

REPORT 2019 October Cycle

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organization Information

Legal Name: Contemporary Art for San Antonio		Federal Tax ID#: 74-2419615	
Address: 116 Blue Star	City: San Antonio	State: TX	Zip Code: 78204
Website: www.bluestarcontemporary.org		Fax: (210) 227-6960	

Head Of Organization

Name: Mary Heathcott	Title: Executive Director
E-Mail Address: mary@bluestarcontemporary.org	Phone: (210) 227-6960

Application Contact

Name: Elaine Leahy	Title: Development Manager	E-Mail Address: elaine@bluestarcontemporary.org	Phone: (210) 227-6960
------------------------------	--------------------------------------	---	---------------------------------

REPORT INFORMATION

Report Funding Cycle: 2019 October Cycle	Report Date: 09/04/2020 12:00 am
--	--

1: Please include in your report the dollar amount of the funds that were awarded, the date they were funded and what the funds supported.

Awarded Amount: 10,000	Date: 10/26/2019
------------------------	------------------

2: Were the objectives cited in your original proposal met? Please address each started objective and how it was met.

Our primary objective was BSC's Artists-in-Community provide experiential, in-person arts education in alignment with TEKS standards to 215 students at Wright Elementary who do not otherwise have dedicated arts education curricula. While this was achieved in the Fall 2019 semester, the pandemic changed the program in fundamental ways in Spring 2020. BSC's Education Manager, Mari Hernandez, worked closely with the Harlandale ISD's faculty and staff to shift the programming from in-person to video; as a result, over 7,300 K-5 Harlandale ISD students had access to arts education content created by BSC and shared through their schools' digital education platforms.

An additional objective, to expand the the program with a third Artist-in-Community, was not met, largely due to the pandemic which had major funding and programming repercussions for Blue Star Contemporary. We were able to welcome a MOSAIC Student Artist Program alumna, Victoria Rodriguez, to join and assist at Wright, which provided both a paid opportunity and professional development for Victoria while she pursues her college education. Likewise, the Artists-in-Community received payment for their work to create lesson plans, lead the art workshops, and create digital content.

3: Please explain any changes from the original proposal and the circumstances that lead to the modification of the objective.

The first semester proceeded as planned; BSC's Artists-in-Community Bernice Appelin-Williams and Sarah Fox worked within Harlandale ISD's Wright Elementary to provide hands-on, experiential learning through art. Working with multiple grades and groups of students, they reached over 215 students.

In Spring 2020, everything changed with the COVID-19 pandemic. The sudden shift to at-home learning forced Creative Classrooms' curricula and delivery to change (and all of BSC's other student and adult programs, too). It took time for all of San Antonio's school districts to shift to online programming, including locating absentee students, and helping students access the internet. After this initial pause, BSC, in communication with the faculty and staff at Wright, resumed programming through digital content. Using easily accessible household items (for example, cardboard), Artist-in-Community Sarah Fox created several videos of projects students could create at home.

Because the video format is so easily shareable, these educational videos were shared to the entire Harlandale ISD K-5 student group -- about 7,300 students! BSC uploaded the short instructional videos to our social media and YouTube channels to make them readily available to the general public. Communities in Schools also shared the Creative Classrooms content through their e-mail lists.

4: What needs were addressed?

Creative Classrooms increases access to the arts, and provides opportunities for young students to engage with their creative impulses. Creative Classrooms fosters healthy self-expression through hands-on activities that complement the students' public school curricula. Engagement with the arts is proven to increase school attendance and test scores.

As particularly evidenced when the program shifted in the spring, the arts provide a safe, expressive outlet for children to communicate as they adapt to the complexities of sheltering in place, and also help ease the challenges of online learning for parents with hands-on, interactive learning. We know that in incredibly uncertain times, children need continuity, routine, and normalcy.

5: What method of evaluation did you use to monitor and measure the project's outcome and what are the result?

With the sudden changes in program delivery, program evaluation mechanisms changed. Updated attendance and test scoring data for the year has not been released through the Texas Education Agency for the 2019-20 school year, although we continue to research and seek data from Harlandale ISD. We were able to track some quantitative data, like the number of students served.

We were unable to gather direct feedback from the students, but we did receive feedback from the teachers. One of Wright's fifth grade teachers wrote, "I love that the materials are easy to find around the house and that reusing/recycling is promoted. The steps are also easy to follow on both the paper and video instructions. I like that this activity also targets early childhood and promotes all students to use their imagination and creativity. This activity is full of fun! I plan to do this activity soon with my son. He is 3 1/2. Thanks so much for sharing! Keep the activities coming!"

6: Do you plan to continue this project, and if so, how do you plan to sustain it?

We absolutely plan to continue this project. We are preparing to resume video content for the next school year, knowing the school will still maintain strict social distancing guidelines for its students. We will continue producing content that syncs to the students' distant learning curricula and provides healthy self-expression, academic enrichment, and cultural engagement. BSC is also launching an extension of Creative Classrooms in partnership with the San Antonio Food Bank to provide weekly art content for over 2,000 students across the City. BSC continues to actively fundraise for this program through foundation, corporate, and government grant opportunities and individual gifts, as it is not endowed.

7: Please provide any other comments or information relevant to this grant.

BSC's community of artists, educators, students, and families all benefited greatly from this grant. This year has certainly been unprecedented -- but we are resilient and innovative, and we continue to work to increase access to the arts, meeting our students' needs, and providing arts education to all. The support of the Najim Charitable Foundation ensured Creative Classrooms continued in what became a tumultuous year for arts and culture funding and we cannot thank you enough.

8: Please provide an updated detailed projected budget with expenses for the received grant. Also include the totals for the budgeted and actual amount. Explain any discrepancies between the budgeted and the actual expenses for the project.

Line Item Description	Total Project Funds Allocation	Najim Requested Funds	Project Funds Actual	Najim Funds Allocation
Artists-in-Community, semester stipend (project development, classroom hours, supplies)	\$13,800	\$13,800	\$4,900	\$4,600
Assistants to A-I-C	\$2,400	\$2,400	\$390	\$390
BSC Personnel and Benefits	\$23,192	\$1,450	\$18,508	\$5,010
Creative Classrooms End of Year Exhibition	\$550	\$550	\$0	\$0
Software	\$0	\$0	\$45	\$0
Printing	\$0	\$0	\$120	\$0
TOTAL:	\$39,942	\$18,200	\$23,963	\$10,000

Signature
Elaine Leahy