

FUNDING APPLICATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organization Information

Legal Name: Contemporary Art for San Antonio		Federal Tax ID#: 74-2419615		501(c)(3) Public Charity 509 (a)(1)	
Address: 116 Blue Star		City: San Antonio		State: TX	
				Zip Code: 78204	
Website: www.bluestarcontemporary.org		Fax: (210) 227-6960		United Way Funded: No	

Fiscal Year: October 01 to September 30

Head Of Organization

Name: Mary Heathcott		Title: Executive Director	
E-Mail Address: mary@bluestarcontemporary.org		Phone: (210) 227-6960	

Application Contact

Name: Elaine Leahy		Title: Development Manager		E-Mail Address: elaine@bluestarcontemporary.org		Phone: (210) 227-6960	
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Previous Najim Funding

Year	Funding \$
2018	\$10,000
2019	\$10,000
Total	\$20,000

Has the organization applied to the Najim Family Foundation in the past and been declined? Yes 2008, 2010
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Grant Amount Requested \$: \$25,000	Total Project Budget \$: \$46,325	Organization's Annual budget \$: \$746,674
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Mission Statement: Blue Star Contemporary inspires the creative genius in us all by nurturing artists through innovative contemporary art.
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PROJECT INFORMATION

Program / Project Title: To support online video "Creative Classrooms" for K-5 students in Harlandale ISD.
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PROJECT TIMELINE

Start Date 09/11/2020	End Date 06/11/2021
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Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation Priorities:

Education

Education Priorities:

Elementary to High School

Program / Project Description:

Creative Classrooms is a Blue Star Contemporary (BSC) program that sites professional artists in K-8 classrooms without access to arts education. As research from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and Stanford University demonstrates, the arts are not a "nice to have" but rather a "need to have," given the direct correlation between long-term academic success and professional growth. BSC's Artists-in-Community (AIC) translate their studio practices into classroom curricula- and TEKS-aligned art projects, building visual literacy through creative, critical, and exploratory thinking.

Research from the NEA, Stanford, and the Texas Cultural Trust proves that students engaged with arts education have standardized test scores 15% higher than their peers not in art classes. At-risk students, the majority of students at Wright, are half as likely to drop out when they are not in art classes. They are more likely to be college-ready high school graduates. They have better time management, problem solving, communication, and organization skills. They better understand relationships and complex issues; they empathize more and are better able to self-express. They have the creative thinking skills prized by employers. Ultimately, arts education leads to a confident and engaged class of employees who close the socio-economic gap from previous generations, increase their quality of life, engage in civic processes, contribute to the sustainable growth of their communities, and build strong families.

When students don't attend school, learning and funding decrease. 25% of San Antonio's adult population is functionally illiterate. Early and frequent interaction with the arts can combat these problems, enhancing and expanding students' education path. STEAM education is essential to our community, and Creative Classrooms is a necessary component to help these young students reach their full potential.

BSC first launched Creative Classrooms in SAISD's Bowden Elementary. In December 2018, SAISD announced it hired arts educators for all of its campuses -- Creative Classrooms worked! We moved Creative Classrooms to Harlandale ISD's Wright Elementary, which has not had any arts programming. The Texas Education Agency reports that 77% of students are at risk for dropping out, and 91% are economically disadvantaged. The Distressed Communities Index reports 32% of the adults in the neighborhood do not have high school diplomas, and 32% of residents live in poverty. At Wright, BSC's Artists-in-Community meet with students in all curricula tracks, including ESL and special needs classes.

Creative Classrooms projects engage the students' creative impulses and provide healthy self-expression through hands-on activities complementing their public school curricula. A key component of the program, and something core to BSC's mission to inspire creative genius by nurturing artists, is that the Artists-in-Community are professional artists who sustain vibrant careers as creatives. Wright does not have an arts educator on faculty for its K-5 students. Many educators are certified to teach art components in classrooms to satisfy minimum state standards, and typically assign art grades through basic coloring worksheets and similar activities. BSC's Artists-in-Community have advanced fine arts degrees, with decades of professional practice lending expertise in materials, techniques, and theory, which they translate into age-appropriate interactive projects. They serve as role models, demonstrating firsthand that a career as a creative professional is viable and sustainable. We know this program is effective from qualitative and quantitative evaluation. Proving early intervention works, attendance on Creative Classrooms' "art days" reaches 90-100%, a fantastic result knowing elementary attendance is extrapolated to predict high school graduation rates.

