



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 1076

1. **Title of Project:** ASC's Inclusion Theatre Project (ITP)

2. **Senate Sponsor:** Manny Diaz

3. **Date of Submission:** 01/30/2019

4. **Project/Program Description:**

The Inclusion Theatre Project (Theatre for Children with Developmental Disabilities) is an educational theatre program that develops the creative skills of artists of all abilities. In this inclusive program, students with disabilities work with peers from ASC's conservatory program, and with experienced instructors in the areas of acting, dance and music. With personalized attention and with group activities that promote social interaction, actors hone important life skills such as communication, self-expression and problem solving, all through the magic of live theatre. Additionally, for participants, the opportunity to be a part of professional theatrical productions is a dream come true. It's been demonstrated that ITP students achieve higher scores on standardized tests than their peers who do not experience training in the dramatic arts.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds :** Agency for Persons with Disabilities

State Agency Contacted? Yes

6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2019-2020**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	300,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	
Total State Funds Requested	300,000

7. **Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percent
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	300,000	85.71%
Federal	0	0.00%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0.00%
Local	30,000	8.57%
Other	20,000	5.71%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020	350,000	100.0%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** Yes

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	NonRecurring		
2018-19		200,000		No

9. **Is future-year funding likely to be requested?** Yes



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

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a. If yes, indicate non-recurring amount per year. 300,000

10. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Program Director	36,000
Other Salary and Benefits	Program Coordinator, Administration and Box Office personnel, Program Assistants	50,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Travel, office supplies, copies, etc.	4,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Coaches in dramatic arts	60,000
Operational Costs:		
Salary and Benefits	Salary and Benefits	30,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Marketing, Advertising, Theatre Rental, Insurance, Production Cost	60,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Production Directors, Assistant Directors, Designers (set, lights, costumes, props, make-up, and wigs), Stage Managers, Running Crew, etc.	60,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		300,000

11. Program Performance:

a. What is the specific purpose or goal that will be achieved by the funds requested?

ITP is an educational theatre program that develops the creative skills of artists of different abilities. The goal of the program is to use theatre classes to enhance cognitive skills; ITP students experience a significant hike in their reading comprehension and the ability to conceptualize context through their new acting skills. A more engaged attitude with peers and adults in school/out of school settings. And finally, a significant improvement in communication skills even for those with very limited verbal ability. Theatre expands their ability to express themselves and better communicate needs and express emotions. The program directly impacts the wholesome set of personal skills that these individuals need to navigate through life that could not be thoroughly obtained in the traditional school environment.

b. What are the activities and services that will be provided to meet the intended purpose of these funds?

In this inclusive program, founded by award-winning director Maria Banda-Rodaz, actors work with peers from ASC's conservatory program, in addition to experienced instructors in the areas of acting, dance and music. Activities include classes in acting, working with text, leaning songs, movement to music, improvisation and



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

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theatre games. With individualized attention, as well as group activities to promote social interaction, actors hone important life skills such as communication, self-expression and problem solving, all through the magic of live theatre. For participants, the opportunity to be a part of a professional theatrical production is a dream come true.

c. What are the direct services to be provided to citizens by the appropriations project?

ITP provides a platform to strongly counter the devastating effects of the judgments placed on individuals with developmental disabilities in today's society, where the shortcomings of our students are unfortunately emphasized. We passionately believe in curating transformative experiences for our students and audiences. ITP brings experienced instructors to local schools providing on-site training to individuals who might otherwise not have the opportunity to access their natural abilities through the arts. Additionally, ITP hosts a conservatory program at the Area Stage Company studio, where students train to perform in a full-length theatrical production. All free of charge.

d. Who is the target population served by this project? How many individuals are expected to be served?

The target population of ITP is students and individuals across Miami Dade County, ages 5+, with developmental and intellectual disabilities who wish to develop their creative and performance talents. Through our on-site classes, conservatory training, workshops, and community engagements, we plan to serve over 150 students during the FY 2019-2020.

e. What is the expected benefit or outcome of this project? What is the methodology by which this outcome will be measured?

The Inclusion Theatre Project (ITP) aims to strongly counter the devastating effects of assumptions placed on students with developmental disabilities by helping them manifest their true potential. Preliminary analysis of outcome measures reflects significant gains in language skills, memory, speech/articulation, behavior, problem-solving and social interaction for participating individuals with disabilities. Additionally, the use of evaluation tools including surveys, entrance and exit interviews, parent/guardian surveys and/or in-person meetings, and intern/peer relationships assessments enable us to monitor our student's progress.

f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for in the contract?

Cease state funds.

12. The owner(s) of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owner(s) of the facility and the entity.

N/A

13. Requestor Contact Information:

- a. **Name:** Maria Banda-Rodaz
- b. **Organization:** Area Stage Company
- c. **E-mail Address:** mariarodaz@areastagecompany.com
- d. **Phone Number:** (305)666-2078

14. Recipient Contact Information:



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 1076

- a. **Organization:** Area Stage Company
- b. **County:** Miami-Dade
- c. **Organization Type:**
 - For Profit
 - Non Profit 501(c) (3)
 - Non Profit 501(c) (4)
 - Local Entity
 - University or College
 - Other (Please specify)
- d. **Contact Name:** Christian Escobar
- e. **E-mail Address:** itp@areastagecompany.com
- f. **Phone Number:** (305)666-2078

15. Lobbyist Contact Information

- a. **Name:** David Caserta
- b. **Firm Name:** David Caserta Government Relations Inc.
- c. **E-mail Address:** flagovernment@aol.com
- d. **Phone Number:** (305)463-8808