

Impact Funding - Sample Application Excerpts

The following excerpts were pulled from among the highest-scoring applications in the 2020-21 funding cycle, with the exception of the Proposal Summaries which was a new application element last year. Organizations may use these excerpts as a reference to see how past applicants constructed a successful and competitive application.

While the language of the application questions and review criteria for the current application cycle have been updated since the 2020-21 funding cycle, the primary funding goals have remained the same. We encourage applicants to read through these excerpts with the current review criteria in mind, and note the various ways criteria is met or exceeded through the narrative.

NOTE: *These excerpts are from the very first Tacoma Creates funding cycle, submitted just before the pandemic started. Proposal excerpts listed below may not accurately reflect programming produced by the listed organizations.*

PROPOSAL SUMMARY

Tell us in a single sentence what you are proposing to produce with Tacoma Creates support during the 2022-23 program year. [The following examples were pulled from 2022-23 applications, and were selected by staff as strong examples of concise proposal summaries.]

FABLAB EDUCATION

Fablab will provide day camps, workshops, clubs, demonstrations, STEAM kits and targeted fabrication services to support STEAM education with youth, adults, older adults, and families.

HILLTOP BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

We will Produce the 7th annual Hilltop Street Fair and use the funding to pay visual Artists, performing artists, musicians and those that assist.

TACOMA BOAT BUILDERS

TBB will create spaces in which court connected and otherwise marginalized and underserved youth experience the transformational power of exercising creativity in hands-on artistic experiences.

THE PLAYGROUND KIKI

The Playground KiKi is developing sessions, master class series, and KiKi Ball to create BIPOC LGBTQ+ spaces in Tacoma and educate community on ballroom culture.

GENERAL PUBLIC PROGRAMS

What public programs will you present with Tacoma Creates funding support during the current funding cycle (June 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021)?

CHINESE RECONCILIATION PROJECT FOUNDATION

Tacoma Moon Festival

- We will increase the funding for the heritage community groups who are the primary performers at the Tacoma Moon Festival.
- September 19, 2020
- Increased funding will better support and honor the performers, their groups and their traditions.
- Our board members are experienced presenters and we also have professional staff assistance.
- The 2020 Tacoma Moon Festival is already well underway in planning with Board, volunteers, financial support in place.
- Audience: about 2000-2500. Performers: about 40-50.

Symphony Tacoma Concert Ticket Subsidy

- Subsidized student tickets for Symphony Tacoma's premiere performance of CRPF-sponsored composition "Tacoma Method" which deals with the expulsion of the Chinese community from Tacoma in 1885.
- November 21, 2020, 7:30 pm at the Pantages Theater.
- It will allow access for marginalized high school students to a major cultural event. This particular concert is about Tacoma history and about immigrants as well as the classical music tradition, both instrumental and vocal.
- Composer Gregory Youtz is on the Board of the Chinese Reconciliation Project Foundation and is also part of the Symphony Tacoma organization. Other members of the CRPF Board include administrators in the Tacoma Public Schools.
- Already scheduled by Symphony Tacoma. The high school students will be identified through teachers in the Tacoma Public Schools.
- About 100 students.

Heritage Group Invitational Event

- A Heritage Performing Arts invitational event for Tacoma area youth to bring together performers from many such groups in a in-depth exchange to meet and perform for each other and then share a prestigious evening performance in the Pantages. This is the first iteration. We hope will be an annual event.
- A Saturday afternoon and evening in November 2020 or Spring of 2021.
- Payment of an honorarium will sustain these organizations financially. A prestigious event on Tacoma's most prestigious stage will provide additional incentive for youth to remain involved.
- Tacoma Arts Live will co-sponsor this program and provide logistics. CRPF Board will serve as the liaisons to the group.
- An available date needs to be identified by Tacoma Arts Live. A performer selection process needs to be developed.

- Youth participants: about 60-80. The audience: 500-600.

