

Funding Application

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organization Information

Legal Name: National Audubon Society, Inc. dba Audubon Texas		Federal Tax ID#: 13-1624102		501(c)(3) Public Charity	
Address: 10750 Pleasanton Rd	City: San Antonio	State: TX		Zip Code: 78221	
Website: mitchelllake.audubon.org		Fax: (210) 628-1639		United Way Funded: Yes	

Head Of Organization

Name: Suzanne Langley	Title: Executive Director Audubon Texas, Vice President National Audubon Society
E-Mail Address: slangley@audubon.org	Phone: (214) 370-9735

Application Contact

Name: Shannon Guthrie	Title: Statewide Grants Associate	E-Mail Address: sguthrie@audubon.org	Phone: (214) 370-9735
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Previous Najim Funding

Year	Funding \$
2009	\$5,000.00

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

Yes
2014, 2015, and 2016

Grant Amount Requested \$:	Total Project Budget \$:	Organization's Annual budget \$:
\$15,000	\$203,226	\$3,529,304

Mission Statement:

Mitchell Lake Audubon Center's mission is to connect people nature through conservation and community education focused on birds and their habitats.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Program / Project Title:

Nature of Learning at Mitchell Lake Audubon Center

Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation Priorities:

Education

Program / Project Description:

A recent survey by the Kaiser Family Foundation revealed that children between the ages of 8 and 18 spend less than thirty minutes a day outside. This emerging "nature deficit disorder" among children is linked to epidemic rises in childhood obesity, increasing allergies, poor academic performance, and social and cognitive delays. The causes of our cultural disconnect from nature are varied: a lack of time outside due to overuse of electronic media, parental fear of crime and stranger danger, urban and suburban planning that eliminates open and unstructured play spaces, and the risks of nature itself. Audubon's educational programs get children out in nature and expose them to the native habitats of their city through programs like Mitchell Lake's four-hour long Nature of Learning program. This time spent in nature is a difficult experience to find for many children from disadvantaged communities; it inspires students to care for the habitats around them and is essential to cognitive development.

Mitchell Lake Audubon Center's priority is educating San Antonio youth through the Nature of Learning program, which connects school children to the environment through hands-on experiential science covering topics in climate, wetlands, animal adaptations, and the scientific method. Nature of Learning advances children's education by focusing on strengthening science and critical thinking skills in a creative, interactive setting where science can be experienced by students first-hand. Mitchell Lake collaborates with area school districts on curriculum development and to provide teacher training. Nature of Learning is aligned to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for science, providing students with real world mastery of these standards.

During Nature of Learning, students work together in groups, building important social and emotional skills. Further, Nature of Learning field trips are physically active, taking children on outdoor hikes through the wetlands, prairies, and brushlands of Mitchell Lake. Our students cultivate curiosity about their local environment, develop comfort in outdoor recreation, and grow pride in the place they live.

After a day out in the field exploring local habitats, students take their discoveries back to their classrooms and communities. For example, students explore water conservation, their responsibility to conserve water in their own homes, and the effects of water conservation on the habitats they observe at Mitchell Lake. We encourage the students to continue their explorations of nature by getting outside in their own neighborhoods. The delight experienced by a child who likely never experiences nature outside an urban setting when they see a frog or turtle in its natural home inspires us all.

A successful program promotes the acquisition of science skills as they align with TEKS or school curriculum and encourages student affinity with nature. Moving students outside to study STEM concepts in new, relevant environment can increase learning and test scores. Hands-on science learning encourages student curiosity and interest in science, inspiring long-term interest in STEM fields. We will measure program impact by number of students reached, which school district the students represent, and average income level of the school district. Teachers evaluate the effect of our program on student classwork after each program through a post-program survey.

The 4,201 students served by Mitchell Lake Audubon Center over the 2016-2017 school year had the following demographics: 85% Hispanic, 8% Caucasian, 4% African American, 1% Asian, and 1% two or more ethnicities; 81% economically disadvantaged. 70% of students served are from traditionally low income or Title 1 schools. During the 2017- 2018 academic year, we plan to increase our reach to 5,000 students, maintaining at least 50% from underserved audiences and/or Title 1 schools.

