

FUNDING APPLICATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organization Information

Legal Name: Bexar Land Trust		Federal Tax ID#: 74-2884531		501(c)(3) Public Charity 509 (a)(1)	
Address: 108 East Mistletoe		City: San Antonio		State: TX	
				Zip Code: 78212	
Website: www.greensatx.org		Fax: (210) 222-8430		United Way Funded: No	

Fiscal Year: January 01 to December 31
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Head Of Organization

Name: Douglas W. Dillow		Title: Chief Executive Officer	
E-Mail Address: doug@greensatx.org		Phone: (210) 222-8430	

Application Contact

Name: Carra Garza	Title: Picture Your World Program Manager	E-Mail Address: development@greensatx.org	Phone: (210) 222-8022
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Has the organization applied to the Najim Family Foundation in the past and been declined? No

Grant Amount Requested \$: \$10,000	Total Project Budget \$: \$42,500	Organization's Annual budget \$: \$539,200
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Mission Statement: Our mission is to sustain the natural environment and enhance urban spaces through land conservation, community engagement and education.
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PROJECT INFORMATION

Program / Project Title: Picture Your World Youth Photography Program

PROJECT TIMELINE

Start Date 09/01/2020	End Date 06/30/2021
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Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation Priorities: Education

Education Priorities: Elementary to High School

Program / Project Description:

Numerous studies have shown the mental and physical benefits of time spent in nature. With the onset of Covid-19, subsequent stay at home orders, and social distance requirements this issue has accelerated. Now more than ever, there is a greater sense of urgency to connect children, families, and communities to nature as a source of resilience and relief from life's uncertainties. Children especially have much to gain from time spent in nature. Research shows that spending time in nature enhances educational outcomes by improving children's academic performance, focus, behavior and love of learning. Unfortunately, for many underrepresented groups, access and opportunities to enjoy nature are a challenge. In a recent survey by the Trust for Public Land (TPC) Parkscore, San Antonio, ranked in the 15th percentile in community access to green spaces with only 36% of residents living within a 10 minute walk to a natural park or green space. All children, regardless of background, deserve equitable access and opportunities to connect with nature.

Since 2002, Green Spaces Alliance's Picture Your World Youth Photography Program (PYW) has connected youth to the natural world with the camera lens. Through weekend workshops, outreach programming for Title 1 elementary schools and a citywide nature photography exhibition, PYW encourages a creative approach to digital photography while advocating a personal connection to nature and promoting environmental stewardship. Targeted toward youth ages 8-18, PYW provides digital cameras, photography instruction, and outdoor learning for youth and families at local parks or natural areas. In bringing families and underserved schools to both new and familiar green spaces, the program forms education partnerships with outside conservation groups. Seeing nature through a camera lens is a magical experience, and one that each child can achieve individually. Photographing our land and the flora and fauna that live there motivates youth to follow their curiosity and spend more time outdoors.

While much has changed these past months, the mission of Green Space Alliance has not. The goal is to maintain our historic minimum outreach of 300 unduplicated youth per year. However, we will adapt and remain flexible to address the current Covid-19 situation. Program staff will collaborate with parents, teachers, and conservation partners adjusting previous years workshop format to prioritize the health and safety at all times. The program will assist our school partners in their post COVID educational delivery plans. Workshops will take place both on-line in virtual classrooms for up to 100 students, and on-location, with limited attendance so social distance guidelines can be maintained safely. Of the 30 workshops planned, 8 will outreach the general public of youth ages 8-18, and 22 workshops are specific to the 5th grade students at 5 contracted title one elementary schools in the San Antonio ISD. From September 2020 to April 2021, Picture Your World will host a monthly "Discover Your Parks" series that showcases a local park or natural area to explore and photograph. The Program Manager and a professional photographer will provide on-line learning opportunities in the form of digital photography classes, art making demonstrations, and photography review sessions. Currently, the program has an inventory of 32 point and shoot digital cameras available. Any student needing access to a camera can borrow one from our library to use on the trail. PYW will partner with the Alamo Area Master Naturalist and host conservation staff for guided interpretive hikes on-location, or on-line learning. In May 2021, the program will host a spring citywide nature photography exhibition open to all youth throughout the city ages 8-18. As a juried show, the exhibition recognizes achievement, and promotes community awareness about conservation, inviting youth to creatively participate in that larger dialogue. The 30 winning photos are exhibited at public locations around the city.

The Program Manager ensures that students retain their photos following any workshop event. Students are given instructive comments on their photos so they come away with new information, strategies for improvement, and to foster further engagement. There are city funded nature-based education, or programs and nature centers, but no organization teaching art concepts and digital photography techniques with a natural science and environmental foundation. There is also no other education program that provides this specific service free to underserved communities.

Before the pandemic lock down, PYW completed 22 of the 30 scheduled workshops for the September 2019 to May 2020 season. The result was an outreach of 496 families and 407 youth, 88% were a non-anglo demographic and 88% low-income. In addition, the program pivoted the spring nature photography exhibition to an on-line platform hosted on the Green Spaces Alliance website. The winning photos were also showcased on the Tobin Center for Performing Arts' outdoor digital screen during May and June. Over 75% of participants in this year's exhibition were a non-anglo demographic and low-income youth. With images of trees, glistening water, birds, and colorful flowers, San Antonio youth communicated to the public that nature matters to us all.

