



Application

22864 - Project 2021-II (Arts In Education, Dance, Multidisciplinary Arts/Culture, Music, Theater, Visual Arts and Local History)

22920 - Club Express

Project

Status: Awarded
Original Submitted Date: 08/01/2021 3:22 PM
Last Submitted Date: 10/12/2021 1:28 PM

Primary Contact

Feel free to edit your profile any time your information changes. [Create your own personal alerts using My Alerts.](#)

Name:* Mr. Patricia Jean Dillon
Salutation First Name Middle Name Last Name

Title: Director

Email: pat@patjdillon.com

Address: 518 Elmside Blvd

* Madison Wisconsin 53704
City State/Province Postal Code/Zip

Phone:* 608-206-6584
Phone Ext.

Fax:

Organization Information

Name: Cultural Connections

Organization Type: 501(c)(3) federal tax-exempt

Organization Website: culturalconnectionsmdison.com

Address: 518 Elmside Blvd

*	Madison <small>City</small>	Wisconsin <small>State/Province</small>	53704 <small>Postal Code/Zip</small>
Phone:*	608-206-6584		<small>Ext.</small>
Fax:			
Date when organization received 501(c)(3) federal tax-exempt status (mm/dd/yyyy)			
Benefactor	Yes		

Project Information

Primary activities must fall within project period described in Funding Opportunity.

Project Start Date:	11/01/2021
Project End Date:	06/30/2023
Select category that best describes project (selection influences which advisory panel reviews application):	Multidisciplinary Arts/Culture
Date(s) during which community can attend and/or participate in project:	11/01/2021-06/30/2023

Specific venue(s) or location(s) where community will attend and/or participate in project:

Since Cultural Connections' ultimate goal is to connect our youth to the larger cultural arts community through projects and exhibition on an ongoing basis, we continually seek community spaces to show our youth's work. Thus far, Madison Youth Arts Center will host an ongoing gallery of the Club Express work and also as a Fall 2021 MMOCA Gallery Night feature presentation. We have also secured a gallery space in the Overture Center galleries, the dates of which have yet to be determined, have applied for the Bubbler Pop Up Event at the Municipal Building, and are in talks with the curator of the Ebling Library for Health Sciences about their site and other UW opportunities.

Estimate Number of Individuals Engaged or Served

100

Estimate Primary Community/Population Served

Ethnicity:

Black/African American:	45.0%
American Indian:	0%
Asian American:	0%
Hispanic/Latino:	5.0%
White/Caucasian:	15.0%
Other:	0%
Combination of all ethnicities:	35.0%
Age Group(s):	
Youth (less than 18):	100.0%
Adult (18 to 30):	0%
Adult (31 to 60)	0%
Older Adult (60 plus):	0%
Dane County Supervisory District:	6, 7, 12, 14, 16, 18, 21, 23

Indicates the communities your project will serve.

Community/Population Description:

Because of the nature of incarceration and its disproportionate imprisonment of populations of color, we anticipate that a majority BIPOC demographic should stay fairly consistent throughout the sites and communities the program serves.

Additional notes about community/population served that explain selections. (Max. length is 50 words)

Abstract:

Provide a one or two sentence summary that could be used in future press releases to describe your project. (Max. length is 50 words.)

Club Express provides a culturally responsible space for children impacted by incarceration to find their voice and express it through art in a stigma-free space. The exhibition of their work raises awareness around the damage done to children and families, particularly those of color through disproportionate arrests and incarceration.

Fiscal Receiver / Secondary Contact Information

Use this section to enter the contact information for your Fiscal Receiver, if your organization is using one. If you are not, you may use this section to provide information for an additional project contact person, if appropriate.

Fiscal Receiver:

Contact Person: Miranda M Starr
Title: Program Director
518 Elmside Blvd
Mailing Address:
Madison, WI 53704
Phone: 608-513-5857

Email:

mmirandastarr@gmail.com

How did you hear about this opportunity?

Previous Applicant

Project Narrative

Applicant Info/Background

Provide a brief summary about you (for individual applicants) or your organization including history, programs, goals, major accomplishments, success stories. (400 words maximum)

Cultural Connections begins its 4th year in Madison schools and community centers with our Club Express Program for youth affected by incarceration. We connect our youth to cultural arts opportunities in Madison's larger cultural arts and academic communities. We hire BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) artists to lead projects that carve paths to self-expression. We link these projects to partnerships with educators, organizations and institutions. For instance, artist Anwar Floyd Pruitt taught puppet-making, and then linked their work to his Chazen Museum exhibit, "SUPERNOVA." We also linked projects he led to Dane Arts Mural Arts' mural for the Madison Youth Arts Center (MYAC) building. We are constantly seeking venues throughout the community to exhibit their work where we can raise awareness around the damaging effects of incarceration on children. Our overarching goal is to destigmatize, create trust and improve their future life outcomes.

Club Express runs weekly, one and a half hour sessions, with quarterly field trips to relevant events throughout Madison. This fall, we will be in 4 Madison schools, the Goodman Community Center, and in January 2022, we begin programming with the UW Odyssey Junior program. We have also been offered a free space in MYAC.