SPACEWORKS TACOMA

The goal of the Artscapes Program is to exhibit outstanding work that enhances the cultural vibrancy of Tacoma and is free and accessible to the public. We organize this work in two areas: Streetside and the 950 Gallery. The Artscapes coordinator and dozens of contracted artists conduct the work. Calls for artists occur annually in the spring or as opportunities become available; panelists of community members and creative professionals help select the artists.

1. Streetside: an urban exhibition program that places window displays and murals in vacant commercial spaces. Downtown sites with rotating art include: the 4 display windows of the Woolworth Building, 2 windows at the Pantages, 3 murals on an empty building at 11th and Market, murals and videos on repurposed information kiosks, and an outdoor video gallery at the 12th St Hill Climb. Annually this engages tens of thousands of pedestrians and commuters.

At the request of property owners and community partners, we also create murals elsewhere in the city. This includes 6 temporary murals in Stadium and Hilltop, funded by Sound Transit to support businesses affected by light rail construction, and a new community mural in Hilltop, created in response to the Men of Change exhibition at the Washington State History Museum. We have a waitlist of about 12 mural requests that we will pursue as funding becomes available.

In FY21, we will create a minimum of 3 downtown murals and 3 murals in other communities and activate all windows and video displays described above.

2. The 950 Gallery on 11th and Commerce provides a professional gallery space for contemporary artists and curators to present their exhibitions. This prominent downtown location is a blank canvas for artists to develop technical skills, such as hanging and lighting their work. Currently open one day a week and also by appointment, the gallery hosts six exhibitions a year.

In FY21, we will offer 6 exhibitions and extend our hours of operation with interns and a new volunteer program.

This next fiscal year, we also want to more deliberately track and measure the professional development needs of our participating artists.

EVALUATION

- What does a successful program look like for your organization?
- How do you measure success?

FABLAB NONPROFIT

All classes and workshops have learning objectives and goals. A successful program for us starts with having instructors with training and competency in their areas of instruction and the ability to share the information

in a way that is accessible and engaging. As in our children's program successful programming means a safe environment where participants feel supported in being their authentic self and encourage the same in other participants. In classes and workshops that are project-based participants will have learned skills to complete project and will be proud of accomplishments. In information sharing workshops, participants will have knowledge and resources to pursue goals of workshops. We measure success by engagement in program, program feedback, and a written evaluations.

FAB-5

For Fab-5 HQ a successful program means that our young people have the skills both to manifest their creative voices and to leverage their creativity for self-determination. For #DesignTheHill success means that community advocacy has an impact which extends beyond the reach of the development residents are designing. On a seasonal and annual basis we measure success through quantitative and qualitative indicators including but not limited to:

- Participation: Growing participation, attendance reflects community diversity
- Innovation: Participants share ideas and refine, reinvent, and actively shape programming
- Initiative: Participants produce their own events, launching independent and/or entrepreneurial projects such as clothing brands, recording albums, dance competitions
- Succession: (HQ) Youth/young adult participants promoted as instructors, Fab-5 students who have graduated college returning to volunteer in their communities (DesignTheHill) Community feedback transforms both design and development policy, residents are activated as designers and housing advocates and equipped with knowledge to advance community ownership

YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS

What are the youth education programs that you will offer with Tacoma Creates funding support in this funding cycle (June 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021)?

WRITE253

Write253 will offer programs for youth ages 14-18 in and outside of school. The funding we are requesting will fund event planning, staff, materials, and general operating expenses that will fuel these programs and our organization overall. All of the core programs of Write253 will remain in place and are poised to expand. We are looking to engage in new opportunities as well. 1500-2000 youth will be served through new and existing programs.

A writing center will open in 2020 that serves as a hub for our programs, youth participants, and staff. This space will house our letterpress printing program, Line Break Press, as well as act as a gathering space for a weekly open mic series, writing workshops, and a maker space for letterpress printers.

Louder Than a Bomb-Tacoma, our annual teen poetry festival, will occur in Spring 2021, with preparation and workshops beginning in Fall 2020. This year, we will host a new event tentatively called LTAB-Tacoma Fall that launches the LTAB planning season.

