



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

LFIR # 1885

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Funds will support the Inclusion Theatre Project, a one-of-a-kind theatre training program for students with developmental and intellectual disabilities founded in 2014 in Coral Gables, FL by the Area Stage Company. ITP currently serves over 300 youth, at no cost to them, through on site classes at ASC and coordinated outreach classes by ITP instructors at local partner schools. Yearly, students present two public access musical theatre productions, as well as multiple outreach performances throughout the community. Though all ASC Conservatory classes have always been fully inclusive, ITP is focused solely on its students' progress, allowing instructors to tailor their approach based upon unique student needs and abilities. The program originated from ASC's belief that training in the performing arts teaches vital tools for life.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	250,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	250,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	250,000	49%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	60,000	12%
Local	85,000	16%
Other	120,000	23%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2021-2022	515,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2020-21	0	250,000	248	No

9. Is future funding likely to be requested?

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.

Area Stage is supported by multiple grants on the state, county, city, and foundation level as well as donations and grassroots support.



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10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

No

If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

11. 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, Program Manager, Program Coordinator	70,000
Other Salary and Benefits	Program Secretary, Bookkeeping	10,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Travel expenses, office supplies.	5,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	Program Instructors (8), Stage Directors (2), Program Assistants	70,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Production costs, materials, marketing & PR, Theatre and rehearsal studio rental, insurance	50,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Designers, Production Stage Manager, Assistant Stage Managers, Light & Sound Technicians	45,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		250,000

12. Program Performance

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

The specific goal and purpose of the funds requested is to continue to serve the population of 300+ developmentally and intellectually disabled students that the Inclusion Theatre Project currently serves. This funding will make theatrical education possible for these students, helping to improve their social-emotional intelligence, communication and leadership skills, cognition, coordination, and emotional wellbeing, as well as providing a sense of community for them. ITP's primary goal has always been high-quality performing arts education for each and every student. The program also aims to counter the devastating effects of judgments often leveled at students with development and intellectual disabilities in today's society. Unfortunately, the shortcomings of our students are often emphasized instead of their unique strengths and abilities. ITP focuses on helping students manifest what they are capable of achieving.

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

Activities provided to meet the intended purpose of these funds include theatrical classes in acting, dance (ballet, jazz, tap, musical theatre, flamenco), music, and singing as well as technical theatre including stagecraft, costuming, makeup, lighting design, and stage management. Classes are taught by ITP trained instructors who are veterans in their various artistic fields as well as experienced working with individuals with developmental disabilities. Students also participate in two to three fully produced musical theatre stage productions each year which they rehearse and perform in addition to classes. Students and instructors also participate in multiple community outreach activities yearly.

c. What direct services will be provided to citizens by the appropriation project?

Direct services include artistic education, as well as improvement in the following areas: social-emotional intelligence, communication and leadership skills, cognition, coordination, and emotional wellbeing. To the greater community, ITP provides education about and exposure to the disabled community, allowing camaraderie, acceptance, and inclusion to become the society norm.



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

ITP serves approximately 320 Miami Dade county students, ages 6 and up, with developmental, intellectual, and physical disabilities. Students currently come from ITP partner schools: Crystal Academy, Great Heights Academy, the Marian Center School and Services, Miami Learning Experience, and Our Pride Academy, as well as from Miami Dade county public schools.

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

Onsite students at ASC, and their parents are given pre and post assessments and surveys in order to measure outcomes and satisfaction. Additionally, partner school classes are evaluated once per year to ensure satisfactory student progress. Student attendance is tracked carefully for all groups, and perhaps most effectively and importantly, all students participate in multiple theatre performances onstage each year. This is where progress and development are most evident. Success is defined as follows: 100% of all students will have improved in all parameters (cognition, fine motor skills, verbal communication, cooperation, self-confidence, etc.) as evidenced by pre and post assessments, 100% of students will have completed all rehearsals and performances throughout the session, and 100% of students and parents will be satisfied with the program.

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 the contract?

As per the current contracting agency of these funds- The Florida State Agency for Persons with Disabilities, according to contract #ACX61, page 12, section 38 of the existing contract, instances of noncompliance will be penalized through financial consequences.

13. The owners of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owners of the facility and the entity.

N/A



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14. Requestor Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number Ext.

15. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization

b. Municipality and County

c. Organization Type

- ☐ For Profit Entity
- ☒ Non Profit 501(c)(3)
- ☐ Non Profit 501(c)(4)
- ☐ Local Entity
- ☐ University or College
- ☐ Other (please specify)

d. First Name Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number

16. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number