Because incarceration disproportionately affects communities of color, Club Express serves a majority population of children of color, which is why we seek to hire BIPOC arts. Aside from hands-on art-making, the youth follow a culturally responsive program framework based on the Learning for Justice model. Through videos and readings, the students are introduced to social and racial justice concepts and how to weave messages into their art. Their work is exhibited to raise awareness around the affects of incarceration on children and the need for equity and access for all.

During COVID 19, with many barriers in place, we accessed approximately 30 children throughout the 2021 spring semester through Zoom sessions led by artist Anwar Floyd Pruitt. In May they traveled to DAMA to see their work integrated into the mural, were interviewed by NBC 15 and met Anwar in person for the first time. We have also contributed to Olbrich Garden's Blooming Butterfly 2019 exhibit, SOHE's Day of the Dead festival led by Prof. Carolyn Kallenborn, Makeshift Festival, Central Library's Fall 2018 Gallery Night, participated in the Strut parade and are poised to show at the Overture Center galleries promised pre-COVID, which is pending.

Project Description

Describe project's concept, design, artistic or historical merit, and how it will be presented to the community. (400 words maximum)

Our 2021-22 goal is to service the 5 sites that have solicited our program. We are using the book, *LETS TALK ABOUT IT: THE ART, THE ARTISTS and THE RACIAL JUSTICE MOVEMENT on MADISON'S STATE STREET*, and have been hiring artists featured in the book (the cover artist, Sapphina Roller, was Club Express's first artist in 2018-19), to introduce to our youth the idea of just art and using it as a form of self-expression. But we don't dictate to our artists what projects to bring to our youth or how to execute them. We center them as leaders in the project. We then find venues to showcase what's produced unless the project comes with a venue. For instance, the work created with Anwar Floyd Pruitt began with discussions driven by images and narration from the book, was then not only incorporated into the DAMA mural for MYAC, but the physical pieces will hang inside the building and be featured there during MMOCA's November Gallery Night, also during MYAC's October open house. Terrance Adeyanju, a State Street artist, spent four weeks this summer creating images with our youth that he incorporated into one of his State Street silk screens. With a 4-color press, he had each child print the final image on a t-shirt (photo included). Currently, other work produced by Terrance and our youth hangs inside the Goodman Community Center. Liubov Szwako, "The Triangulator" muralist begins a project this week in which he and our youth will design an impromptu mural concept and paint it on a Goodman Center exterior wall. All of these projects will be highlighted during the Goodman Center's annual year-end festival which attracts the Atwood community. Information about the program's purpose accompanies each presentation. Also, our website gallery highlights current artists and projects and circulates via social media and email. For this upcoming school year, we will show our work in an Overture gallery (Dates TBD), MYAC gallery walls, and have applied to the Municipal Art Event. Because the effects of incarceration is serious health risk to children, we are in conversations with UW personnel about using spaces in areas such as UW Ebling Library For The Health Sciences or the UW School of Public Health, and are in the discussion phase of organizing a popup event at Abel Gallery in Stoughton. Our search for venues is ongoing.

Significance, Primary Community/Population Served and Public Value

Explain significance of project to the community and/or organization (why and why now). Articulate the public value of your project as it relates to the size and characteristics of the community/population. Explain why your project benefits Dane County and merits tax-payer dollars. (400 words maximum)

There are an estimated 2000-plus children impacted by incarceration in Dane County. And because Incarceration disproportionately targets people of color, especially Black men, it disproportionately affects children of color. Dane County jail has an incarceration rate for Black residents that's more than twice the national incarceration rate for jailed Black residents. The cause is socioeconomic status and race. Their children suffer more adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) than their peers, which means they are more likely to live with an abusive or mentally ill guardian, to be homeless, or live with extended family or in the foster care system. These experiences cause a higher incidence of poor mental and physical health, lower academic performance, higher drop out rates and poverty. And some studies show our children are 5 times more likely to become incarcerated themselves. These disparities and their effects translate directly to our community. These children are our future leaders or our future social welfare dependents. Those who ride the school to prison pipeline will cost tax payers, on average, \$40,000 annually. Our program aims to break the cycle of incarceration. Research has found that art education can help close the performance gap for students of color, and that children who develop a connection to community and participate in after-school programming, not only have improved academic performance, but improved social-emotional and life outcomes, especially for low income children who have less access in general.

Our administration is 50% mixed race and our board is 60% black/mixed. We understand the need for equity in our community and lack of access to cultural arts programming by low income children of color. This is why MYAC has offered us a free space. We take the need for our children to be led by people who match their race and culture very seriously, while understanding that the Madison school district struggles to attract and maintain teachers of color. So another important community piece is that we seek out BIPOC artists who have historically taken a back seat to white artists in our community. Our program celebrates our children of color by not only connecting them to artists who look like them, but in some cases, share their experiences. Through these connections, we offer children ongoing, meaningful access to cultural arts, striving to create a sense of trust and that opportunity awaits them in Dane County. In short, hope.

