

Lisa D.Bray

From: noreply@curryfoundationkc.org
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2014 12:43 PM
To: Lisa D.Bray
Subject: Your Letter of Intent

Thank you for your Letter of Intent. Your form has been received, and the data you submitted is shown below.

Org name: Foundation of Metropolitan Community Colleges

Realname: Lisa Bray

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State: MO

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Fiscalbegin: July 1

Fiscalend: June 30

Currentbudget: 424,844/424,844

Currentexpenses: 272,808

Currentrevenue: 272,808

Currentfoundfund: 22.4

Currentcorpfund: 2.7

Currentindivfund: 71.6

Previousbudget: 397,029/397,029

Previousexpenses: 439,599

Previousrevenue: 439,599

Previousfoundfund: 30.5

Previouscorpfund: 12.3

Previousindivfund: 40.7

Amount requesting: 8,000

Projectbudget: 64,848

Projectname: MCC Storytelling Celebration

Project description: MCC's 15th annual Storytelling Celebration is a five-day event, from November 5th-9th, designed to inspire, entertain and educate area children and their families via the vanishing art of the compelling tale as told by skilled storytellers. The Celebration will feature 45 storytellers in 235 storytelling performances and related events at 80 venues throughout the Kansas City area. An estimated 14,000 people are expected to participate in this free, family friendly event led by storytellers " both professional and regional amateur tellers " who represent a wide range of cultures and performance styles. The Celebration will consist of several two- to three-hour performances by the four featured, internationally acclaimed storytellers, including a spooky and exciting night of ghost stories; scores of 45-minute to one-hour storytelling performances at schools, libraries and other community venues; plus several storytelling workshops. Approximately 80% of the participants will be children K-12 from schools in Kansas City, Missouri and Kansas City, Kansas as well as from the North Kansas City, Fort Osage and Kearney school districts. Roughly a third of participants will be from low-income, disadvantaged families for whom the Storytelling Celebration may be their only exposure to the arts during the year.

MCC has been sponsoring the Storytelling Celebration since 1999, which to date has advanced the power of the story as art among more than 270,000 area children and adults. The Foundation of the Metropolitan Community Colleges, a 501 (c)(3) organization established in 1975, is submitting this proposal on behalf of the MCC Storytelling Celebration.

Key Project Objectives

1. Preserve the Vanishing Art and Power of Storytelling

Well-told tales have the power to inspire and educate people as well as stimulate their imaginations. Unfortunately, the art of the spoken word through dramatic and engaging storytelling is not highly valued in today's technology-focused world. Yet the dynamic and intriguing stories narrated during our Celebration serve as mini life lessons about the triumph of the human spirit in the face of obstacles and adversity. For example, a past Celebration story about Satchel Paige of the Kansas City Monarchs and the discrimination he and other black baseball players had to overcome inspired many youngsters of all colors and cultures to persevere in their own life struggles. Sometimes the impact of a story is intensely personal. For example, at one recent Celebration performance, the storytelling artist told of her own sexual abuse and how wrong it is for anyone to abuse a child. After the event, one young participant told her teacher she was being abused. This was the first time the child had ever revealed her "secret."

2. Utilize Storytelling as a Teaching Tool for Children K-12

Too many students are graduating from our high schools without the reading, math and thinking skills they need to succeed in work and in life. The Storytelling Celebration specifically focuses on the learning potential of storytelling, which is an active rather than passive mode of communication. By engaging audience members in the telling of a story, participants are much more likely to absorb the message of the narrative than when they are listening to a classroom lecture or sitting passively in front of a computer.

Every single storytelling performance during the 2014 Celebration has an educational component designed to help children in the audience improve their academic skills. This is reinforced by the Celebration study guide, which gives K-12 educators a series of optional activities that address core Communication Arts standards in Missouri schools as they relate to storytelling. These age-appropriate activities, which can be used both before and after the performances, are designed to help children develop and enhance their core literacy skills. A 2010 study by the Missouri Alliance for Arts Education determined that higher levels of student participation in fine arts (including storytelling) resulted in higher Math scores, higher standardized test scores in Communication Arts and higher graduation rates.

Need

The economic downturn has spawned ongoing cuts in state funding and a decrease in enrollment at MCC. As a result, MCC can no longer provide the funding level it has afforded the Storytelling Celebration in the past. In order to avoid any cuts in programming, we are aggressively seeking funding from local foundations.