

# FUNDING APPLICATION

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Organization Information

<b>Legal Name:</b> Musical Bridges Around the World, Inc.		<b>Federal Tax ID#:</b> 74-2891493		<b>501(c)(3) Public Charity</b> 509 (a)(1)	
<b>Address:</b> 23705 IH-10 West, Suite 101		<b>City:</b> San Antonio		<b>State:</b> TX	
				<b>Zip Code:</b> 78257	
<b>Website:</b> www.musicalbridges.org		<b>Fax:</b> (210) 725-1137		<b>United Way Funded:</b> No	

**Fiscal Year:**  
September 01 to August 31

### Head Of Organization

<b>Name:</b> Anya Grokhovski		<b>Title:</b> Artistic Director/CEO	
<b>E-Mail Address:</b> musbridges@hotmail.com		<b>Phone:</b> (518) 578-5582	

### Application Contact

<b>Name:</b> Diana Tatu		<b>Title:</b> Office Manager		<b>E-Mail Address:</b> diana.mbaw@gmail.com		<b>Phone:</b> (210) 900-3081	
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**Has the organization applied to the Najim Family Foundation in the past and been declined?**  
Yes  
May 17, 2016

<b>Grant Amount Requested \$:</b> \$50,000	<b>Total Project Budget \$:</b> \$280,000	<b>Organization's Annual budget \$:</b> \$1,431,500
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**Mission Statement:**  
MBAW is a 22-year-old nonprofit organization with the mission to transform lives through multicultural performing and visual arts by shattering barriers, creating connectivity and inspiring hope for those with least access.

## PROJECT INFORMATION

**Program / Project Title:**  
Musical Sprouts: an original educational program and research project integrating music and arts into STEAM education for underserved elementary school students.

### PROJECT TIMELINE

<b>Start Date</b> 09/01/2020	<b>End Date</b> 05/31/2021
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**Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation Priorities:**  
Education

**Education Priorities:**

**Program / Project Description:**

Musical Bridges Around the World (MBAW) respectfully requests \$50,000 to support a full time Educational Researcher for Musical Sprouts (Sprouts), an innovative educational program and original research project that introduces children to faraway cultures and tests the effectiveness of arts-enhanced curricula on learning of science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM).

**Musical Sprouts - Overview**

Sprouts was born 4 years ago out of a need. MBAW was approached by principals from Southwest Independent School District to create classroom curricula to take students out of cultural isolation, introduce them to the world outside their classroom, and teach state-required STEAM content through music and art. SWISD's enrollment is 90% Hispanic, with more than 70% considered at risk, and 82.4% economically disadvantaged (Texas Education Agency). Sprouts expands upon MBAW's 20-year-old Kids to Concerts community engagement program, which introduces 50,000+ San Antonio children annually to faraway cultures through music and dance. Sprouts adds a 5 lesson plan curriculum developed by curriculum experts to accompany each of the culturally specific performances. The program was designed as a research project by researchers at University of Texas Health Science Center of San Antonio (UTHSC) and The South Central Area Health Education Center (AHEC) to measure the impact of this arts-integrated approach to teaching STEAM on learning outcomes, cultural awareness and emotional wellbeing over time.

**The Need**

At 15.4% the San Antonio metropolitan area has the highest poverty rate in the country out of the 25 largest metro areas (US Census, 2019). More than half of Bexar County residents are unable to afford the basic necessities of housing, food, child care, health care, and transportation (<https://www.uwtexas.org/alice-texas>). This difficulty is felt disproportionately by Hispanic and African American families, and even more so by children. More than 1 in 5 Bexar County children live below the federal poverty level (US Census).

Education is one of the most important factors leading children out of poverty; however, disadvantaged students consistently score lower on state-required reading and math tests (KidsCount). SA2020's review of test scores bears that out. A growing body of research shows that arts education closes the gap, particularly for disadvantaged students. When students with low socioeconomic status have a high exposure to the arts, they are 5 times less likely to drop out of school, and twice as likely to go to college ([tinyurl.com/r2my8v3](http://tinyurl.com/r2my8v3).) Integrated arts education improves academic, cognitive, social and civic outcomes for elementary school-aged children in particular. The San Antonio Area Foundation reported at-risk and low income youth often miss out on opportunities for meaningful exposure to the arts.

Musical Sprouts addresses critical educational needs for disadvantaged children in San Antonio.

Cuts to the arts in public education has resulted in the loss of an effective tool for teaching underprivileged children. For the pilot project, MBAW selected schools in City Council District 4, which encompass San Antonio's poorest zip code, with a 39.8% poverty rate (US Census). 90% of the public school students in SSISD, where most Sprouts schools are located, are Hispanic and 82% are economically disadvantaged (TEA). MBAW began with 3rd grade because that is the first year of standardized testing. In this way, Sprouts promotes innovation in teaching TEKS-required STEAM content to students who need it the most at the age when it is most impactful.

