

Funding Application

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organization Information

Legal Name: San Antonio Botanical Garden Society, Inc		Federal Tax ID#: 74-2178792		501(c)(3) Public Charity 509 (a)(1)	
Address: PO Box 6569	City: San Antonio	State: TX		Zip Code: 78209	
Website: www.sabot.org		Fax: (210) 536-1400		United Way Funded: No	

Head Of Organization

Name: Bob Brackman	Title: Executive Director
E-Mail Address: john.brackman@sanantonio.gov	Phone: (210) 536-1401

Application Contact

Name: Karen Kimbell	Title: Director of Development	E-Mail Address: kkimbell@sabot.org	Phone: (210) 536-1406
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Has the organization applied to the Najim Family Foundation in the past and been declined?

Yes
Spring 2017

Grant Amount Requested \$:	Total Project Budget \$:	Organization's Annual budget \$:
\$25,000	\$75,922	\$2,925,316

Mission Statement:

To inspire people to connect to the plant world and understand the importance of plants in our lives.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Program / Project Title:

Nature Play and Activity Leaders

Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation Priorities:

Medical Needs

Program / Project Description:

Richard Louv's groundbreaking 2005 book, *Last Child in the Woods*, brought to light the physical and cognitive effects associated with the lack of outdoor experience that is so prevalent among today's children. Coined "Nature Deficit Disorder," this chronic disconnection from nature is associated with childhood obesity, diabetes, attention-deficit disorder, myopia, depression, heightened aggression, stress, poor school performance, and decreased cognitive ability. At the same time, medical and scholarly research supports that unscripted exploratory play in backyards, neighborhoods and natural environments increases children's cognitive flexibility, creativity, problem-solving, self-esteem, self-discipline, school achievement, and sense of independence. Today's children and families are missing the experiences in nature which are crucial to developing healthy bodies and minds, and to developing a sense of place – a critical foundation for future stewardship ethics.

The San Antonio Botanical Garden is a natural and critical partner in efforts to engage children in the natural world. Local school systems need access to high quality outdoor learning environments and educational programs to help students meet state education standards. Families need support as they learn together about the importance of plants and how time spent in nature can improve their health, wellness, and social connections.

With the new Family Adventure Garden opening March 3, the Botanical Garden has a safe, interactive nature play environment aimed at connecting children and families to nature for their health and happiness. While the aim of the Family Adventure Garden is child-initiated learning through curiosity, risk taking, discovery and exploration in nature, programatically we will employ innovative strategies to help prompt the play. Young children use their innate curiosity to question, explore, and learn through play, using the scientific method whether they are aware of it or not. However, research tells us that a child's lifelong connection to nature is borne of two influences: frequent opportunities for unscripted play and exploration outside, and an adult companion or mentor to share in that experience. Research also shows that adults may not know how to participate in that outdoor experience with their child, and that some are fearful of the natural world. While Family Adventure Garden components are intuitively fun and inviting for grownups as well as children, the Garden has hired Nature Play and Activity Leaders in the Family Adventure Garden to provide guidance and support to foster healthy outdoor play and learning in the Garden. Successful in many public spaces in the U.S. and in other countries, Play and Activity Leaders are trained and skilled in both environmental education and early childhood education. They understand and appreciate the link between playing and learning and will provide play and educational activities for visitors to enjoy, including programming aimed at the youngest visitors who may gain the most from their Family Adventure Garden visits. These Leaders facilitate frequent, positive experiences in nature to encourage familiarity, respect, and sense of membership in a natural community. Free choice and creative expression are encouraged. Play and Activity Leaders model behaviors to encourage caregiver or family engagement with the child and suggest strategies to extend learning and provide nature-based play experiences at home. The Garden has modeled best practices guided by extensive research on this topic to ensure high-quality curriculum and ultimate program success. This programmatic complement to the interactive design of the Family Adventure Garden is a strategy to guarantee deep impact – healthier, happier children and families and future stewards of the environment.

Evaluation Plan:

A Visitor Survey will be developed as a primary evaluation tool. Questions will assess environmental attitudes focusing on appreciation of nature and the environment as well as on perceived benefits and value for activities facilitated by Nature Play Leaders. Additionally, families will be invited to take a Nature Play Pledge in which they commit to spending time outdoors enjoying nature as a family. They will receive targeted Nature Play emails that will serve as an important extension tool to allow the Garden to assess their nature play at home. The Garden will track the number of visitors who engage in the Family Adventure Garden each year by tracking attendance on specific days each month in order to calculate an estimated total attendance in the Family Adventure Garden.

