exclusionary immigration policies and racial segregation, forged through practices such as redlining and racially exclusive housing covenants, have historically hindered the economic prosperity of Black people and other people of color in the United States. However, immigrants and people of color are increasingly driving population growth. Population growth rates for Black, Latinx, Asian or Pacific Islander, and multiracial people far outpace growth rates for White Americans. By 2030, multiple states are projected to be majority people of color. Immigrants are also fueling growth, particularly in the Northeast and Midwest—regions with historically low diversity." National Equity Atlas https://nationalequityatlas.org/indicators/Diversity_index#/?geo=04000000000026081 That is why it is so important to create safe and brave spaces for our community to come together using powerful tools like music, food, storytelling and cultural competency. These spaces will allow us to learn about each other, celebrate our differences and foster collaboration and innovation, create jobs and celebrate our commonalities. These will also help government officials who serve the immigrant and black communities to be more culturally competent in their delivery to the communities but also give the community opportunities to meet, commune with and build authentic relationships with public servants without fear.

Brief Description

The program includes: 1. Introducing and reacquainting public servants with their immigrant and refugee communities through food, music, poetry, and cultural knowledge nuggets, cultural norms, etc. The presentations will reflect the ethnicities, cultures represented in Kent County. This will provide the government workers with a better and more nuanced understanding of immigrants, and how to better connect and relate with them. We also strive to show the links and threads across people through our special curated sessions. 2. Providing live (virtual) entertainment, dancing lessons, games, geography, history lessons, and language lessons that are fun, hands-on, and age-appropriate for participants, through our Elimu Experience.

Long-Term Benefit

Increase in cultural intelligence and authentic relationships for our ever increasingly diverse county (multi-generational). This will also help build trust between the government and immigrant communities. Increase in jobs created for immigrants and refugees. Increase in participation in growing the economy. Mentorship for creatives. Increase in income for the households that the creatives, artists, and culinary experts represent. We will live in a community where everyone can thrive.

Intended Beneficiary

Kent County officials, city officials and Kent county communities as a whole will benefit the most. Secondly, Immigrants and refugees will also benefit.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$600,000

Maximum Cost: \$600,000

ARPA Request: \$550,000

Submitter Info

Name: Mirabel Fonyuy Umenei

Organization: Motherland Cultural Connections LLC

Project Overview

Funding Group: Improving Government Operations

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

City of Grand Rapids - \$9000 and African Collaborative Network in volunteer hours.

Partnership

African Collaborative Network, City of Grand Rapids



Estimated Cost

\$600,000.00

Project Management Experience

We have worked with large companies in and out of the US with over 1000 employees to provide cultural competency experiences and this is straight in our competency. We are open to partnering with other organizations to bring this project successfully to fruition.

Federal Funds Experience

This would be the first time we would be working with federal funds. We are open to partnering with other organizations to bring this project successfully to fruition.

Studies on Impact

Cultural competence training helps provide culturally sensitive and unbiased quality service to the community.

- <https://case.edu/research/sites/case.edu.research/files/2018-04/handout-by-Cain-and-Lawless.pdf>
- <https://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/products/cultural-competence/research-protocol>
- <https://skilledwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/CCR-annotated-bibliography-10-12-10ver2-FINAL.pdf>
- <https://sites.ed.gov/international/objective-1-increase-global-and-cultural-competencies-of-all-u-s-students/>

Supporting Documentation

[Letter of Support](#)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

The project eligibility may align with violence prevention. Additional information is needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$600,000

Maximum Cost: \$600,000

ARPA Request: \$550,000

Submitter Info

Name: Mirabel Fonyuy Umenei

Organization: Motherland Cultural Connections LLC

Project Overview

Funding Group: Improving

Government Operations

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:

Sustainability:

Feasibility:

Impact:

Source of Funding

City of Grand Rapids - \$9000 and African Collaborative Network in volunteer hours.