Implementation

Describe strategy and timeline to be used in developing and implementing project (planning, promotion/marketing/media plan, education and awareness-building activities, opportunities for engagement, access and participation) (400 words maximum)

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Our goal for this project is to continue to grow and serve at least 5 sites through the summer of 2022. The body of work from each site will be done during the 2021-2022 school year with some summer programming. We hope to have new work displayed in Fall 2021, but have applied for a space in the Bubbler's One Day Pop Up Event at the Municipal Building on December 10, 2021. Because there are so many moving parts to our program, specific timelines aren't immediately available until we find out what each artist brings to the youth and how that particular media needs to be displayed. That said, as evidenced by what we've accomplished in one semester despite COVID limitations, our resolve to get the youth's work out into the community is strong, our promise is good. As I stated before, we have an ongoing relationship with MYAC who is eager to show our work on their new walls, in a building that largely caters to programs that attract upper income white families—the families that we aim to educate about our kids and the policies that lead to the over incarceration of people of color and its effect of children and families. We are also waiting to hear about our placement in the Overture Galleries next spring or fall, where we will curate a show with an opening night event. This is the type of event where we may ask to present a panel to speak about the serious effects of incarceration on the life of children, but at the very least display materials with information about our kids and the other 2000 plus kids in Dane County impacted by incarceration. We are in talks with Micaela Sullivan Fowler, the Curator and Communications Director of the UW Ebling Library for the Health Sciences, about the library hosting a show where we will feature information about incarceration as a public health issue. She is also looking into other sites on campus to show our work and present our message. And we are in the discussion phase with Abel Gallery in Stoughton about bringing the kids work there for a popup awareness-raising event in Fall 2022.

Intended Outcomes and Evaluation

Highlight intended results, outcomes, and indicators of success. Describe your project evaluation process. (400 words maximum)

Dr. Julie Poehlmann, leading researcher on the well-being of children affected by incarceration at the UW School of Family and Child Well-being, will provide an accurate, long term snapshot of what the program's outcomes after the 2022 spring semester. Beginning this fall, Dr. Poehlmann's research team will begin an on-site, data-based evaluation of the outcomes of our program. As stated in her letter of support, using mixed methods, including interviews, observations, and examination of art work, the evaluation team will learn what the program means to children and families and how children represent their experiences through art and engagement in the community. They will also supplement these data with youth-, parent-, and/or teacher-report surveys about the children's strengths and behavioral and academic challenges prior to and after participation in the program to document positive change over time.

On our end, we will begin sessions with a quick journal entry noting how each child is feeling and as the children leave the room, they are asked to check in with their feelings again--although the elevation of their moods is often plainly observable. One of the most compelling outcomes of the program based on participation feedback was in its pilot year when school staff observed kids with a high absentee rate were consistently coming to school on club day. It was also noted that behavior assist calls for some of the children in club appeared to be reduced. Club often begins with children acting out against each other or just independent of any perceptible reason. After participating in a quick calming exercise from a mindfulness program the youth begin work. Almost without exception, the children exit the room smiling, hugging staff members and using language such as "love you." Community feedback has come in many forms, too. A generous interest in the club by media—we have been covered in both Madison newspapers, Madison 365, and on NBC Channel 15 twice—has brought out adults who have survived a childhood impacted by incarceration to participate. One young woman began volunteering from the inception of the club and says it has changed how she feels about herself, no longer carrying shame and stigma. This support and positive encouragement, with the children's continued interest in participation, has helped Club Express thrive.

Do you believe the project fulfills the Special Award Criteria?

Special Award

Yes

Project Expenses (Cash)

Category	Explanatory Notes (25 char. limit)	Expense Covered by Grant	Cash Amount
Project-Specific Administrative Compensation	Site, artist, event and venue coordination	No	\$16,000
Artistic Honoraria 1	Covers 1 artist per 5 sites per session plus prep time for 20 weeks.	Partial	\$14,000
Artistic Honoraria 2			\$0
Artistic Honoraria 3			\$0
Artistic Honoraria 4			\$0
Artistic Honoraria 5			\$0
Artistic Honoraria 6			\$0
Supplies/Materials 1	All materials needed to produce and complete the project.	No	\$4,000
Supplies/Materials 2			\$0
Promotions/Publicity/Printing /Postage 1	Website gallery, social media, event announcements.	No	\$2,000
Promotions/Publicity/Printing /Postage 2			\$0
Space/Equipment Rental 1			\$0
Space/Equipment Rental 2			\$0
Transportation 1	Quarterly field trips and transportation of some youth from their schools to the session site.	No	\$4,000
Transportation 2			\$0
Other	Artist Asst.	No	\$2,000
Other	Room Asst.	No	\$2,000
Other			\$0
Other			\$0
Totals			\$44,000

Project Income (Cash)

Category	Explanatory Notes (25 char. limit)	Status	Amount
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Earned Income (Include specific details)

Sales	Percentage from sale of art	Pending	\$140
Admissions			\$0
Other Revenues 1	Site Fees	Confirmed	\$13,500
Other Revenues 2			\$0
Sub-Total			\$13,640

Individual Contributions/Gifts (List source in notes)

1	First Congregational Church	Confirmed	\$7,400
2	Private Donor	Confirmed	\$2,500
3	Online Fall Fundraiser	Pending	\$2,000
4			\$0
5			\$0
6			\$0

Foundation/Corporate Support (List source in notes)

1	Madison Community Foundation AG Fund for Children Grant	Pending	\$5,000
2			\$0
3			\$0
4			\$0
5			\$0
6			\$0

Public Grants (List source in notes)