Plans to sustain project beyond the term of this request:

We will continue to seek grant and corporate funding in support of Nature Play and Activity Leaders. In addition, as visitation to the Garden grows in response to the appeal of the Family Adventure Garden, admission and membership revenue will help offset the cost of the Nature Play and Activity Leaders.

Children Impacted:

How many unduplicated children will the TOTAL PROJECT INITIATIVE impact?

70,000

How many unduplicated children will NFF REQUESTED FUNDS impact?

17,500

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)	30%	African American	2%
Children (6-13)	60%	Asian American	1%
Young Adults (14-18)	10%	Caucasian	70%
TOTAL:	100%	Hispanic/Latino	27%
		Native American	0%
		Other and Define	0%
		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	
Staffing	\$48,162	\$20,500	
Supplies	\$4,500	\$4,500	
Uniforms	\$360	\$0	
Marketing	\$15,000	\$0	
Overhead	\$7,900	\$0	
TOTAL:	\$75,922.00	\$25,000.00	

OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES

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

PROJECT - PENDING

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Brown Foundation	\$25,000
Hearst Foundations	\$25,000
TOTAL:	\$50,000.00

PROJECT - COMMITTED

Funder Name	Amount Requested
	\$
TOTAL:	\$0.00

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

ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - PENDING

Funder Name	Amount Requested
San Antonio Area Foundation	\$500,000
Coates Energy	\$250,000
Amy Shelton McNutt Trust	\$150,000
NorthPark	\$30,000
Kleberg Foundation	\$25,000
USAA	\$25,000
Charity Ball	\$13,125
San Antonio Livestock Exposition	\$12,500
Wells Fargo	\$10,000
Southwest Exteriors	\$1,000
TOTAL:	\$1,016,625.00

ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - COMMITTED

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Gretchen Swanson Charitable Foundation	\$35,000
Dickson Allen Foudation	\$25,000
Andeaveor	\$25,000
H-E-B	\$17,500
Luther King Capital Management	\$10,000
Russell Hill Rogers Fund for the Arts	\$10,000
FetchMD	\$1,000
TOTAL:	\$123,500.00

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

What percentage of your board contributes financially to the organization?

100%

How are board members expected to participate in your organization?

The Board of the San Antonio Botanical Garden Society is highly engaged in governance, fundraising, programming, outreach and strategic planning. Each board member is expected to serve on a committee of their choice (Development, Finance, Board Management, Buildings and Gardens, Science and Education, or Planning), hold an active Garden membership, contribute both to annual operations and the capital campaign, participate in each of the four quarterly board meetings, and nominate new board members.

LIST OF BOARD DIRECTORS

Name	Corporate Affiliation
Claire Alexander	None
Bennett Allison	Sol Schwartz & Associates
Candace Andrews	None
Tisha Beck	Jason's Deli
Lauren Browning	Cafe Cita
Kristen Casey	None
Sarah Cochran	Cochran and Company
Courtney Collins	Texas Public Radio
Pat Deely	Atlee Development
Caroleene Dobson	Dykema Cox Smith
Elizabeth Eades	None
Roberto Espinosa	Northwestern Mutual
Magdalena Gaona	None
Susan Ghertner	None - Retired H-E-B
Stanley Goldman	Northwestern Mutual
Jim Greenwood	Retired Valero
Karen Greenwood	None
Linda Gunter	Linda Gunter Medical
Pam Howard	Pamela F. Howard Cattle
Robin Howard	None
Erika Ivanyi	Capital Group Companies
Madison Marceau	LYND Residential Properties
Carlos Moreno	THW Design
Linde Murphy	M.E. Allison & Co. Inc.
Belinda Nixon	None
Michael Posey	RSM US LLP
Janet Putman	None
Dennis Quinn	Quinn Family Business Consultants
Allen Sikes	Silver Ventures
Michael Swanson	H-E-B
John Troy	John S. Troy Landscape Architect
Bette Vexler	None
Michael wargovich	UT Health Science Center
Julie Wilkinson	Actinver Casa del Bosa and South Texas Cuisine

Julie Zacher	None
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