Partnership

African Collaborative Network, City of Grand Rapids

PROJECT #333

GR-MiFi's Infotainment Ecosystem



Identify the need for the proposed project

Practically all video production contracts and media-making opportunities (public and private) in our region go to white videographers and media professionals, giving them an enormous advantage in being able to buy more equipment, build their production capacities and thus pursue increasingly lucrative assignments, networks and business opportunities. Our work is closing this gap. The Grand Rapids Media Initiative & Film Incubator is developing opportunities for apprenticeships and business development relationships for aspiring videographers and media-making professionals. Grand Rapids historic resident Carl Smith taught us that “those who have the power to define have the power to determine.” We understand that, without proper representation in film and media, minority groups have neither the power to define nor determine their narratives hampering their abilities to build businesses in media, film and storytelling. Through a narrative justice model, we work to equip local BIPOC creators with the skills necessary to compete and succeed in the film and media space. With these skills, creators will feel empowered to share their stories and to collectively change the narrative. Our stories are our wealth, and media literacy is a critical skill that can be developed. A key project in the GRMiFi Infotainment Ecosystem is the in-development documentary film, “A City Within a City” based upon the book of the same name, exploring various concepts of race, class and geography in a historic study about the City of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Grand Rapids Media Initiative & Film Incubator (GR-MiFi, 501c3) and it’s collaborators seeks to correct glaring opportunity gaps by building an ecosystem of talent and businesses in media and film.

Brief Description

GRMiFi’s “Infotainment Ecosystem” is a collaborative and transformational initiative that provides the community with media literacy, job shadowing, apprenticeship, and a business development incubator for film and multi-media projects. Our cohort-based incubator and accelerator program, participants work together to pursue narrative justice-based film and media initiatives that preserve and honor our history, uplift stories that are overlooked, and empower creatives to use their skills and passions to shift the way our communities are presented and perceived. This sustainable infrastructure and framework allows diverse citizens to tell their stories, aspiring professionals to build up their demo reels and skillsets and to help individuals build production companies that deliver reliable and valuable content. Our commitment to creativity and closing the earnings and opportunity gaps for people of color, goes way beyond the completion of our first film. Our national network of experts and professionals will continue to source and share resources with us in our development work. We are facilitating a pipeline of talent development and network connectivity’s to the music, media and moviemaking aspirants and platforms that highlight opportunities, ongoing workshops, capacity building initiatives, conferences and resource exploration. We will continue to hold screenings of regional and national films, community workshops and hosting business presentations.

Long-Term Benefit

Michigan businesses, organizations, municipalities and units of government will engage more diverse companies for video production and media. Incubator initiates Oral History Project in Kent County. Incubator offers media literacy workshops and film screenings to the community. Dozens of community members (all ethnicities invited) will participate in the creation of the film and ancillary History Pin vignettes by contributing time, talents, treasure, stories, perspectives, and artifacts.

Intended Beneficiary

<https://youtu.be/cRslPQ21-uY> The intended beneficiary is all of Kent County by addressing issues of equity and opportunity in an effort to close gaps and disparities and entertainment and film and media ventures. Those benefiting most will be participants that have been historically locked-out of opportunities in building sustainable businesses and community ventures.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1.75M

Maximum Cost: \$2.5M

ARPA Request: \$1.75M

Submitter Info

Name: Rodney Brown

Organization:

Grand Rapids Media Initiative & Film Incubator

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

No

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1.75M

Maximum Cost: \$2.5M

ARPA Request: \$1.75M

Submitter Info

Name: Rodney Brown

Organization:

Grand Rapids Media Initiative & Film Incubator

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

No

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Estimated Cost

\$1.75M - \$2.5M

*Partnership

-Grand Stand Pictures -Community Media Center -Creators Fellowship -Celebration Cinema -Historypin (The Shift Collective) -Legacy & Love, LLC -African Collaborative Network -The DNA -Equity Stories -Reaching Beyond Bias -Branch Out Productions -Our Kitchen Table -Goei Center -GR Chamber of Commerce -DGRI -Mosaic Film Experience -Our Grand Rapids -GRassrootsUp Initiative -West MEGA Films & Productions -Mosaic Masterminds -Michigan Black Expo, Inc. -Grand Rapids Public Library -Grand Rapids African American Museum and Archives -Steelcase Foundation -Grand Rapids Community Foundation -City of Grand Rapids -Grand Rapids Community College -Frey Foundation -W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Project Management Experience

Our work in broad impact projects through our work as non-profit executives, educational professionals, television production and business networking and organizational development gives us important experience to be able to scale our work within this county-wide project. We have raised tremendous amounts of resources and continue to execute on our plans, making us confident we can handle the commensurate responsibilities of this grant.