Through its research component, Sprouts contributes to a field of study aimed at improving learning outcomes, cultural awareness and emotional wellbeing for all children. Sprouts' longitudinal research design adds to a growing body of knowledge about best practices for teaching STEAM. Additionally, very little research has been conducted on the impact of art-integration on mental health and wellness. Paula Winkeler, M.Ed. Director of South Central AHEC, UTHSC leads Sprouts' assessment of emotional health. In this way, Sprouts inquires into the importance of art in education for a number of factors impacting overall quality of life for children.

Sprouts opens the world to culturally isolated students, disrupting the influence of negative media stereotypes. Through Sprouts, children are introduced to three new cultures each school year. Giving San Antonio children an opportunity to experience the world through contact with authentic, world-class artists, MBAW makes the understanding and appreciation of other cultures a personal experience. MBAW wants to ensure children learn to appreciate other cultures and embrace the diversity that increasingly characterizes our community. In this way, Sprouts helps foster a culturally inclusive community embracing the diversity and interconnectedness of San Antonio with the rest of the world.

Findings from the three-year pilot (2017-2019) and data collected from the first segment in 2019 demonstrate that Sprouts is improving learning of STEAM subjects, cultural awareness and is having a positive influence on children's emotions and feelings. Based on this success, in 2019, MBAW received a High Impact Grant from Impact San Antonio to continue and expand Musical Sprouts. MBAW was the only Arts organization to receive the High Impact Grant that year. This grant enables Sprouts to expand from 4 to 10 schools, and from one grade level per school each year to grades 1-5 in each school simultaneously for 2 years. MBAW continues working with researchers at UTHSC and UTSA to redesign the research and quantitatively measure the impact. The study has been approved by the internal Review Board at UTSA. The results will be published nationally.

**Evaluation Plan:**

The three-year longitudinal study (2019-2022) investigates the impact of Musical Sprouts on children's mental health and cultural awareness. The data collection includes a pre-assessment and a pre-survey given to the students a week before the concert and a post-assessment and a post-survey a week after the fifth STEAM lesson. The pre and post-assessment consists of 15 questions assessing students' STEAM content knowledge and skills. The survey consists of Likert-scale and open-ended items measuring students' learning of STEAM, culture, and emotions. The project uses a mixed-methods research design and collects quantitative and qualitative data from 500 students. Descriptive statistics and difference in difference regression analysis will be used to analyze the quantitative data. Three-cycle coding techniques will be used for qualitative data analysis. The quantitative and qualitative results will then be triangulated to evaluate the program impact.

**Plans to sustain project beyond the term of this request:**

The research aspect of this project is crucial for the quality and credibility of this program and needs to be delivered on a professional level that is only possible with a full time Educational Researcher position. The position will have to be funded by philanthropic institutions that believe in the importance of this program, based on the results of the pilot study accumulated during the 2020-2021 school year. Based on preliminary results and feedback from the teachers and principals this program is greatly needed and needs to be scaled citywide, statewide and nationwide. MBAW is actively seeking support not only from foundations that support the arts, but also from foundations and individuals interested in maximizing all effective educational tools and methodologies for reaching disadvantaged children to help them succeed in life.

**Children Impacted:**

<b>How many unduplicated children will the TOTAL PROJECT INITIATIVE impact?</b>	<b>How many unduplicated children will NFF REQUESTED FUNDS impact?</b>
4,827	4,827

**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%.**

<b>A. Population Served Age</b>		<b>B. Population Served Ethnicity</b>	
Infants (0-5)	0%	African American	10%
Children (6-13)	100%	Asian American	1%
Young Adults (14-18)	0%	Caucasian	25%
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>100%</b>	Hispanic/Latino	63%

Native American	1%
Other and Define	0%
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>100%</b>

**City Council District for Which Children are Being Served:**

District4, District5, Outside San Antonio

**Counties applicant is in:**

Bexar

**Line item Budget:**

Line Item Description	Total Project Funds Allocation	Najim Funds Allocation
Salaries, wages and benefits	\$80,500	\$0
Consultants & Professional Fees	\$129,000	\$50,000
Facilities and Occupancy	\$9,000	\$0
Equipment and Supplies	\$20,500	\$0
Program Supplies and Expense	\$26,000	\$0
Vehicle Expense	\$5,000	\$0
Insurance	\$10,000	\$0
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$280,000</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>

**OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES**

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

**PROJECT - PENDING**

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Greehey/NuStar (We will apply March 2020 for school year 2021)	\$50,000
Valero (for FY2021)	\$25,000
HEB (for FY 2021)	\$15,000
Rack Space (for FY2021)	\$10,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>

**PROJECT - COMMITTED**

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Impact San Antonio	\$100,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>