Unfortunately, unlike prior years, very few of the Title 1 elementary students participated in the spring 2020 exhibition. This was a direct result of the gap in access and resources to digital technology that impact so many of our underserved students. As we go forward with PYW for 2020-2021, our priority is to work with our school partners to address this challenge so these students can continue to have equitable opportunities to participate in the enjoyment of photography and nature based learning.

Evaluation Plan:

The Picture Your World Program Manager is responsible for the program's evaluation process. Attendance is taken at every workshop and student participation is recorded by age, ethnicity, and gender to insure the program is meeting benchmarks. Quantitative data is collected through parent waiver forms and on-line event registration. Qualitative data in the form of post-workshop surveys is collected from participating students, teachers, and parents. The surveys measure the programs progress toward student environmental literacy, change in knowledge, and connections to nature.

While one tangible result of Picture Your World is beautiful photography, the program's goals are to get children to seek the outdoors for entertainment, improve health and well-being and encourage environmental behaviors.

Results will be shared with Green Spaces Alliance Picture Your World Board Committee to determine if program goals are being met, help better understand our audience, and develop new strategies for connecting youth to nature.

Plans to sustain project beyond the term of this request:

Green Spaces Alliance's Board has consistently funded and supported the program since 2002. PYW is primarily an outreach program to underserved communities with little or no fees required for services. Consequently, program growth has been strategically aligned with the organization's resource and fundraising capacity. The Picture Your World Board Committee, along with the Chief Executive Officer and Program Manager solicit funds through diverse means of state contracts, private family foundations, corporate support and individual donors.

As a member organization in the Texas Children in Nature Network (TCIN), PYW shares a common goal with our conservation partners of ensuring equitable access and connection to nature for children and Texans of all ages. Resources, ideas and strategies are leveraged and shared across the network. These collaborative partnerships and efforts contribute to the program's success and sustainability.

Children Impacted:

How many unduplicated children will the TOTAL PROJECT INITIATIVE impact?	How many unduplicated children will NFF REQUESTED FUNDS impact?
335	300

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)	75%	Asian American	0%

Young Adults (14-18)	25%	Caucasian	10%
TOTAL:	100%	Hispanic/Latino	88%
		Native American	0%
		Other and Define	0%
		TOTAL:	100%

City Council District for Which Children are Being Served:

District I

Line item Budget:

Line Item Description	Total Project Funds Allocation	Najim Funds Allocation
Part-time Program Manager	\$21,000	\$3,200
Contract Photography Instructor	\$6,400	\$3,200
Equipment (media, art supplies, cameras)	\$4,550	\$2,150
Meals	\$300	\$0
Printing/Framing	\$2,000	\$0
Venue/Program Fees	\$1,400	\$700
Transportation	\$1,500	\$750
Prizes	\$1,200	\$0
Judges Honorarium	\$150	\$0
GSA Admin (website, general overhead)	\$4,000	\$0
TOTAL:	\$42,500	\$10,000

OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES

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

PROJECT - PENDING

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Cowden Foundation	\$5,000
Alice Kleberg Reynolds Foundation	\$6,000
Dixie Starnes Wenger Foundation	\$2,000
TOTAL:	\$13,000

PROJECT - COMMITTED

Funder Name	Amount Requested
CPS Energy	\$10,000
Elizabeth Huth Coats Foundation	\$15,000
TOTAL:	\$25,000

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	\$25,000

COSA COVID Lift Fund	\$50,000
TOTAL:	\$75,000
ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - COMMITTED	
Funder Name	Amount Requested
Tito's Vodka (Urban Land & Water)	\$30,000
Land Trust Alliance (GSA)	\$9,000
TOTAL:	\$39,000
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?	
<p>Participation on the Green Spaces board requires roles in support and governance, each demanding different skills and expertise. Upon joining the board, new members sign an agreement that lays out expectations and recommendations. Green Spaces Board Members are expected to be a member and a financial contributor at a level significant for their circumstances. In addition, board members are required to attend a majority of scheduled monthly meetings, serve on one or more committees of the board, attend those scheduled committee meetings, and participate in the annual full day board work session.</p> <p>Some additional expectations include board member recruitment of Green Spaces members through social networks and business connections. Board members are expected to attend Green Spaces benefit events, and become an active fundraiser, volunteer, and community ambassador in support of the organization.</p>	
LIST OF BOARD DIRECTORS	
Name & Office Held	Corporate Affiliation
Isabel Garcia, President	Professor, Department of Physics, Engineering, Architecture at San Antonio College
Christine Westerman, Vice-President	Senior Project Manager, SWCA Environmental Consultants
LyLynn Koch, Treasurer	Primary financial staff for non-profit organizations
Kelly Carlisle, Secretary	Associate Professor of Writing, Trinity University
Parks Brown	Associate Attorney, Uhl, Fitzsimmons, Jewett & Burton, PLLC
Susana Canseco, Chair, Land Committee	Attorney, Branscomb PC
Gaelen McFadden	Analytics Manager, CPS Energy
Stephanie Ockenfels, Chair, Picture Your World Committee	Program Manager Corporate Responsibility, CPS Energy
Joanna Randazzo, Co-Chair, Resource Development Committee	Grants Administration Manager, Petco Foundation
Lisa Reese, Co-Chair, Resource Development Committee	Design Department, Trails, City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation
Abe A. Salinas III	Civil Engineer, LNV, Inc.
Sadie Schweers	Financial Advisor, Junior League of San Antonio
Adam Yablonski	President, Comanche Creek Farms, LLC.

Signature

Carra W. Garza