



Memorandum

To: Evanston Arts Council

From: Paulina Martínez, Assistant to the City Manager

Subject: Neighborhood Arts Grant Funding Requests

Date: February 5, 2020

Summary:

Staff received one request for funding through the Neighborhood Arts Grant program, previously known as the Community Support Fund program.

Applicant/Project	Recommended Amount	Project Budget	Item Requested
Waa-Mu	\$ 1,000	\$ 170,550	Marketing
Total	\$ 1,000	-	-

For FY 2020, \$15,000 was allocated to the Community Support Fund. To date, 0 grants have been awarded, leaving the fund with \$15,000.

Background:

The Neighborhood Arts Grant is a grant awarded by the Evanston Arts Council to support small art projects by organizations and individual artists in Evanston, that do not exceed \$1,000 or 50% of the project, whichever is less. An excerpt from the funding request staff received is below:

Waa-Mu

“The Waa-Mu show is Northwestern University’s oldest theatrical tradition, where over 150 students come together every year to write, produce, and stage an original full-length musical. This year’s show is titled State of the Art and is set in a not-so-distant future metropolis where a covert group of artists are vandalizing world-renowned pieces of street art. When the mayor’s misfit child crosses paths with the vandals, the city elite find themselves caught between their dreams for their city to take its place on the national stage and the truth behind these young citizens’ acts of resistance.”

Attachments:

- Waa-Mu Application (links to supporting documents embedded)

Have you read the Neighborhood Arts Grant Program Guidelines? *

Yes

Have you received funding from the Neighborhood Arts Grant Program in the last three (3) years? (Previously known as the Community Support Fund) *

No

If "yes," please list all Neighborhood Arts Grants (previously known as the Community Support Fund) received in the last three (3) years. Include date, amount, and name of project.

Primary Contact Name *

Amanda Sugiharto

Organization (if applicable)

The Waa-Mu Show (Northwestern University)

Address *

[REDACTED]
Evanston, IL 60201
United States

Email *

[REDACTED]

Phone Number *

[REDACTED]

Amount requested (Please note that this program supports up to to 50% of the project's total budget to a maximum of \$1,000; the budget may include in-kind donations) *

1000

Please upload a complete project budget which details the expenses for the entire project. Indicate where other revenue is coming from and what items this fund will go towards procuring. *



[waa_budget_evanston_grant.pdf](#) 524.59 KB · PDF

Is this an ongoing program that you will be requesting funding for in subsequent years?

No

Please describe your project. Include details about what disciplines, genres, and subject matters are involved. What do you hope are the outcomes of the project? *

The Waa-Mu show is Northwestern University's oldest theatrical tradition, where over 150 students come together every year to write, produce, and stage an original full-length musical. This year's show is titled State of the Art and is set in a not-so-distant future metropolis where a covert group of artists are vandalizing

STEP ON A CRACK and INTO THE WOODS. As the Co-Chair leading the finance, development, and alumni relations teams, Olivia could not be more excited to be involved with Waa-Mu for a fourth year.

While the above five people are leaders of this year's Waa-Mu Show, our project also includes a writing team of 29 students led by 4 student Writing Coordinators, an executive board of 37 students, a music team of 15 students and growing, and a cast of 30 students.

How will this project be available to the Evanston community? How will you promote the event to the community? What do you project to be the size of the audience? How many Evanston residents will benefit? *

The Waa-Mu Show will be staged in Cahn Auditorium on the campus of Northwestern University in Evanston. It is open to the public and attracts about 5,200 audience members each year. Approximately 85% of our audiences are non-students, mostly from the Chicagoland area. For promoting the event, our executive board has a full student marketing team, who works with the Wirtz Center for Performing Arts, to ensure that our show reaches audiences both within and outside of the Northwestern community. Additionally, Waa-Mu offers a program called Wee-Mu, which is an educational workshop about musical theatre for Evanston children and their families. Waa-Mu also hopes to partner with local schools to organize group tickets, so our show can reach Evanston middle and high school aged students as well.

What are your plans to make this project inclusive, diverse, and equitable? *

In past years, Waa-Mu as an organization has implemented many valuable programs to ensure accessibility: for example, adding an Accessibility, Inclusion, and Diversity team to our executive board, as well as open-captioned performances with touch tours before the show. We plan to continue these efforts this year. Additionally, Cahn Auditorium, where the performance will be held, complies with ADA accessibility regulations. We also hope to move forward with new initiatives, such as hiring ushers with basic sign language knowledge and hosting panel discussions about our show's themes and other important topics, including representation and identity in theatre.

Is there a fee to access this event/program/project? Yes

If yes, how much? 25

I agree to all the terms and conditions of the Neighborhood Arts Grant Program. Yes

Digital signature. I attest that the above information is true. Amanda Sugiharto