BSC's education staff and AIC participate in Visual Thinking Strategies training, prepare lessons, collect materials, and document the sessions. The AIC communicates with teachers, administrators, and BSC staff. Lesson plans are designed to be understood by non-arts educators, aligned with Fine Arts TEKS guidelines, and shared at BSC in our Art Learning Lab and at bluestarcontemporary.org. The program is offered at no cost to the school, whose resources are ever-diminishing.

With the cancellation of in-person classes in Spring 2020, BSC moved to producing videos featuring the Artists-in-Community leading students through hands-on art activities. These videos were shared with all 7,300 of Harlandale ISD's K-5 students, increasing our reach by over 3000%. For the coming year, given concerns about social distancing, BSC will continue video production and online learning for Creative Classrooms projects with Harlandale. Although the videos are a major shift from our normal in-person programming, they provide much needed creative self-expression for the students using readily available household materials (such as cardboard). The use of video means we can share the lessons with other K-5 classrooms across the city, extending our reach.

Additionally, we are launching a new partnership with the San Antonio Food Bank. BSC's Artists-in-Community will produce weekly activities which will be shared with (at least) 2,000 students each week through the SAFB's enrichment program throughout the city starting in September 2020. These projects are designed to be completed easily found and free materials, or materials in the SAFB kits. This new, exciting partnership will further extend BSC's reach throughout the city, and ensure the arts are accessible to all San Antonians. As one young Creative Classrooms student shared, "Art helps me be emotional." With all of the incredible changes young students have experienced over the last six months, self-expression is more important than ever as they navigate their new experiences.

Evaluation Plan:

BSC solicits qualitative and quantitative evaluative feedback from students, faculty and administrators, and the Artists-in-Community. The data is shared verbally and through more formal surveys. Due to the pandemic, BSC was unable to gather student surveys at the end of the 2020 school year, although teachers and administrators have shared that they are eager for the program to continue.

Teachers and the Artists-in-Community reported that attendance was 90-100% on "art days." At Bowden, teachers reported that students were focused on the lessons and passionate about completing them and used their new art vocabulary in other classes. Destructive behaviors decreased, and conversely, concentration and calmness increased. At Wright, students talked to each other about their projects, comparing and contrasting their projects with their classmates.

We rely on the administrators/TEA to share empirical data (test scores, attendance, grades) with us to provide additional evaluative measures.

Plans to sustain project beyond the term of this request:

BSC currently receives support from individuals, corporations, and foundations. Unrestricted income from fundraising events balances the program's current budget.

The growth and the expansion of the program will rely on its proven successes; the program is still young, and shifts in program delivery necessitated by the pandemic have changed our budget. While we are at this moment uncertain of when Creative Classrooms will return to actual classrooms, we continue to look for avenues for cost-effective expansion, like the partnership with the Food Bank.

Children Impacted:

<p>How many unduplicated children will the TOTAL PROJECT INITIATIVE impact?</p> <p>9,300</p>	<p>How many unduplicated children will NFF REQUESTED FUNDS impact?</p> <p>9,300</p>
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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)	100%	Asian American	0%
Young Adults (14-18)	0%	Caucasian	10%
TOTAL:	100%	Hispanic/Latino	80%
		Native American	0%
		Other and Define	8%
		TOTAL:	100%

City Council District for Which Children are Being Served:

District4

Line item Budget:

Line Item Description	Total Project Funds Allocation	Najim Funds Allocation
Artists-in-Community video projects honoraria	\$2,500	\$2,500
Video projects materials and supplies	\$500	\$0
BSC Personnel and Benefits	\$21,285	\$5,000
Printing for SA Food Bank enrichment center distribution	\$10,800	\$7,500
Paper for SAFB	\$1,600	\$1,600
Shipping/Delivery to SAFB	\$360	\$0
Liability Insurance (allocation)	\$3,880	\$3,000
Artists-in-Community SAFB lesson plan honoraria	\$5,400	\$5,400
TOTAL:	\$46,325	\$25,000

OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES

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

PROJECT - PENDING

Funder Name	Amount Requested
The Brown Foundation, Inc. (program-specific funding)	\$5,000
Kronkosky Charitable Foundation (program-specific funding)	\$5,000
San Antonio Junior Forum	\$2,500
City of San Antonio Dept of Arts and Culture (allocation)	\$2,500
TOTAL:	\$15,000