1	Dane County COVID Recovery Grant	Pending	\$10,400
2			\$0
3			\$0

Sub-Total **\$27,300**

Other

Other (Specify in Notes)			\$0
Other (Specify in Notes)			\$0
Other (Specify in Notes)			\$0
Other (Specify in Notes)			\$0

Totals **\$40,940**

In-Kind (Non-Cash)

Row	Explanatory Notes (25 char. limit)	Status	Amount
In-Kind 1	Madison Youth Arts Center Space	Confirmed	\$2,000
In-Kind 2			\$0
In-Kind 3			\$0
In-Kind 4			\$0
Totals			\$2,000

Budget Narrative

Additional explanation of budget figures. Be sure that any explanation of budget figures in this section matches the budget figures included above.

Expenses based on 4 sites running 20 sessions per 2021-2022 school year, and one site beginning 2022 spring semester. Total of 5 sites in the 2021-2022 school year.

Administrative cost cover the coordination of artists and sessions sites, exhibitions venues, community events, transportation and maintenance of supplies, set up and clean up of sites.

Artist Honoraria covers the fees of contract artists who run sessions for limited periods of times, or one contracted artist per session per school year.

Artist Asst. and Room Asst. earn \$25/session over 20 sessions.

Supplie need is variable, but \$50/session is the average expense, which could include a wide variety of materials. We also provide a healthy snack.

Promotions: We maintain a website that covers our work and events that is continually updated. It also features a gallery for viewers to meet the artists and see the work. We also use social media to keep our donors and the community updated about our work.

Transportation encompasses renting buses to transport youth to field trips, galleries, studios, etc., and events featuring their work. We also transport youth from school to a session sites to consolidate sites.

In-Kind Donation: The Madison Youth Arts Center has offered our program a free space. The \$2000 in-kind donation is based on an estimate of its use at \$35/hr. Currently there are some unknowns, such as when they will open their doors safely and how many days a week we will transport our children to MYAC. We are looking at transporting the Goodman youth, and the feasibility of consolidating and transporting the middle school youth for two-three sessions a week.

Income:

Site fees: Each site pays \$1500/semester, or \$3000/full school year (20 sessions). This year we will be serving the Odyssey Project's, Junior Odyssey beginning in the January, 2022. So this budget includes income from four schools and the Goodman Community Center for a full school year, and the spring semester serving the Odyssey Project.

First Congregational Church awarded us \$7400 from their Seeds of Hope Grant which has been confirmed, contract signed, but distribution is pending.

Individual Contributions: A private individual who attended a session this summer has donated \$1500 to upcoming programming.

Fundraising: We are currently looking at online programs for fundraising to launch in October. We are also in discussions with MYAC about using Gallery Night in November as a fundraiser. We have also been offered spaces in the community for fundraising once indoor crowds are considered safe.

Madison Community Foundation's American Girl Children's Fund was awarded to us last year, and has currently opened its 2022 grant cycle.

We have requested \$7500 from the Dane County COVID Recovery Grant for income we lost due to schools closing and and losing our onsite access to schools and youth. We did carry on programming via Zoom, but accessed a fraction of our youth.

Budget Summary

Category	Total Cash Expenses	Total Cash Income	Total In-Kind (Non-Cash)	Total Request Amount	Total Request Percentage	Total Budget
Grant Request Amount	\$44,000	\$40,940	\$2,000	\$3,060	6.65	\$46,000

Attachments/Supplemental Materials

Attachment	Description	File Name	File Size	Type
Required (for all applicants)				Current Letter of support #1 from the community at large (highlighting artistic quality/merit, public value, commitment, ability to implement successfully)*
Letter of support from Dr. Julie Poehlman of the UW Department of Child & Family Well-Being who will conduct a data-based evaluation on the program's outcomes.	Dane Arts Grant Letter of Support Dr. Julie Poehlman.pdf	17.0 MB	pdf	Current Letter of support #2 from the community at large (highlighting artistic quality/merit, public value, commitment, ability to implement successfully)*
Letter from Anwar Floyd Pruitt, contract artist who led sessions online with Art Express youth during COVID-19.	Anwar Floyd Pruitt Letter.pdf	17.0 MB	pdf	Current Letter of support #3 (optional)
Letter from Community Resource Coordinator at Lake View Elementary School which Club Express has serviced for 3 years.	Letter to Dane Arts Grant Committee from Rachel Deterding.pdf	17.0 MB	pdf	Short bios or resumes of key personnel*
Miranda Starr and Patricia Dillon resumes inserted onto one document.	Miranda Starr & Patricia Dillon Resumes.pdf	17.0 MB	pdf	Logo/Image
			Logo or Image (to be used in listing project/program on a website if awarded a grant)*	Logo art.
Logo for Dane Arts.jpg	17.0 MB	jpg	Required For Applicant (Non-Profit Organizations Only)	
		Mission statement	Mission Statement.	Mission Statement.pdf
17.0 MB	pdf	List of officers/board members and primary staff involved in project	Profile of Board of Trustees, Program Director and Executive Director.	Cultural Connections Board Profile.pdf

