

FUNDING APPLICATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organization Information

Legal Name: Science Mill		Federal Tax ID#: 46-0600789		501(c)(3) Public Charity 509 (a)(2)	
Address: PO Box 38		City: Johnson City		State: Texas	
				Zip Code: 78636	
Website: www.sciencemill.org		Fax: (612) 201-4134		United Way Funded: No	

Fiscal Year: January 01 to December 31
--

Head Of Organization

Name: Bonnie Baskin		Title: President	
E-Mail Address: bonnie.baskin@sciencemill.org		Phone: (512) 660-4245	

Application Contact

Name: Holly Barton		Title: Director of Strategic Alignment		E-Mail Address: holly.barton@sciencemill.org		Phone: (512) 660-4245	
------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	---------------------------------	--

Previous Najim Funding

Year	Funding \$
2017	\$12,500
2018	\$21,000
2019	\$45,000
Total	\$78,500

Has the organization applied to the Najim Family Foundation in the past and been declined? No

Grant Amount Requested \$: \$45,000	Total Project Budget \$: \$255,870	Organization's Annual budget \$: \$1,039,178
---	--	--

Mission Statement: To inspire all students and give them the confidence, tools, and support needed to reach their full potential as skilled members in the 21st century STEM workforce.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Program / Project Title: Science Mill's Equitable Access to Future STEM Careers Program

PROJECT TIMELINE

Start Date 11/01/2020	End Date 10/31/2021
---------------------------------	-------------------------------

Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation Priorities:

Education

Education Priorities:

Elementary to High School

Program / Project Description:

The Science Mill is a highly interactive, hands-on science museum focused on students who have traditionally been underrepresented in STEM careers. Utilizing the museum as a testbed for creating new strategies for student engagement in STEM and STEM careers, we have created a roadmap for how we, as a museum-based center for out-of-school learning, play an important role in growing the number of students in Texas who will be entrepreneurial and critical thinkers in a future skilled workforce.

In Texas last school year, 60.6% of students were identified as economically disadvantaged. Throughout Texas there is a significant disparity in academic performance measured by test results that strongly correlates with family income; economically disadvantaged kids have lower academic performance.

Although this disparity is a complex, multifactorial problem, we believe a lack of immersive out-of-school STEM programming plays a significant role in a low-income student's interest in STEM subjects and overall academic performance. These students are often unable to envision themselves in a STEM career for a variety of reasons- lack of access to programs which support and build interest and self confidence in STEM, little exposure to individuals from similar backgrounds in STEM careers, and limited knowledge of future STEM career opportunities. Students struggle to see the connection between their in-school education and the relevancy of their courses to both their life and potential careers. This is a significant part of the reason that economically disadvantaged students are less likely to graduate from high school or enter college.

Research shows that lacking access to out-of-school programs can be responsible for almost 80% of the academic achievement gap by the time students end middle school. Our summer camp program is focused on giving economically disadvantaged students access to out-of-school STEM programming, that is located in their community and taught by their local science teachers with local high school students as teacher aids. Students learn, through hands-on experiences, the excitement of "doing science" and imagining themselves as future STEM entrepreneurs. The curriculum is scaffolded by grade level beginning in 3rd grade and continuing through 9th grade.

Student activities consist of team challenges, project-based design and building, and hands-on engagement through inquiry-based learning. Students are introduced to different STEM careers throughout the week-long camp program (i.e., coding and programming, engineering, chemistry, life science, robotics), all with an emphasis on STEM entrepreneurship. All curricula are created by our STEM educators.

Over the last 5 years, we have enrolled over 1,670 students in our summer camps. In the summer of 2020, we were to greatly expand the program and had commitments to run 46 summer camps for 1,380 students throughout south and central Texas. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic we cancelled the full summer camp program. However, we are now moving forward to operate the program in 2021. The need for STEM programming is greater than ever. The COVID-19 pandemic has decimated an already weakened fabric of STEM education in economically disadvantaged communities. The challenges of the pandemic--and the vast educational inequities it has unveiled--have only strengthened our resolve to create equitable access to STEM programs.