PROJECT - COMMITTED

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Texas Commission on the Arts	\$4,000
Greehey Family Foundation (allocation)	\$2,500

TOTAL:	\$6,500
Other funding sources and amounts, pending and committed not specific to this request.	
ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - PENDING	
Funder Name	Amount Requested
Cowden Charitable Trust	\$10,000
National Endowment for the Arts (2021-22)	\$50,000
The Brown Foundation, Inc. 2020	\$35,000
Kronkosky Charitable Foundation	\$45,000
City of San Antonio Department of Arts and Culture	\$146,354
Elizabeth Huth Coates Foundation of 1992	\$25,000
Betty Stieren Kelso Foundation	\$25,000
Sundt Foundation	\$10,000
Wheeler Foundation	\$25,000
Russell Hill Rogers Fund for the Arts	\$8,420
Bank of America	\$25,000
SA CARES 4 Art (COVID Relief)	\$60,000
LiftFund Small Business CARES (COVID Relief)	\$50,000
TOTAL:	\$514,774
ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - COMMITTED	
Funder Name	Amount Requested
Capital Group	\$20,000
Guillermo Nicol?s	\$10,000
Fundraising Events (incl. Red Dot and the Big Give, net)	\$200,000
Lifshutz Family in-kind lease of 116 Blue Star (current annual FMV, committed through 2036)	\$150,000
Greehey Family Foundation (other edu programs)	\$5,000
San Antonio Area Foundation	\$25,000
Texas Commission on the Arts	\$13,500
Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts	\$50,000
National Endowment for the Arts	\$20,000
San Antonio Area Foundation and partners, COVID Relief Fund	\$25,000
Penelope Speier & Sonny Collins	\$5,000
Texas Commission on the Arts CARES	\$1,362
BSC's Board of Directors	\$31,000
TOTAL:	\$555,862
BOARD OF DIRECTORS	
What percentage of your board contributes financially to the organization?	
100%	

If Board giving is not at 100%, please explain why?

N/A

How are board members expected to participate in your organization?

BSC's Board of Directors, along with the staff, designed BSC's 2015-2020 Strategic Plan, and participates in our annual Implementation Session, which includes a review of the previous year the next year's goal-setting.

Stated responsibilities include:

- Know and articulate BSC's mission;
- Uphold BSC's core values: artist-centric, forward-thinking, inclusive, going beyond expectations and surprising visitors, and educating;
- Attend full meetings (six per year);
- Participate with and/or chair one of six committees;
- Contribute financially;
- Commit time, thought, and effort;
- Support and attend BSC's exhibitions and programs;
- Identify and steward prospective donors or future Board members;
- Hire, support, and advise the Executive Director;
- Maintain confidentiality;
- Accept responsibility for BSC's financial accountability;
- Participate in BSC's fundraising activities;
- Have fun, learn, teach, and share in successes and failures;
- Provide honest, constructive feedback; and
- Connect networks (e.g. Omar Akhil's Brainiac LLC college-readiness mentoring; Joy LeFlore's Jefferson Bank financial tutorial; Ryan Rue's Capital Group Community Action Day volunteers).

LIST OF BOARD DIRECTORS

Name & Office Held	Corporate Affiliation
Ryan Rue, Chair	Capital Group
Omar Akhil, Treasurer	Vaulkshire Investments; Brainiac LLC
Patrick Attwater	One80 Solar
Charlie Biedenharn	Bakery Lorraine
Lauren Kate Holt	Full-time mother, philanthropist
Joy LeFlore	Jefferson Bank
Catriona Morrison Cavender	Hornberger Fuller Garza
Patty Ortiz, Vice Chair	Artist; Curator; Educator; Liberty Bar
Andrew Sherwood	Dykema
Mike Casey, Emeritus	Attorney (Retired)
Tom Frost III, Emeritus	Frost Bank (Retired)
Mark Watson III, Emeritus	Argo Group
Federica Padilla de Covey	GrayStreet Partners
Ricky Armendariz, Secretary	Artist; Professor, UTSA
Monica del Arenal	Artist; Architect; Independent Curator
Jennifer Ling Datchuk	Artist; Professor, Texas State University
Alissa Howard	Whataburger
Catharine Tarver	H-E-B

Signature

Mary Heathcott