

FUNDING APPLICATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organization Information

Legal Name: Contemporary Art for San Antonio	Federal Tax ID#: 74-2419615	501(c)(3) Public Charity 509 (a)(1)
Address: 116 Blue Star	City: San Antonio	State: TX
		Zip Code: 78204
Website: www.bluestarcontemporary.org	Fax: (210) 227-6960	United Way Funded: No

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
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Previous Najim Funding

Year	Funding \$
N/A	\$0
Total	\$0

Has the organization applied to the Najim Family Foundation in the past and been declined?

Yes
2008, 2010

Grant Amount Requested \$:	Total Project Budget \$:	Organization's Annual budget \$:
\$10,000	\$24,749	\$976,619

Mission Statement:

Blue Star Contemporary inspires the creative genius in us all by nurturing artists through innovative contemporary art.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Program / Project Title:

To support "Creative Classrooms" in the second and third grade classes, for 110 students, at Bowden Elementary on the East Side of San Antonio.

Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation Priorities:

Education

Program / Project Description:

Creative Classrooms is a Blue Star Contemporary (BSC) program that sites professional artists in K-8 classrooms without access to arts education. As research from the National Endowment on the Arts (NEA) and Stanford University demonstrates, the arts are not a "nice to have" but rather a "need to have," given the direct correlation between long-term academic success and professional growth. BSC's Artists-in-Community (AIC) translate their studio practices into classroom curricula- and TEKS-aligned art projects for all 110 of the second- and third-grade students at Bowden Elementary, building visual literacy through creative, critical, and exploratory thinking.

BSC partnered with Bowden three years ago. Chosen for its close proximity yet underrepresented audience at BSC, Bowden is in the heart of the Eastside Promise Zone neighborhood. The East Side is a historically African-American community that is now home to a majority of Hispanic residents, and, as the Rivard Report describes, "suffer[s] from City disinvestment, high crime rates, low graduation rates, and poverty." The Distressed Communities Index reports that residents in Bowden's 78202 ZIP Code have a 48% poverty rate, and that 37% of residents lack a high school diploma and 46% of adults are unemployed. Currently, 75% of SAISD students are at-risk, 19% are enrolled in ESL classes, and 91% are economically disadvantaged. At Bowden, the statistics are more startling: 81% of students are at-risk, 22% are in ESL classes, and 97% are economically disadvantaged.

We know this program is effective from qualitative and quantitative evaluation. Often, attendance at Bowden can drop as low as 50%. With elementary attendance statistics extrapolated to predict high school graduation rates, this is a staggeringly low number. Proving early intervention works, attendance on "art days" with our Artists-in-Communities reaches 90-100%.

Creative Classrooms projects engage the students' creative impulses and provide healthy self-expression through hands-on activities complementing their public school curricula. For example, the "Sky Squish" project designed by AIC Emily Fleisher from her own sculpture of the same title, encourages students to observe the sky to compose lists of natural and human-made objects. Using found and made objects and discussing materiality, scale, colors, and shape, they create a skyline "squish." Their finished collages featured renderings of clouds, feathers, planes, lightning bolts, rockets, bird, and smoke, while they received a lesson on cirrus, cumulus, and nimbus clouds. Students learn to navigate their world while building visual literacy and solving complex problems through creative thinking.

A key component of the program, and something core to BSC's mission to inspire creative genius by nurturing artists, is that the Artists-in-Community are professional artists who sustain vibrant careers as creatives. Bowden does not have an arts educator on faculty for its K-5 students. Many educators are certified to teach art components in classrooms to satisfy minimum state standards, and typically assign art grades through basic coloring worksheets and similar activities. BSC's Artists-in-Community, Ms. Fleisher and Bernice Appelin-Williams, have advanced fine arts degrees, with decades of professional practice lending expertise in materials, techniques, and theory, which they translate into age-appropriate interactive projects. They serve as role models, demonstrating firsthand that a career as a creative professional is viable and sustainable.

BSC's education staff and AIC participate in Visual Thinking Strategies training, prepare lessons, collect materials, and document the sessions. The AIC communicates with teachers, administrators, and BSC staff. Lesson plans are designed to be understood by non-arts educators, aligned with Fine Arts TEKS guidelines, and shared at BSC in our Art Learning Lab and at bluestarcontemporary.org. Creative Classrooms is in session for 9 weeks each fall and spring semester and culminates in an exhibition of the students' work at BSC's Spring Family Saturday, where parents and students can engage further with our exhibitions and workshops. The program is offered at no cost to the school, whose resources are ever-diminishing.