Federal Funds Experience

The President of Grand Rapids Media Initiative & Film Incubator has experience with administering federal funds.

Studies on Impact

Ford Foundation's Big Ideas/Creative Futures

<https://www.fordfoundation.org/news-and-stories/big-ideas/creative-futures/>

Report on Impact Storytelling

https://medium.com/@erin_potts/this-beautiful-moment-our-latest-report-on-impact-storytelling-f77da9365e1c

Hollywood Needs Start-Up Incubators

<https://www.thewrap.com/hollywood-needs-start-incubators-entertainment-36537/>

Supporting Documentation

[Additional Documentation and Information](#)



Guidehouse Ranking Notes

Eligibility

General economic development is not applicable. May be eligible if clearly targeting disproportionately impacted community.

Sustainability

No plan for funding beyond 2026

Feasibility

Would need more information to assess full feasibility of an initiative like this.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1.75M

Maximum Cost: \$2.5M

ARPA Request: \$1.75M

Submitter Info

Name: Rodney Brown

Organization:

Grand Rapids Media Initiative & Film Incubator

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

No

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



PROJECT #78

Urban Heightz

Identify the need for the proposed project

We identify the need to help with the art & cultural opportunities for people from all walks of life to get together and learn more from each other by fashion, food ,music, ect..

Brief Description

With this project people from all walks of live will take part into there cultures to help the community learn better without the heavy expenses of traveling. This project will give people the opportunity to see artwork ,fashion, eat food, listen to music from people around the world. We will also be able to have and space so people can learn about the difference in currency and also understand the value of a dollar from many different country.

Long-Term Benefit

The long-term benefit of this proposed project is that it will help eliminate social injustice and bring the community together.

Intended Beneficiary

The long-term benefit of this proposed project is that it will help eliminate social injustice and bring the community together.

Estimated Cost

20000

Project Management Experience

3 years doing the Burton Heights reunion .

Federal Funds Experience

n/a

Studies on Impact

Being at the festival and understanding how many people come and support each other. Seeing how people love to learn about others backgrounds and get a better understanding on how people live..

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$20,000

Maximum Cost: \$20,000

Submitter Info

Name: Mike Moore

Organization: Urban Heightz

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

The H.A.V.E. group

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

 **Sustainability**

 **Feasibility**

Proposal was generally unclear on how it is serving eligible individuals or communities.



PROJECT #44

Impact the family Life, My story

Identify the need for the proposed project

Tv youth studio , Radio and Circus city classic Chicago trio to see the battle of the bands black colleges .

Brief Description

Everything positive : a program for us young , African Americans that we can tell our story , so others can understand and other than judge us by what we wear and how we look . So we can give back to the community , joy and happiness , youth from 18- 30.

Long-Term Benefit

To shine the light on the truth from this generation themselves. Share the positive , to write a new narrative from the voices and perspectives of the millennials. Partnering with the SOSN save our sons now .

Intended Beneficiary

Everyone especially those that come after the millennials but also those who have come before them so they will know the truth and that the millennials are not all the same some law abiding citizens with a new narrative and a revelation of the future..

Estimated Cost

\$45,000.00

Project Management Experience

Previous experience with Muskegon county , Color me heathy , partnered with Kellogg’s and Calvin college Entrada . , after school tutorial , Arms program (accepting responsibility mandatory ,

Federal Funds Experience

Muskegon county , teen zone , , Overcomer's project, Drug abuse Recovery program , Joseph’s food bank , developing educational and recreational fun programs , color me heathy ,

Studies on Impact

Michigan Fellowship if athletes , SOSN (save our sons now) V&J Evans consultants LLC

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$45,000

Maximum Cost: \$45,000

Submitter Info

Name: John Evans

Organization: Fresh Manna Church

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Arts and Culture

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

Fresh manna church of God.
Kingdom Prayer church SOSN
(save our sons now)

Partnership

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

 **Sustainability**

 **Feasibility**

Unclear on what this project entails - would need more information.

Lacking guaranteed funding after 2026 though partners were identified