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

**ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - PENDING**

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Brown Foundation (FY2021)	\$60,000
Elizabeth Huth Coates (FY2021)	\$25,000
Marietta K. Randall (FY2021)	\$7,500
Nancy Hurd Foundation (FY2021)	\$100,000
Stieren Kelso Foundation (FY2021)	\$35,000

Charity Ball (FY2021)	\$10,000
Texas Commission on the Arts - Arts Respond (FY2021)	\$11,000
HEB (FY2021)	\$20,000
San Antonio Area Foundation (FY2021)	\$25,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$293,500</b>
<b>ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - COMMITTED</b>	
<b>Funder Name</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>
City of San Antonio	\$125,000
Bexar County	\$50,000
Texas Commission on the Arts	\$18,790
National Endowment for the Arts	\$25,000
Japan Foundation	\$4,000
TCA Art Works Economic Development	\$3,500
Kronkosky Charitable Foundation	\$125,000
Russell Hill Rogers Fund for the Arts	\$50,000
Minnie Steven Piper	\$5,000
City Council Project Funds	\$6,500
Dr. Eric Miller for Ds on Keys Fundraiser	\$15,000
Chuck Parrish	\$25,000
Joan and Herb Kelleher Charitable Foundation	\$10,000
Wellmed Charitable Foundation	\$3,000
Braverman Family Charitable Foundation	\$5,000
SWBC Foundation	\$25,000
San Antonio Area Foundation	\$2,500
The Willard and Anne Levin Foundation	\$1,500
The American Online Giving Foundation	\$2,000
Muriel F Siebert Foundation	\$5,000
HEB Tournament of Champions Charitable Trust	\$15,000
McCrea Foundation	\$2,500
Charles Butt Charitable Foundation	\$20,000
Precision Spine and Pain Management	\$1,500
Texriver, Inc	\$1,500
Franklin Apartment Management LTD	\$13,400
Fidelity Charitable	\$1,200
Dryden Labs LLC	\$1,000
Raba Kistner	\$10,000
The Gambrinus Company	\$2,500
CAR-X Auto Service	\$350

Fastsigns	\$3,000
Franklin Templeton Investments	\$2,500
SCHWAB Charitable	\$500
Unintech Consulting Engineers, Inc.	\$5,000
WestEast Design Group	\$2,500
Trianon Properties LLC	\$5,000
Fidelity Brokerage Services LLC	\$500
Avanzar Interior Technologies	\$10,000
YourCause, LLC Trustee for BBVA Compass Charity	\$380
MACSA - Musical Arts Center of San Antonio	\$15,000
Eventbrite	\$2,685
Facebook	\$826
Amazon Smile	\$15
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$623,646</b>

## **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?**

MBAW has an active and 100% financially contributing Board of Directors representing a variety of professions and cultural backgrounds, and range in age from early thirties to sixties. The organization's governing body includes: Bangladeshi, Puerto Rican, African Americans, Mexicans, Russians, a Ukrainian, Brazilian and local San Antonians. Directors embrace and expand upon the ethnic diversity present within the organization through outreach to professional, cultural, and neighborhood groups. Professions represented on the board include: law, medicine, dentistry, banking, business, hospitality and academia. Directors participate in Quarterly meetings as well as fundraising and program development through involvement on a number of standing and ad hoc committees. Standing committees include the Executive, Board Governance, Planned Giving, Marketing and Community Outreach, Gala, Investment & Finance, Kids to Concerts, Musical Sprouts and FineTunerz. Evaluation and feedback is ongoing and is conducted formally at regular intervals through mechanisms provided by the San Antonio Area Foundation.

## **LIST OF BOARD DIRECTORS**

<b>Name &amp; Office Held</b>	<b>Corporate Affiliation</b>
Eric Miller, MD, Chair	Central Texas Pain Center
Charles Parrish, Co-Chair	Tesoro Corporation (now Andeavor)
Arseni Grokhovski, Esq.	Tesoro Corporation (now Andeavor)
Bryan Helbert	Raba Kistner, Inc.
Paul Martin	Martin Capital Advisors
Fatima Winsborough	Luminous Counseling Center
Rafael J. Veraza, M.P.H.	Global Direction Consultants
Awilda I. Ramos, MD	Pediatrics, New Braunfels, TX
Adriana L. Flores	Alamo Music

Yurii D. Borshch, MD	Precision Spine and Pain Management
Susan C. Franklin	Franklin Companies
Vernon Haney	HEB Grocery
Luci Harty	CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER(TM) Professional
Crisarla Houston	Texas A&M University-San Antonio
Waheeda Kara	Muslim Cultural Heritage Society
Leticia Van de Putte	Andrade-VandePutte & Associates
Jaime Waltman Cooke	JLen Events
Stan Zebrowski, MD	Northwood Dental Spa
Jenifer Brown	Sendero
Dominic Adnerson	Schwab
Tim Quigley	Sister Cities International Foundation
<b>Signature</b> Anya Grokhovski	