Five-year cumulative outcome data from students who have attended our STEM summer camp show that following a week of camp greater than 85% of economically disadvantaged students leave camp with a strong interest in STEM and STEM careers, are confident in their ability to succeed, and want to learn more about STEM fields. These results are comparable to their more affluent peers enrolled in our program.

We are committed to continue to bring in-person summer camps and afterschool programming to students throughout central and south Texas. We are requesting funding to support our program to reach more kids in need of STEM enrichment programs. We focus on bringing our program into communities most in need of STEM enrichment programs. Communities are chosen based on reviewing factors that include demographics, family income, student access to STEM programs and academic ratings of their schools.

We are asking the Najim Charitable Foundation to renew their commitment to our program by again supporting our 2021 summer STEM camp program. These camps will give students in Bexar county ISDs, as well as ISDs in surrounding communities, the opportunity to participate in an exciting and challenging STEM summer experience. Each camp will be for of 30 students, ranging from grades 3 to 9. Communities we are targeting are typical of Texas economically disadvantaged communities with large low-income, minority populations and substandard academic performance.

All of the camp equipment and supplies for the 2020 summer camps were purchased prior to the cancellation of all our 2020 summer camp program. These expenses (per the budget) were \$14,865. This amount can be applied to the cost for supporting camps in 2021. With a renewal of your investment in our program at the same financial commitment as last year (\$45,000), we will apply the \$14,865 towards 2021 camps allowing us to run 6, instead of 4 weeks of camp, for 180 economically disadvantaged students.

We are committed to building a nation where our future leaders, neighbors, and workers will have the ability to understand and solve the complex challenges of tomorrow. To meet the demands of a dynamic and evolving workforce, we must build students' skills, content knowledge, and fluency in STEM fields. We must make sure that no matter where children live, they have access to quality learning environments.

Evaluation Plan:

We will evaluate student growth and program impact throughout the summer program. Outcome data will be collected during the summer through pre-, post-, and daily participant surveys, measuring student baseline and growth in areas such as self-efficacy, engagement, STEM interest and identity, and gains in knowledge and awareness of STEM careers. Success will be measured through evaluating student interest and determination in enrolling in further STEM opportunities such as STEM extracurricular activities, choosing STEM electives, or STEM courses in the future.

Plans to sustain project beyond the term of this request:

Planning for our STEM summer camps in 2021 is underway. We will continue our model of bringing exciting, creative, and entrepreneurial programming to kids in economically disadvantaged communities throughout central and south Texas.

Our commitment to bring equitable access for STEM learning to all students is greater than ever. We are moving forward with our school district partners to bring programs to their students beginning this fall and carrying forward into the summer. Funding for our summer camp program has come from a variety of sources that include individual donors, corporate and family foundations and federal grants. Additionally, this summer, a number of our programs were to be funded directly from school districts. We see this as an increasingly more important source of funds, as school districts are looking to sources of informal education providers to help support the needs of their students.

Children Impacted:

How many unduplicated children will the TOTAL PROJECT INITIATIVE impact?	How many unduplicated children will NFF REQUESTED FUNDS impact?
750	180

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	3%

Children (6-13)	100%	Asian American	1%
Young Adults (14-18)	0%	Caucasian	36%
TOTAL:	100%	Hispanic/Latino	58%
		Native American	0%
		Other and Define	2%
		TOTAL:	100%

City Council District for Which Children are Being Served:

Outside San Antonio

Counties applicant is in:

Bexar

Line item Budget:

Line Item Description	Total Project Funds Allocation	Najim Funds Allocation
Staffing: Training & Teaching	\$164,640	\$27,500
Technology & Equipment	\$20,000	\$0
Supplies	\$11,680	\$2,000
Logistics Support	\$15,000	\$5,000
Curriculum Development	\$6,250	\$2,000
Registration & Parent Communications	\$25,000	\$5,000
Evaluation	\$8,500	\$2,500
Overhead/Insurance	\$4,800	\$1,000
TOTAL:	\$255,870	\$45,000

OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES

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

PROJECT - PENDING

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Harman-Mayes-Sooch Family Fund	\$50,000
Edaren Foundation	\$25,000
William Knox Holt Foundation	\$20,000
Jacob & Terese Hershey Foundation	\$18,620
Ray & Beck Shea Head	\$10,000
Winkler Family Foundation	\$10,000
Lynnell Burkett	\$10,000
Smothers Foundation	\$10,000
TOTAL:	\$153,620

PROJECT - COMMITTED

Funder Name	Amount Requested
AshBritt Foundation	\$60,000
Beverly Dale	\$20,000

Institute of Museum & Library Services	\$49,686
Silicon Labs	\$15,000
Thomas D. O'Connor & Dennis O'Connor, III Foundation	\$11,575
TOTAL:	\$156,261

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

ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - PENDING

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Museum Earned Income Estimated (8/1/20-12/31/20)	\$439,740
IMLS Cares	\$195,000
Annual Benefit & Individual Donors	\$100,000
Fondren Foundation	\$100,000
HEB	\$15,000
Whataburger	\$10,000
Don and Julie Holden Foundation	\$5,000
TOTAL:	\$864,740

ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - COMMITTED

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Museum Earned Income (1/1/20-7/31/20)	\$116,263
Baskin Family Foundation	\$300,000
MD Anderson	\$40,000
Individuals and Community Donations	\$20,000
IMLS Cares Library Grant	\$10,000
TOTAL:	\$486,263

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?
Board members are expected to perform duties in compliance with best practices, including but not limited to: actively participating in organizational planning and decision-making to make sound and informed judgments; ensure the organization complies with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations; remains committed to its mission; acts in a fiduciary role by maintaining oversight of the finances which includes evaluating financial policies, approving annual budgets, and reviewing periodic financial reports to ensure that the organization has the necessary resources to carry out its mission and remains accountable to its donors and the general public. Beyond attendance and participation, it is expected that members use their personal and professional connections to expand the network of support for the Mill, contribute knowledge or ideas that will advance the, provide introductions to organizations with whom collaborations may be synergistic, and the board is required to make an annual financial gift.

LIST OF BOARD DIRECTORS

Name & Office Held	Corporate Affiliation
-------------------------------	------------------------------

Bonnie Baskin, Ph.D., Chair of the Board	Science Mill
Robert Elde, Ph.D., Secretary of the Board	Science Director, Science Mill
Dan Patterson, Ph.D., Treasurer of the Board	CEO, PMFocus
Staci Almager, Director	CEO, Hill Country Family Services
Lynnell Burkett, Director	Retired editorial page editor/columnist, San Antonio Express News
Ron Carter, Director	Retired Engineer
Gerardo Castillo, Director	Partner & COO, AIE Energy & Infrastructure
Gary Cobb, Director	Attorney at Law, Former DA, Travis County
Eric Corndorf, Ph.D., Director	Vice President of R&D, Heart Failure, Medtronic Inc.
Beverly Dale, Ph.D.	Entrepreneur
Sandy Dochen, Director	Retired Manager, Corporate Citizenship and Corporate Affairs- TX, LA, AR, IBM
Nels Elde, Ph.D., Director	Mario R. Capecchi Endowed Chair in Genetics, University of Utah Medical School
Rebecca Geier, Director	CEO, RIVE
Susan Heard, Director	Owner, Cinnabar Art Gallery
Colonel Tom Henricks, Director	President, Emerald; Former NASA Astronaut
Greg Hodgson, Director	Senior Director, Corporate Strategy, Silicon Labs
Nancy May, Director	President/CEO, San Antonio Humane Society
Christy Muse, Director	Former External Relations, Shield Ranch
Bob Oliver, Director	Co-Founder, Metano Energy
Peter Vancorenland, Ph.D., Director	Vice President of IoT, WAC Lighting
Hedy Walls, Ph.D., Director	Chief Social Responsibility Officer, YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities
Signature	
Holly Barton	