We will also continue our programming at Remann Hall Juvenile Detention Center, with a part-time coordinator overseeing our Book and Writing Clubs. This coordinator will plan curriculum, oversee volunteers,

and work with detention staff to assure compliance with regulations and excellence in programming for our youth in incarceration.

Our Educational Partnerships program within Tacoma Public Schools will expand to twelve schools in 2020-21. This program offers free support to schools who show an interest in participating in LTAB-Tacoma by offering writing and performance instruction during the school day and at after school clubs. In 2019-20, partnerships at seven schools resulted in six teams from TPS (three of them new to LTAB).

We are also launching a program tentatively called the Writing Teachers Collective. This group of classroom teachers and Write253 teaching artists will meet monthly to write and share best practices around creative writing education. While this space will have some professional benefits for both our teaching artists and classroom teachers, it is also a creative space, for writers who teach and teachers who write and how they can best benefit their students.

TACOMA TREE FOUNDATION

We will offer a Think Green program for K-5 students at Roosevelt, Edison, and Fawcett Elementary (schools in underrepresented communities TTF has existing relationships with). The program will run once a week throughout the school year. Think Green will occur at partner schools during in-school hours and as a project-based learning program, has two components: in-classroom lessons and outdoor application. The project students will work together on is to plan, lead, and perform site remediation and restoration work on school grounds (with help from TTF and TPS staff). This will tie together and model lessons on tree biology, soil health, native plants, and urban forestry. To complement this program, we will also invite families on weekend field trips to the Vashon Wilderness School, Swan Creek Park, and Point Defiance Park. We expect to serve 80 students through our program.

We will work with a curriculum coach from Technology Access Foundation (TAF) and the TPS teachers to plan how project lessons can supplement and enhance school curriculum. We partner with TAF because we support their mission of bringing better STEM education to underrepresented communities and respect their experience. This is one way we consider DEI and access in our programming, along with choice of program location and the use of project-based learning. We chose project-based learning because it allows students to more deeply engage with learning material, helps students discover individual strengths while also working in groups, uses student engagement to shape the program, teaches critical thinking skills, and has been proven to improve test scores and students' educational outcomes.

The four staff members involved are Sarah Low, Jenn Trahan, Jessi Pickel, and Alejandro Fernandez. Sarah Low and Alejandro Fernandez will lead the outdoors application. Jenn Trahan will lead in-classroom lessons with help from Jessi Pickel. All have training in the environmental field through either formal education or work experience. Jenn Trahan and Jessi have experience with environmental education through serving as educators for our Nature Explorers program, while Sarah Low has several years experience designing programs specifically focused on breaking down barriers to nature education and the outdoors.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Tell us about how you work in different neighborhoods and how you support and/or increase access to your programs.

FAB-5

Fab-5 youth and staff come from Tacoma's Hilltop, Eastside, and South End neighborhoods and reflect the diversity of those neighborhoods. Our young people actively reimagine our programs every season as we crowdsource the creative process of devising our priorities for the year. Currently Fab-5 is gearing up to campaign for a permanent home with the hopes of buying a building to serve as a permanent youth and program venue for the future. As a result we are more oriented toward our programming at our headquarters, and unfortunately don't have the resources to do as much of the satellite programming as we have in the past. As a result this year we will focus on communications access through revamping our approach to technology, both in terms of how we make our educational programs available for young people despite geographic barriers of transportation, and also revamping the ways that young people are able to leverage, access and utilize technology within our programs to create and share and transfer their creative skills to new fields. Throughout 2020 we will be pursuing resources for a technology lab building on the success of #DesignTheHill to expand access to media and design tools. In 2020 we are also supporting our youth instructors to produce online mini-workshops and tutorials to engage young people throughout the city with unique skill building resources.

SPACEWORKS TACOMA

As the Artscapes program creates more public work outside the downtown core, community engagement has become fundamental to our process. This includes hiring artists from the neighborhood, including residents on the selection and review panels, presenting to stakeholders and community groups, and finding local matching sponsors. We've mostly worked in Hilltop, a neighborhood facing increased development and the displacement of residents. As Spaceworks has responded to the needs of the Hilltop, we've strengthened our model for community-informed programming. We hope to apply these processes in additional neighborhoods throughout Tacoma, specifically the Eastside and South Tacoma.