17.0 MB	pdf	Year-end income/expense statement from immediate past fiscal year	2020 Budget Statement	Cultural Connections: Dane Arts Grant 2020 Budget Statement.pdf
17.0 MB	pdf	Income/expense statement from current fiscal year	Cultural Connections 2021 Budget Statement	Cultural Connections for Dane Arts Grant 2021 Budget Statement .pdf
17.0 MB	pdf	IRS federal tax-exempt 501(c)(3) determination for your organization or fiscal receiver	Determination Letter of 501c3 status.	Internal Revenue Letter.pdf
17.0 MB	pdf	Required for Applicants (Using a Fiscal Receiver Only)		
		Letter of Commitment from Fiscal Receiver		17.0 MB
		Required For Applicant (Individuals Only)		
		Resume or professional biography	17.0 MB	

Other Attachments



COVID Online lead artist Anwar Floyd Pruitt takes the Goodman kids outside for the first time.

565 KB



Goodman student Marcello spray paints a word he wishes for the world.

707 KB



Club Express youth Salima models her silk screened shirt created with artist Terrence Adeyanju.

1.8 MB

File Name	Description	File Size
CC Goodman Mural.jpeg	Club Express youth work on Goodman Community Center created with mural artist Liubov Szwako.	254 KB
CC Northside Equity Art BLM .jpeg	Northside youth create equity art outside after a semester of online programming.	157 KB

Fields

Applicant/Authorized Official	Patricia J Dillon
Title	Executive Director
Date Signed	08/01/2021

Internal Data

Comments

Internal Attachments



School of Human Ecology
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

July 25, 2021

Dear Grant Committee,

I am once again delighted to support the program, Cultural Connections, focusing on children with incarcerated parents. As you may know, having an incarcerated parent is one of the leading public health problems in the United States. Because of racial and economic disparities in mass incarceration, parental incarceration disproportionately impacts poor and minority children, with 1 in 8 poor children and 1 in 9 Black children affected. Indeed, now 5 million children in the United States have experienced a co-resident parent leaving to spend time in jail or prison. Because children with incarcerated parents are more likely to exhibit negative outcomes than their peers, including behavior problems, health concerns, cognitive delays, and academic difficulties, it is imperative that communities engage in prevention and intervention efforts.

Sadly, few interventions for children with incarcerated parents exist, and even fewer have been evaluated. As a professor who engages in research, teaching, and service to promote resilience in vulnerable children and families, I have been actively engaged with children of incarcerated parents for the past 18 years.

To support Cultural Connections, I will lead an evaluation team of graduate and undergraduate students from the Center for Child & Family Well-Being at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Using mixed methods, including interviews, observations, and examination of art work, the evaluation team will learn about what the program means to children and families and how children represent their experiences through art and engagement in the community. We will also supplement these data with youth-, parent-, and/or teacher-report surveys about the children's strengths and behavioral and academic challenges prior to and after participation in the program to document positive change over time. In any case, we will provide a summary of our findings within the months following completion of the program.

I am excited to partner with this project. Please feel free to contact me at julie.poehlmantynan@wisc.edu if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie Poehlmann".

Julie Poehlmann, Ph.D.
Dorothy A. O'Brien Professor of Human Ecology
Professor, Human Development and Family Studies
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Department of Human Development and Family Studies
Nancy Nicholas Hall 1300 Linden Drive Madison, Wisconsin 53706

July 25, 2021

Dear Dane Arts Grant Committee:

Bringing out of school time art enrichment to youth during the pandemic comes with many challenges, but Cultural Connections did a stellar job of overcoming hurdles and engaging students through virtual arts programming. Cultural Connections created and delivered meaningful art project kits to youth every week in advance of the virtual workshops. These project kits were delivered to the Goodman Center and directly to some youth at their homes. This effort to build new relationships with youth and nurture pre-Covid relationships is laudable. This outreach resulted in opportunities for program youth to meet Madison artists and to contribute to larger art projects that the broader Madison community could view. Youth artwork, created during these sessions, was displayed on a video monitor at the Chazen Museum of Art in the exhibition "Supernova: Charlotte & Gene's Radical Imagination Station".

Program youth illustrations are also being featured in DAMA created murals on the new Madison Youth Art Center, where they will be seen by thousands of people for years to come. There was a social justice focus for many of the sessions. Elementary and middle school students were introduced to important ideas and vocabulary and encouraged to incorporate them into their art by envisioning themselves, their peers, and the characters they created as "Social Justice Heroes". I was honored to have been a leader in many of these sessions.

Thank you,
Anwar Floyd Pruitt
anwarfp@gmail.com
anwarfloydpruitt.com

July 15, 2021

Rachel Deterding, Resource Coordinator
Lake View Community School
1802 Tennyson Lane, Room 2
Madison, WI 53704

Dear Grant Committee:

During the 2018-2019 school year, we offered a weekly after school Cultural Connections club that served 15 students in 3rd-5th grades for 24 weeks. This club was run in collaboration with the Cultural Connections program director, Pat Dillon, and a team of Lake View staff and community volunteers. During this time, we observed small but significant shifts in the focus and behavior of its participants. These observations ranged from less behavior support calls for these students during the school day to positive behavior and attendance on the day the club met. We also observed gains in students' perceptions and beliefs about themselves and their sense of belonging both in the club and at school. Students who were initially shy and reserved became more willing to speak up and participate in class and be stronger leaders during the club. We also noticed that students were more willing to try new things, even if they were initially unsure. And, most importantly, we witnessed students finding a cohort of peers who had the similar experience of having an incarcerated family member, and having a place within which that experience was de-stigmatized.