San Antonio Water System (Mitchell Lake Audubon Center's landowner), over the course of the last few years, has seen an increase in the value of our education programs and the positive feedback from science teachers at multiple grade levels. After hearing the positive feedback, they decided to focus their mini-grants to teachers towards Mitchell Lake Audubon Center. SAWS determined that Mitchell Lake's wetland program "Wet & Wild" best aligned with the needs of students. Instead of teachers applying for a mini-grant (up to \$2,000) for use at a variety of museums and programs across the city, all SAWS mini-grants to teachers are now for field trips to Mitchell Lake, to be used however teachers need most, whether that be transportation or program cost.

Mitchell Lake Audubon Center respectfully requests \$15,000 from the Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation to support Nature of Learning environmental educational programming. Together, we can continue to make a difference in the lives of San Antonio children and provide them the tools they need to be stewards of their environment.

Evaluation Plan:

The success of Mitchell Lake's Nature of Learning program will be determined by the number of students served, school districts represented, and the average income level of those school districts. Additionally, Mitchell Lake requests that participating teachers complete a post-program survey assessing program value and content. A successful program sees at least 90% of teachers report that Nature of Learning strengthened their students' science skills, encouraged science inquiry, and increased student critical thinking skills. A successful program also sees at least 90% of teachers report that Mitchell Lake programs addressed TEKS and met grade expectations, are worth the out-of-classroom time, and that the teachers would recommend the program to another teacher.

Plans to sustain project beyond the term of this request:

Beyond the term of this request, Nature of Learning will be supported through foundation, individual, and corporate contributions, as well as through earned revenue. Mitchell Lake Audubon Center will continue to submit grant funding requests to other foundations in support of this program.

Children Impacted:

How many unduplicated children will the TOTAL PROJECT INITIATIVE impact?	How many unduplicated children will NFF REQUESTED FUNDS impact?
5,000	5,000

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	4%
Children (6-13)	97%	Asian American	1%
Young Adults (14-18)	3%	Caucasian	8%
TOTAL:	100%	Hispanic/Latino	85%
		Native American	0%
		Other and Define	2%
		TOTAL:	100%

City Council District for Which Children are Being Served:

District1, District2, District3, District4, District5, District6, District7, District8, District9, District10

Line item Budget:

Line Item Description	Total Project Funds Allocation	Najim Funds Allocation
Education Staff Salaries & Benefits	\$128,860	\$7,000
Pre-Program Prep Supplies & Materials	\$10,935	\$3,000
Classroom Education In-Class Supplies	\$10,562	\$3,000
Travel & Mileage	\$2,400	\$1,000
Teacher Training & Community Outreach	\$7,000	\$0
Volunteer Training & Coordination	\$8,210	\$0
Program Evaluation	\$5,075	\$1,000
Internet & Communications (iPad plan included)	\$2,100	\$0
Printing & Postage (including education journals)	\$7,400	\$0
Facility Operations, Insurance & Maintenance	\$20,684	\$0
TOTAL:	\$203,226.00	\$15,000.00

OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES

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

PROJECT - PENDING

Funder Name	Amount Requested
SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund	\$25,000
Julie Stacey	\$30,000
H-E-B	\$30,000
TOTAL:	\$85,000.00

PROJECT - COMMITTED

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Stumberg Foundation	\$5,000
V.H. McNutt Memorial Foundation	\$7,500
Orr Family Foundation	\$10,000
Faye & William Cowden Charitable Foundation	\$15,000
Andeavor	\$25,000
TOTAL:	\$62,500.00

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

ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - PENDING

Funder Name	Amount Requested
John L. Santikos Charitable Foundation	\$200,000
TOTAL:	\$200,000.00

ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - COMMITTED

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Valero	\$5,000
Southstar Communities	\$10,000
Toyota MMTI	\$10,000
TOTAL:	\$25,000.00

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

What percentage of your board contributes financially to the organization?

100%

How are board members expected to participate in your organization?

Mitchell Lake Audubon Center advisory board members are expected to contribute \$1,000 to the center annually. Additionally, board members are expected to give insight and ideas for optimal center operations and programming.

LIST OF BOARD DIRECTORS

Name	Corporate Affiliation
Anne Parrish, Board Chair	Bexar Audubon Society
Delaney Kempf, Youth Liaison	Student
Helen Groos	Former CPA
Patsy Inglet	San Antonio Audubon Society
Scott Matkin	AT&T

Richard Middleton	Northeast ISD (former Superintendent)
Dana Nichols	SAWS
Frank Santucci	Oblate School of Theology
Jose Rodolfo Valdez Barillas	Texas A&M University San Antonio
Kimberly Gutierrez	CPS
SAmuel Fischer	Ozona Bank