

**Commerce Bank
Charitable Trusts and Foundations
Grant Progress Report**

Organization Name: Metropolitan Community Colleges
Project: 15th annual Storytelling Celebration
Amount of Grant: \$4,000.00
Date of Grant: 9/12/2014
Foundation: Oppenstein Brothers Foundation

1. What was the purpose of the original request and what were the intended objectives?

The original request was for funds to support the 2014 MCC Storytelling Celebration. The objectives were to bring in nationally recognized, regional and local storytelling artists to expose the greater Kansas City area to the art of storytelling.

2. Who is/was responsible for carrying out this project?

Heather Perez is the project manager for the MCC Storytelling event. She is assisted by the artistic director, Joyce Slater and the guidance of the MCC Storytelling Celebration advisory board.

3. Who are/were the beneficiaries of this project? (Please include the number of clients served.)

There were a total of 16,239 beneficiaries of this event. Of this number, 15,272 were children and youth. Thirty-five volunteers assisted with the success of the 2014 MCC Storytelling Celebration. The beneficiaries took part in the event at venues spanning the Kansas City area. Performances were held at diverse venues such as elementary schools within three area school districts, Skylander Psych Center, William Jewel College, Lansing Correctional Facility, The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Garden Village Retirement Center, Juvenile Justice Center, Boys & Girls clubs, YMCA, Maple Valley School, George Owens Nature Park, George Washington Carver Dual Language Elementary School, Our Lady of Guadalupe School, Brookside Adult Day Health Care, Little Sisters of the Poor, Southeast Middle School and MCC-Maple Woods Campus. Performances were also held at library branches within Mid-Continent Public Library, KCMO Public Library and KCKS Public Library systems.

4. Briefly describe:

a. Total expenses of this project:

<u>Expense Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Personnel	\$18,847
Artists' fees	\$23,656
Travel	\$332
Marketing	\$10,325
Other operating expenses	<u>\$3,422</u>
TOTAL	\$56,582

b. How grant funds were spent:

<u>Expense Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Marketing	\$4,000

5. Were any grant funds spent for purposes other than those described in #1? If so, what purposes and why?

No

6. Did the grant accomplish the objectives described in #1? How did you reach these conclusions?

Yes. There were a total of 16,239 attendees at this year's event. Diverse venues were used to host the talented artists that participated. Results of the survey confirm the events success and positive exposure to this art form.

- "I walked away inspired to continue working on connecting youth with telling their story."
- "Her stories made my day!! I needed her boost of energy today. Glad that MCC was able to make it happen for the students."
- "She was very inspiring; she taught me some Spanish words that I never learned in class."
- "Excellent presentation. Skill in building tension was superb it drew me in very well. The acting for expression made me feel the story was happening in front of me."
- "The 3rd graders were spell-bound! Gary did a great job of relating to the students at their level."
- "Had student attention at all times. The students loved playing a part of the story."
- "Here is what the kids said to me – They like his imagination, use of voice, magical, unique, used imagination to make it fun & creative, great expression, fantastic, loved his use of detail. The story came alive."

The event attracted participants who were unfamiliar with storytelling. The story below describes one woman's new excitement about this art form:

As a teacher at the Kansas School for the Deaf, instructor Kester Marsh understands that storytelling is an important dialog, no matter who "hears" it. That's why he convinced his friend, John Macy, to come to the school during the 2013 Kansas City Storytelling Celebration to experience deaf storyteller Peter Cook. Marsh became a dedicated fan of the art of storytelling, and in October 2014, traveled with his wife to the National Storytelling Festival in Tennessee. While he was there, he found another storyteller that stirred his appreciation for the art: Antonio Rocha.

Back in Kansas, he found out that Rocha was performing at the 2014 Kansas City Storytelling Celebration, and once again urged his friend John Macy to go and see him perform at MCC-Maple Woods. Macy attended Rocha's Thursday night concert with his wife Dolores. After the show, Dolores Macy admitted that she had been "dragged" to the performance by her husband, and had had little interest in seeing it for herself. After watching Rocha's performance in which his mother, who has Alzheimer's was the focus, she recalled being mesmerized, tearful, amazed, heartbroken and filled joy— by both man and the story. Delores's, mother also has Alzheimer's. Delores said, "I was bitten; I was touched. Antonio told MY story." Dolores made a point to return to the next two nights of performances. She brought along friends to share the experience with as well, along with her husband and the Marshes.

7. Could the same results have been produced more effectively with less money?

No. The expenditures are appropriate for this type of event. Most of the budget was spent on artists, marketing and the staff needed to produce the Storytelling Celebration. The artists' fees are fair and reasonable, the staff time is needed to coordinate and promote the event and the marketing is necessary. However, we had budgeted \$5,000 for web development but were able to find someone willing to donate their time to do this therefore offsetting the expense.

8. If applicable, were other sources of funds successfully identified for future funding of this program? (Please list.) If other funds have not been identified, please indicate the reasons.

Yes. We have in the past and will again apply for the Missouri Arts Council annual grant, ArtsKC and the Neighborhood Tourist Development Fund.

9. Please include a copy of your most recent audited financial statement and/or your most recent statement of income and expenses and balance sheet.
10. Other comments you may have:

Thank you for supporting the 2014 MCC Storytelling Celebration. It was a great success reaching over 16,000 people.

Lisa Bray

Name

Grants Management Coordinator

Title

12-18-14

Date

Please return this report and required attachments to CTFKC@CommerceBank.com or by mail to:

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Attention: Foundation Assistant
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For an electronic copy of this report, please email: CTFKC@CommerceBank.com

Questions? Please call (816) 234-1768