During the 2019-2020 school year, we added Cultural Connections to our array of services available through our Multi Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) at Lake View Community School. This means that we accept referrals from teachers and a team of student services staff match students with the best service for them. That year, the mental health MTSS matched students who met eligibility requirements for the Cultural Connections club (age and familial incarceration). We have identified more than 15 students as group-ready to participate in Cultural Connections, several of whom will participate this upcoming year. The Cultural Connections club supports two of the Community School priority areas we have identified: Healthy Relationships and Enrichment Opportunities. It is specialized support for a traditionally marginalized population, of which there is little research.

We support our Cultural Connections team. Thank you for your consideration of Cultural Connections in your grant selection.

Rachel Deterding
Lake View Community School Resource Coordinator
608-628-8096, rdeterding@madison.k12.wi.us



Miranda Starr

7409 Longmeadow Road, Madison, WI 53717 | (608) 513-5857 | mmirandastarr@gmail.com

A highly motivated and passionate educator with 15+ years of experience working in education with diverse children, youth and families. I am well versed in childcare regulations and licensing and have a wealth of knowledge of child development. I have extensive experience working with community organizations and special skill of building relationships with families. I have a strong desire to lead a team of professionals to provide the highest quality care possible.

EDUCATION

Millikin University, Decatur, IL

Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Goodman Community Center — Madison, WI

2020 - present

A nonprofit Community Center offering childcare and enrichment programs for children and youth

Early Childhood Partnership Manager

Developed key partnerships and programs under a cross collaboration grant funded by United Way of Dane County. The partnerships focus on social emotional skills, mental health supports and school readiness by partnering with local organizations and our partner elementary schools.

- Developed policies, systems and procedures to execute highly effective cross system partnerships and meet grant outcomes.
- Met regularly with the project teams and maintain clear and consistent communication.
- Executed Program wide training events with key partners around Mental Health and School Readiness.
- Developed numerous engagement and Learning Opportunities for our Families and Communities with our key community partners.
- Created logic models and maintained evaluation plans and measurements to track and evaluate outcomes.

Intro to the School – Age Care Profession Course Instructor

2018 - present

As a Tier 3 Trainer and under an Adult Employment Grant with the City of Madison I teach an Intro to School-Age Care Course twice a year. This course provides the entry-level knowledge and skills for individuals as they begin to or intend to care for school-age children in group or family child care settings. This course examines and identifies the rules and regulations governing group and family child care for school age children and the responsibilities of the providers and will provide a foundation for the importance of out-of-school-time programs and explore the philosophy and goals for high quality programs.

- Developed and executed an 8-week curriculum to introduction school age care and prepare participants to be employed in out of school time spaces and provide high-quality care.
- Identified and accommodated barriers to participant success by offering childcare, transportation, food and other incentives to encourage successfully completion of the course.
- Created and maintained a mentorship program with out of school time staff and organized in classroom practicum experiences.
- Maintained and adhered to program budget.
- Provided on the spot interviews with Out of school time organizations and tracked employment of participants after the completion of the course.

Patricia Dillon
608-206-6584
pat@patjdillon.com
www.patjdillon.com
www.culturalconnectionsmadison.com

EXPERIENCE

- **Director** / Cultural Connections, Inc., Madison / Since 2018
Club Express program that links youth affected by incarceration to cultural art opportunities that serves Madison schools district and community programs.
- **Independent Writer / Madison, Chicago, Milwaukee / Since 1985**
Write feature and news stories, and promotional and technical materials.
Clients: *The Guardian*, Madison Metropolitan School District, *Isthmus Newspaper*, Native American Tourism, Wisconsin Department of Tourism, Cricket Design Works, *Madison Magazine*, *Milwaukee Magazine*, Laughlin Constable, National Retail Chains and others.
- **Author** / Madison / 2010-2015
 - Native Wisconsin* covers the culture and traditions of 11 Wisconsin tribes.
Clients: Discover Mediaworks; Native American Tourism of Wisconsin.
 - Green Travel Guide to Northern Wisconsin: Environmentally and Socially Responsible Travel*;
 - Green Travel Guide to Southern Wisconsin: Environmentally and Socially Responsible Travel*.
Publisher: University of Wisconsin Press.

