FUNDING APPLICATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organization Information

Legal Name:	Federal Tax ID#:	501(c)(3) Public Charity
Youth Code Jam San Antonio	81-1634308	509 (a)(1)

Address:	City:	State:	Zip Code:
14439 NW Military Hwy, Ste. 108, PMB 509	San Antonio	TX	78231

Website:	Fax:	United Way Funded:
youthcodejam.org	(405) 503-6210	No

Fiscal Year:

January 01 to December 31

Head Of Organization

Name:	Title:
Jeff Hawthorn	Board Chair

E-Mail Address:	Phone:
jefeh1665@gmail.com	(210) 669-6911

Application Contact

Name:	Title:	E-Mail Address:	Phone:
Debi Pfitzenmaier	Executive Director	debi@youthcodejam.org	(210) 669-6911

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

Yes
2016

Grant Amount Requested $:	Total Project Budget $:	Organization's Annual budget $:
$28,110	$134,082	$575,000

Mission Statement:

Youth Code Jam provides impactful, family-focused hands-on computing programs for K-12 students as well as teacher professional development designed to bring computer science to every school and every classroom.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Program / Project Title:

To support the development of coding modules, guide books and professional development for the Jam in a Box: Neurodiversity Project.

PROJECT TIMELINE

Start Date	End Date
06/01/2020	05/31/2021

Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation Priorities:

Education

Education Priorities:

Elementary to High School

Program / Project Description:

Najim Charitable Foundation funds will leverage Youth Code Jam's Jam in a Box Project by expanding opportunities for K-8 neurodivergent children (autism, ADHD, sensory processing difficulties, dyspraxia, dyslexia, social anxiety) to engage in computational thinking (CT) and computer programming in a way that catalyzes future learning, while building foundational skills in problem solving, communication, logic and invention.

This funding involves four elements that will overlay all Jam in Box kits: 1) increasing teacher confidence around computing; 2) building teacher understanding of using CT and computing modules for neurodivergent students; 3) engaging families in relevant and meaningful ways in their child's growth and learning; and 4) teaching programming as a way for neurodivergent children to communicate, express ideas and prepare for the future. By taking Youth Code Jam's proven model of family engagement and inclusive participation in computer science (CS) education, we will develop a new guidebook and create coding modules for all Jam in a Box kits, specifically designed to raise awareness of and provide resources for expanding participation of neurodivergent children in CS. In addition, we will specifically develop and pilot Low Sensory Jam in a Box Kits, train teachers and support five schools in hosting their first Jam for neurodiverse students and their families.

Why is this work critical? A 2019 study of Texas special education showed students with mild to moderate learning impairment who lose special education services are 52 percent less likely to graduate from high school and 38 percent less likely to enroll in college than students who remain in SpecEd. These are the ones who are falling through the cracks with low-income students of color hardest hit. These are also often students who - because of their higher functioning neurodiversity - do well in CS, engineering and related fields. But they might not even know technology is a viable career track for them that can be attained with or without a college degree. The researchers indicate the positive impact of supplying resources to this population is "likely as large as that of high-quality early childhood education programs." It seems logical that if we can engage neurodivergent children in computing before entering high school, we can help them build identity and skills that will carry them through high school. Currently, only 3% of Texas students complete a CS class in high school, only 2% choose the STEM Endorsement and less than 9% in CTE classes identify as special education students. But these are areas where neurodivergent students can excel, and we have the opportunity to catalyze their interest and navigate them to CTE and the STEM Endorsement where they can be successful both with and without SpecEd support.

It's a bold goal. But, we have evidence to support this idea. After four years of running our Low Sensory Jam, we've learned that when neurodivergent children are coding, parents report that their behaviors improve (81%), they engage more with others (30%) and are open to learning new things (88%). As a result, the vast majority of our students not only express an interest in learning technology skills (126% increase) but also know the next steps to take to keep learning (86%). Equally important, parents better understand the connection to jobs (75%) and intend to help their child continue to learn these skills (94%). Without this kind of work, too many of these students will never recognize their potential because of a lack of exposure, lack of inclusion and lack of parental support. Together, we can change that.

Building on our successful Jam in a Box Project to provide high-quality professional development to increase engagement for neurodivergent children. Funding from the Najim Charitable Foundation will be used to develop new modules as well as strengthen/expand our existing materials to include specific guidance on designing for neurodiversity. We will also train 10 teacher pairs (one regular, one SpecEd) from five San Antonio area Title One Schools and equip them with the tools, supplies and coaching needed to host a Jam with proper supports for neurodivergent children and parents.

What is a Low Sensory Jam? A Low Sensory Jam is a free, hands-on, family event where children and their significant adults explore, elbow-to-elbow, the creative power of technology in a low sensory environment. It is not your typical STEM night. By riffing off an Agile software development concept, pair programming, we deeply engage families in their child's learning while providing scaffolding for anxiety, first time reluctance, social support and sensory aids. In addition, the coding modules themselves are uniquely designed for neurodifferences. Specifically: they include the capacity for a child who absorbs information very quickly to go both deep and wide, agency for self-directed learning, integration of special interests, visual supports and differentiation for twice exceptional students.

What is in a Low Sensory Jam in a Box?