Research from the NEA, Stanford, and the Texas Cultural Trust proves that students engaged with arts education have standardized test scores 15% higher than their peers not in art classes. At-risk students, like 81% of Bowden students, are half as likely to drop out when they are not in art classes. They are more likely to be college-ready high school graduates. They have better time management, problem solving, communication, and organization skills. They better understand relationships and complex issues; they empathize more and are better able to self-express. They have the creative thinking skills prized by employers, including STEM giants like Google. Ultimately, arts education leads to a confident and engaged class of employees who close the socio-economic gap from previous generations, increase their quality of life, engage in civic processes, contribute to the sustainable growth of their communities, and build strong families.

When students don't attend school, learning and funding decrease. 25% of San Antonio's adult population is functionally illiterate. Early and frequent interaction with the arts can combat these problems, enhancing and expanding students' education path. STEAM education is essential to our community, and Creative Classrooms is a necessary component to help these young students reach their full potential.

Our short-term goals are to expand the program at Bowden to reach all grade levels, and to use the students' art grades, standardized test scores, and attendance to compare to their peers at other schools to gain more information on the program's success. (We rely on administrators, faculty, and state agencies to share this data.) Our long-term goal is to grow the program to reach additional at-risk students in our community.

Evaluation Plan:

BSC solicits qualitative and quantitative evaluative feedback from students, faculty and administrators, and the Artists-in-Community. The data is shared verbally and through more formal surveys. At the end of the last school year, 52 of the 110 participating students completed feedback forms, with 96% reporting they enjoyed the art projects, 86% reporting they will continue to make art, and 62% reporting they now make art at home.

Teachers and the Artists-in-Community reported that attendance rose to 90-100% on "art days." Students were focused on the lessons and passionate about completing them. Destructive behaviors decreased, and conversely, concentration and calmness increased. Students talked to each other about their projects, compared and contrasted their projects with their classmates, and used their new art vocabulary in other subjects.

We rely on the administrators to share empirical data (test scores, attendance, grades) with us to provide additional evaluative measures.

Plans to sustain project beyond the term of this request:

BSC currently receives support from individuals (Edward E Collins III and Penelope Speier), corporations (H-E-B), and foundations (Greehey Family Foundation). Unrestricted income from fundraising events balances the program's current budget.

The growth and the expansion of the program will rely on its proven successes; the program is still in its infancy, and while we have collected some data such as the attendance rate increase, we continue to seek data that will provide more information on Creative Classrooms' outcomes.

Children Impacted:

How many unduplicated children will the TOTAL PROJECT INITIATIVE impact?

110

How many unduplicated children will NFF REQUESTED FUNDS impact?

110

Please provide the percentage of each group below that will be served by the project in which funds are being requested. Do not leave any area blank. If that specific group will not be served, include zero. The percentage should total 100%.

A. Population Served Age		B. Population Served Ethnicity	
Infants (0-5)	0%	African American	10%
Children (6-13)	100%	Asian American	0%
Young Adults (14-18)	0%	Caucasian	2%
TOTAL:	100%	Hispanic/Latino	88%
		Native American	0%
		Other and Define	0%
		TOTAL:	100%

City Council District for Which Children are Being Served:

District2

Line item Budget:

Line Item Description	Total Project Funds Allocation	Najim Funds Allocation
Artists-in-Community, classroom time and project development	\$7,438	\$6,000
BSC personnel and benefits	\$14,371	\$2,100
Students' Materials and Supplies	\$2,000	\$1,500
Visual Thinking Strategies Training	\$440	\$220
Student Exhibition @ BSC Family Saturday	\$500	\$180
TOTAL:	\$24,749	\$10,000

OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES

For Project being Requested: Funding sources and amounts, pending and committed.

PROJECT - PENDING

Funder Name	Amount Requested
The Brown Foundation, Inc. (program-specific funding)	\$5,000
TOTAL:	\$5,000

PROJECT - COMMITTED

Funder Name	Amount Requested
H-E-B (program-specific funding)	\$1,250
Greehey Family Foundation (program-specific funding)	\$5,000
Penelope Speier and Sonny Collins	\$5,000
Charity Ball Association (program-specific funding, equipment)	\$1,000
TOTAL:	\$12,250

Other funding sources and amounts, pending and committed not specific to this request.

ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - PENDING

Funder Name	Amount Requested
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City of San Antonio Department of Arts and Culture Arts Operational (FY19)	\$221,254
San Antonio Area Foundation -- 2019	\$50,000
National Endowment for the Arts (2019-2020)	\$50,000
Alice Kleberg Reynolds Foundation	\$37,500
The Brown Foundation, Inc.	\$55,000
Edaren Foundation	\$25,000
Valero Energy Foundation/Benefit for Children	\$10,000
King William Association	\$10,000
Texas Commission on the Arts FY19	\$6,000
TOTAL:	\$464,754

ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - COMMITTED

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Capital Group	\$15,000
Valero Energy Foundation	\$15,000
Charity Ball Association	\$24,000
Texas Commission on the Arts FY18	\$6,000
Guillermo Nicolas	\$10,000
City of San Antonio Department of Arts and Culture, Arts Operational (FY18)	\$188,000
Fundraising Events (incl. Red Dot and the Big Give, gross)	\$353,699
Lifshutz Family in-kind lease of 116 Blue Star (current annual FMV, committed through 2036)	\$150,000
City of San Antonio Department of Arts and Culture, Berlin Residency Program support	\$7,500
Greehey Family Foundation (other edu programs)	\$5,000
H-E-B and H-E-B Tournament of Champions Trust (other edu programs & capital)	\$36,250
San Antonio Area Foundation -- 2018	\$50,000
Flohr Family Foundation	\$5,000
Kronkosky Charitable Foundation (equipment grant)	\$115,000
Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts (over 2 years 2017/2018)	\$100,000
TOTAL:	\$1,080,449

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

What percentage of your board contributes financially to the organization?
100%
If Board giving is not at 100%, please explain why?
N/A
How are board members expected to participate in your organization?

BSC's Board of Directors, along with the staff, designed BSC's 2015-2020 Strategic Plan, and participates in our annual Implementation Session, which includes a review of the previous year the next year's goal-setting.

Stated responsibilities include:

- Know and articulate BSC's mission;
- Uphold BSC's core values: artist-centric, forward-thinking, inclusive, going beyond expectations and surprising visitors, and educating;
- Attend full meetings (six per year);
- Participate with and/or chair one of six committees;
- Contribute financially;
- Commit time, thought, and effort;
- Support and attend BSC's exhibitions and programs;
- Identify and steward prospective donors or future Board members;
- Hire, support, and advise the Executive Director;
- Maintain confidentiality;
- Accept responsibility for BSC's financial accountability;
- Participate in BSC's fundraising activities;
- Have fun, learn, teach, and share in successes and failures;
- Provide honest, constructive feedback; and
- Connect networks (e.g. Omar Akhil's Brainiac LLC college-readiness mentoring; Joy LeFlore's Jefferson Bank financial tutorial; Ryan Rue's Capital Group Community Action Day volunteers).

LIST OF BOARD DIRECTORS

Name & Office Held	Corporate Affiliation
Sara Ash Jessop, Chair	Aquarius
Kristen Winget Casey, Vice Chair	Educator (Retired)
Omar Akhil, Treasurer; Finance Committee Chair	Vaulkshire Investments; Brainiac LLC
Patrick Attwater	One80 Solar
Charlie Biedenharn	Bakery Lorraine
Cathy Cunningham-Little	Artist
Lauren Kate Holt	Full-time mother, philanthropist
Joy LeFlore	Jefferson Bank
Karen Mahaffy	Artist; St Phillip's College
Catriona Morrison Cavender, Nominating Committee Chair	Hornberger Fuller Garza
Patty Ortiz	Artist; Curator; Educator; Liberty Bar
Jim Poteet	Poteet Architects
Ryan Rue, Development Committee Chair	Capital Group
Andrew Sherwood, Governance Committee Chair	Dykema Cox Smith
Steve Trevino, Building and Facilities Committee Chair	Readers Wholesale
Maritza Vazquez, Programs Committee Chair	Artist
Mike Casey, Emeritus	Attorney (Retired)
Tom Frost III, Emeritus	Frost Bank (Retired)
Mark Watson III, Emeritus	Argo Group

PROJECT TIMELINE

Start Date	End Date
10/01/2018	04/30/2019