THE ARTS

- **Visual Artist** / Represented by Milward Farrell Fine Art Gallery, Madison / Since 2010
- **Curator** / "Confined" / Makeshift Festival / Central Library Gallery Night Madison / 2018
Installation incorporated a partnership with Artworking painters and the work of children in the program explored the impact of incarceration on children and families.
- **Curator** / "Faces of Incarceration" / Overture Center for the Arts / Winnebago Studios, Madison / 2018-2017
Installation partnered with local artists to tell stories of formerly incarcerated people through portraiture and storytelling.
- **Owner** / Dillon Art Gallery, Madison / 2014-2016
- **Panelist** / Dane Arts Grant Advisory Panel, Madison / 2008-2015
- **Curator** / Sustain Dane Bioneers Conference Art Show, American Family, Madison / 2010
- **Organizer** / Sustain Dane Fundraiser Art Show, Madison / 2010
- **Curator** / "Dreams of our Future" / Glendale Elementary and Overture Center for the Arts, Madison / 2010
Books exploring hopes for the future was commemorated by Madison mayor and common council members.
- **Owner** / Bungalow 1227 Art Gallery of Wisconsin Artists, Madison / 2007-2009

AWARDS

- **Winner:** Milwaukee Press Club Best Multi-Story Coverage of a Single Feature Topic, *Madison Magazine* / 2015
- **Finalist:** City and Regional Magazine Association Awards for Civic Journalism, *Madison Magazine* / 2015
- **Honorable Mention:** ForeWord Indies Book of the Year Awards, *Green Travel Guide* / 2010
- **Winner:** Isthmus Publishing's Best Wisconsin Books of 2010, *Green Travel Guide to Northern Wisconsin* / 2010

EDUCATION

UW-Whitewater B.A. English / 1997

UW-Milwaukee B.A. Journalism and Public Relations / 1985

Cultural Connections introduces cultural arts opportunities that access the kind of creative and critical thinking around social justice and change that inspires positive perceptions of how our youth fit into the world.

CULTURAL CONNECTIONS, INC BOARD PROFILE

Marie Justice, President

When Marie is not with her four children who she home schools, she can be found working on social justice films with her husband Johnny or in front of the camera as a host with the Discover Wisconsin crew or acting or directing in Madison's local theater scene. But her passion is social justice and producing films that focus on changing the way people interact and care for one another through her production company, Justice&Justice Productions.

Jerry Butler, Vice President

Jerry received a MS Degree in Art Education from Jackson State University. He moved to Madison, Wisconsin as a middle school teacher and attended the University of Wisconsin where he received a MFA, MSLA and PhD Degrees. Butler also attended Harvard University's Summer Institute for Transformational Leadership in Education. Butler served as a K12 art teacher for the Madison Metropolitan School District for many years before becoming an Associate Dean at Madison College in Madison Wisconsin. He served on the Kennedy Center Arts Alliance Network Board and was on the faculty at Central Connecticut State University where he created public art works in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Texas and Connecticut. Butler is the owner of Arts and Design Works LLC., of Madison.

Alexis Dean, Secretary

Alexis is an educator and a hip hop artist who has devoted his life to children. He is proud of his work as a black educator in a system where black faces are not typically leading classrooms. He began his work with toddlers at UW-Milwaukee's childcare center as a college freshman and went on to become an award-winning MMSD Americorp member. He worked in the Madison schools until Covid 19 forced him to begin a new career path. In his work as a hip hop artist, #dreamsstartyoung, Alexis composes music with strong messages for children of color and leads workshops in which he leads hard conversations about racism and other issues that are hard to navigate for the young.

Rachel Erickson, Treasurer

Rachel has worked with nonprofits for over 15 years, focusing her efforts on social justice, racial equity, and education. She earned her B.A. in Anthropology at B.Y.U., where she developed a love of world cultures. She has coached refugees, military veterans, and recent immigrants in beginning new careers. After moving to Wisconsin in 2013, she joined the Boys and Girls' Club of Dane County on their education team. She tutors under-represented high school students in core subjects, as well as managing a program budget and tracking the metrics necessary for grant funding. Rachel considers it a privilege to be in the high school, listening to Black, Asian, and Latino youth discuss racial trauma and restorative justice. Rachel has developed a deep appreciation for how art can help people cope with stress, heal from trauma, and construct an identity. Rachel loves getting messy doing art projects or going to the playground with her two children, Owen and Adelle.

Nicole Wetzel, Curriculum

Nicole is a teacher at the Goodman Community Center where she serves both the preschool and after school programs. Nicole teaches theater basic classes to 1st through 5th graders and knitting to several groups at Goodman. She believes that building strong community is the basis for strong teaching and is passionate about seeking out resources that celebrate the diversity of our world and incorporating those resources into her teaching. Nicole participated in The

Neighborhood Organizing Institute sponsored by the Madison City Council which provided tools and training for grassroots organizing. She uses those organizing skills in the Darbo-Worthington neighborhood where she lives, and Madison's larger community. Nicole holds a BA in teaching from Lawrence University in Appleton, WI.

Miranda Starr, Program Director

Program Director Miranda Starr, formerly a Cultural Connections board member, is Early Childhood Partnership Manager at the Goodman Community Center. Miranda has been in Education for 16 years in a number of positions including Tiered 3 Approved Trainer, A Lead After School Teacher, a classroom teacher in the Madison School District and as a reading specialist. Miranda graduated from Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois where she received her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. Education is Miranda's passion and children have always been her joy. Miranda joined Cultural Connections as co-director because she believes in creating safe and engaging learning environments in which teachers, families and students can explore and grow.

"I believe in the power of community and building relationships to create lifelong learners who are confident and kind. I love this work and am honored to serve all youth, and to that end, I think this program is growing confident children plagued with the stigma of having a locked up loved one, and compassionate allies to family, friends and schoolmates who are affected by incarceration and other social issues that impact low income children."