At the 950 Gallery and other Artscapes sites downtown, we engage other communities by partnering groups and organizations. Recent collaborators have included yəhaw, the Tacoma Historical Society, Tacoma Art Museum, and UWT.

Over the past few years, large agencies and organizations have hired Spaceworks to collaborate with artists in community planning efforts, such as the streetscape design in Hilltop and the master plan for the Theater District. Our cohort of local artists practices deep community engagement, working with and listening to residents. More than just paper surveys, art-informed planning utilizes spectacle, visualizations, community expertise, and lateral thinking to transform ideas into unexpected community-informed solutions.

EQUITY AND ACCESS

How does your organization take part in diversity, equity, inclusion, and/or social justice efforts?

CHINESE RECONCILIATION PROJECT FOUNDATION

The Chinese Reconciliation Project Foundation is dedicated to the reconciliation of all of Tacoma's diverse heritage and immigrant groups through the building of the Chinese Reconciliation Park, the creation and teaching of the history of ethnic intolerance in Tacoma's early days, and the celebration of Tacoma's current ethnically diverse culture. The Board comprises an ethnically mixed group, including members from the local Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese and Central American communities as well as European heritage groups.

The Tacoma Moon Festival annually serves to celebrate and represent the cultural heritage of all immigrant groups who have arrived in Tacoma and still have a presence here.

The Symphony Tacoma Concert will allow access for marginalized high school students to a major cultural event. This particular concert is about Tacoma history and about immigrant communities. CRPF will provide 100 tickets to the students. Selection and transportation will be organized in cooperation with TPS.

Heritage Group Invitational Event plans to bring Tacoma area youth together to perform for each other on the stage of the Pantages Theater. Selection will be organized in cooperation with Tacoma Arts Live and our many heritage group partners. Likely first participant groups would include, among others, Lanuola Samoan Performing Arts Academy, Chief Leschi Drum and Dance Group, and Cambodian Classical and Folk Dance of the Northwest.

Throughout the year, CRPF Board members also meet with Tacoma students, church groups around Puget Sound area, and groups in Tacoma communities for tours of the Chinese Reconciliation Park and talks in various schools and organizations.

TACOMA TREE FOUNDATION

As equity is one of TTF's guiding values, we take part in DEI and social justice work by focusing our work in communities that have been historically underserved and under-resourced. Most of these neighborhoods suffer from low rates of tree canopy coverage, and therefore experience higher health risks from heat waves, storms, and air and noise pollution. Through our work leading tree plantings and involving community members in the work of greening their neighborhoods, we seek to reverse these inequitable risk burdens.

We hire directly from the Tacoma communities we work in and also try to source as many of our needs from local businesses as possible. Our goal in doing so is to build capacity within these neighborhoods to perform the needed work of environmental restoration, and to help people build marketable skills. Everyone in our organization is then paid the same hourly living-wage rate.

Community input and needs significantly shapes what work we do in those communities. What one neighborhood needs is not what another one will, nor will their barriers be the same--we understand this, and therefore treat each neighborhood uniquely.

By bringing community greening, nature education, and advocacy work into these communities, in addition to achieving health equity, we're also hoping to do the broader work of rewriting the notion of "who belongs" outside. There is a serious whiteness problem in the environmental movement, which in turn perpetuates the myth that only a certain kind of person (white) can enjoy and care for the outdoors. Part of our commitment to diversity is to increase the number of people who get to enjoy nature early and who feel empowered to participate in it. We want more students to grow up feeling welcome in green jobs like landscape architecture, arboriculture, botany, and ecotourism. Tacoma Creates funding will allow us to also work on this broader mission of making the environmental community more diverse and inclusive in addition to the very tangible work of providing environmental education for children while also improving neighborhood green spaces. This funding will also help us expand our programming to more students.