* detailed, TEKS-aligned activity modules for six coding stations in English and Spanish with 2-3 differentiated activities per station

* related peripherals and supplies for activities

* guidebook with a planning checklist, community and family engagement best practices, and parent resources in English and Spanish

* expanded materials on designing for neurodiversity and sensory supplies

* survey access for data collection

* swag (stickers, etc.)

* personalized teacher coaching and technical support

* teacher access to our private Facebook learning community

* $500/school stipend upon return of data

Youth Code Jam is a TEA-approved provider for teacher continuing professional education.

Evaluation Plan:

We will measure through surveys: intentional recruitment of participation by neurodiverse students (50% increase), improved student attitudes towards computer science (70% increase), increased student and parent knowledge and skills around computer science pathways (45%), increased interest in selecting the STEM Endorsement (25%) and increased interest and confidence in computer science education for neurodiverse students on the part of the teachers who are provided materials and host Low Sensory Jams on their campuses (80%).

Plans to sustain project beyond the term of this request:

Sustainability is based on the ability of a project to run itself without further investment. To this end, we are excited to report the systemic change we see as a result of the Jam in a Box initiative that makes it ultimately sustainable. Over 80% of teachers hosting their first Jam intend to make it an annual event. In addition, schools have indicated that hosting a Jam resulted in increases in the implementation of coding in the classroom during the school day. It's the gift that keeps on giving!

Children Impacted:

How many unduplicated children will the TOTAL PROJECT INITIATIVE impact?	How many unduplicated children will NFF REQUESTED FUNDS impact?
2,800	2,800

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	2%
Children (6-13)	100%	Asian American	2%

Young Adults (14-18)	0%	Caucasian	12%
TOTAL:	**100%**	Hispanic/Latino	74%
		Native American	0%
		Other and Define	10%
		TOTAL:	**100%**

City Council District for Which Children are Being Served:

District2, District5, District7

Line item Budget:

Line Item Description	Total Project Funds Allocation	Najim Funds Allocation
development of TEKS-aligned coding modules with neurodiversity focus	$4,000	$4,000
development of Low Sensory Guidebook with parent resources	$5,000	$5,000
sensory processing expert consultation and review	$500	$500
professional development for teachers on designing for neurodiversity	$3,500	$3,500
professional development for teachers in coding/hosting Jam in a Box	$12,800	$3,500
Teacher coaching and support	$6,430	$805
Program administration	$6,430	$805
Graphic design, marketing, packaging	$6,000	$0
Overall Jam in a Box Kit (35 schools)	$52,500	$0
Neurodiverse Jam in a Box Kit (5 schools)	$7,500	$7,500
Stipends (40 schools)	$20,000	$2,500
Webinar Platform	$165	$0
Indirect Expenses	$9,257	$0
TOTAL:	**$134,082**	**$28,110**

OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES

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

PROJECT - PENDING

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Valero (Jam in a Box Early Childhood funding)	$30,000
H-E-B (Jam in a Box Learn to Code funding)	$27,000
InfyMaker Award competition	$10,000
Najim Charitable Foundation	$28,110

TOTAL:	$95,110

PROJECT - COMMITTED	
Funder Name	**Amount Requested**
The KLE Foundation (year two of four year seed funding)	$80,000
Red River	$7,500
TOTAL:	**$87,500**

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

ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - PENDING	
Funder Name	**Amount Requested**
H-E-B (statewide event funding)	$85,000
Spurs Gives	$10,000
USAA	$26,500
Valero (event funding)	$30,500
TOTAL:	**$152,000**

ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - COMMITTED	
Funder Name	**Amount Requested**
Google Fiber	$35,000
Rackspace	$27,168
Bexar County	$28,990
UTSA	$30,000
Palo Alto Community College	$11,500
Mission EDC	$15,000
TOTAL:	**$147,658**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

What percentage of your board contributes financially to the organization?

100%

If Board giving is not at 100%, please explain why?

How are board members expected to participate in your organization?

Each board member receives a commitment form at the beginning of the year with a variety of ways for them to commit to engage. Required commitments include financially supporting the organization, attending all board meetings and governance/oversight of the organization. In addition, board members are expected to help with donor cultivation and recognition efforts, serve on at least one of six committees, attend Youth Code Jam events and Jams, share our story in the community, make introductions to potential partners, set the strategic direction of the organization and serve as our ambassadors in the community.

LIST OF BOARD DIRECTORS	
Name & Office Held	**Corporate Affiliation**
Rosaland Anderson	retired IBM
Billy Cox	retired Intel
Molly Dupnick, CPA (Board Treasurer)	Kronkosky Charitable Foundation

Janell Guzman	USAA
Jeff Hawthorn (Board Chair)	BBVA Compass
Bill Kanyusik	retired Capital Group
Shama Kapasi	self employed
Loretta Kerner	CPS Energy
Robert Parker, MD (Immediate Past Chair)	UT Health
Farhan Patwa	UTSA Institute for Cybersecurity
Kimberly Sama	UP Partnership
Samar Shah	Shah IP Law, PLLC
Marty Sixkiller	H-E-B
Chris Turner (Board Secretary)	Turner Logic
Kevin Wooton, BGen (ret) USAF (Board Vice Chair)	Wooton Consulting
Signature	
Debi Pfitzenmaier	