Pat Dillon, Founding Executive Director

Cultural Connections founder and Ex. Director Pat Dillon, is a social justice writer and fine artist who first began creating enrichment programs when she noticed low income youth were seldom engaged in the advanced academic opportunities offered to her daughters. Over the following years she ran book clubs and creative writing clubs for kids with all intellectual abilities and income levels.

When her grandson's father was incarcerated in 2012, Pat directed her focus to the 2000 plus children in Dane County who live without a parent because of incarceration. She now works to support youth in building a stronger sense of self and purpose through cultural engagement, while also training youth to serve as youth allies for the many kids affected by the social structures that create barriers to academic and cultural opportunity.

Table 1



Cultural Connections 2020 Budget, First year of funding as a 501c3.				
INCOME				
	United Way Micro-Investment partial roll over to 2021	This was a 2020 Grant that was halted because of COVID. We spent half of this grant from Jan 2020 to March 2020 and the remainder when we accessed our youth in Jan, 2021.		\$2500.00
	Lake View Elementary			\$1500.00
	Emerson Elementary			\$900.00
			TOTAL 2021	\$4900.00
EXPENSES				
		WAGES		2020, 2 SITE
	Lead Artist	40/hr (We increased wages in 2021 when we brought in BIPOC artists to lead the classroom.		\$720.00
	Administrative Costs			\$1500.00
	Asst. Artist	12.50/hr		\$225.00
	Room Asst.	12.50/hr		\$225.00
	Supplies			\$750.00
	Transportation			\$540.00
	Technology/Web Design			\$1250.00
Total This Project			TOTAL	\$5210.00

Table 1

Cultural Connections Organizational Budget 2020/21				
				
INCOME				TOTAL FUNDS RECEIVED 2020/2021. PARCIAL 2020 FUNDING ROLLED OVER TO 2021 DUE TO COVID-19.
	Dane Arts Blockstein Equity Grant			\$500.00
	Madison Arts Commission			\$3,000.00
	United Way Micro-Investment partial roll over to 2021	This was a 2020 Grant that was halted because of COVID. We spent half of this grant from Jan 2020 to March 2020.		\$2500.00
	Madison Community Foundation			\$5000.00
Lake View Elementary				\$1500.00
Goodman Community Center				\$2400.00
			TOTAL 2021	\$14,900.00
EXPENSES		WAGES		2021, 2 SITES
Lead Artist	6 artists over 27 weeks. Programming continued throughout the summer. This includes overtime for some.	27 hr @ 80/hr plus prep time for some artists.		\$2832.00
Administrative Costs	Hours spent coordinating artist with youth, picking up artist materials and basic supplies and delivering supplies to youth participating from 5 home sites and Goodman Community Center, and attending Zoom meetings as artist assistant. Maintaining communication with youth and families, creative strategizing with artists, picking up youth's finished pieces and preparing for production at DAMA, picking up youth at 5 homes sites and delivering to parks to participate outside once the vaccine was available. The hours billed here are partial. Maintaining this programming during COVID were above and beyond what I was willing to pay myself to keep funding for other needed areas.	120 hr @\$50/hr		\$6000.00
Promotion/Technology	Web design, maintenance, new web gallery design, social media updates.	68 hour @ \$50/hr		\$3400.00
Supplies	Supplies were hard to maintain during COVID as we had no control over them once we delivered to 4 homes and Goodman. We were repeatedly delivering doubles or triples on art supplies. Other supplies include materials for artists, paint materials, silkscreen materials, spray paint and markers, paper, pencils, canvases, snacks, art smocks & shoe protection, drop clothes. We also delivered to other children in the household if requested, particularly snacks.			\$1891.00
			TOTAL	\$14,123.00

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
P. O. BOX 2508
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: **OCT 01 2019**

CULTURAL CONNECTIONS INC
514 ELMSIDE BLVD
MADISON, WI 53704-5708

Employer Identification Number:
84-3081671
DLN:
26053666002679
Contact Person:
CUSTOMER SERVICE ID# 31954
Contact Telephone Number:
(877) 829-5500
Accounting Period Ending:
December 31
Public Charity Status:
170(b)(1)(A)(vi)
Form 990/990-EZ/990-N Required:
Yes
Effective Date of Exemption:
June 26, 2019
Contribution Deductibility:
Yes
Addendum Applies:
No

Dear Applicant:

We're pleased to tell you we determined you're exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3). Donors can deduct contributions they make to you under IRC Section 170. You're also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under Section 2055, 2106, or 2522. This letter could help resolve questions on your exempt status. Please keep it for your records.

Organizations exempt under IRC Section 501(c)(3) are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined you're a public charity under the IRC Section listed at the top of this letter.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that you're required to file Form 990/990-EZ/990-N, our records show you're required to file an annual information return (Form 990 or Form 990-EZ) or electronic notice (Form 990-N, the e-Postcard). If you don't file a required return or notice for three consecutive years, your exempt status will be automatically revoked.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that an addendum applies, the enclosed addendum is an integral part of this letter.

For important information about your responsibilities as a tax-exempt organization, go to www.irs.gov/charities. Enter "4221-PC" in the search bar to view Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, which describes your recordkeeping, reporting, and disclosure requirements.

Letter 947