



Illustrative LOI (for reference only)

(January 2020 Recipient-Community Access to the Arts)

04-3196265 seeks \$(deleted by GKV) in support to pilot programs in photography, hip hop, and songwriting for people with developmental and intellectual disabilities—a population historically marginalized from the arts. Programs will engage new participants, including underserved students with disabilities, nurturing social-emotional expression and building communication skills.

As a leader in the arts and disability field, serving hundreds of low-income people across Western Massachusetts, we seek to reach additional participants including students with disabilities in eight Title 1 districts. These students are often the most underserved in our rural area: Rarely mainstreamed into arts classes, they do not have the creative outlets or exposure to the arts provided their neurotypical peers.

Based on student surveys, we have identified photography, hip hop, and songwriting as strong interests. Funding from GKV Foundation would support:

- Curriculum development for multi-week arts workshops, aligned to core art education standards, nurturing original, creative expression and teaching foundational skills
- Pilot workshops drawing on partnerships with schools and agencies to engage over 100 participants with disabilities in intensive, 16-week workshops led by professional artists.
- Culminating performances and exhibits where participants share their creativity with the community.

Pilot programs will capitalize on expanded space in our new facility, to be completed in January 2020. After 26 years renting space, our organization will now have a fully accessible home which doubles existing space and accommodates participants with profound physical disabilities.

In year one, we will assess program impact with teachers and partners, identifying changes needed to secure outcomes. Pilot series will be scaled to travel beyond our space to partner settings including 14 schools. Pilot programs will deepen students' artistic engagement so they can explore their identity as people with disabilities, discover and express their talents, and build the social-emotional skills vital to their transition into adult members of community.

We assert that EIN #04-3196265, the applicant, meets GKV Foundation's Minimum Requirements, as stated in the GKV website.