

04-3196265 Letter of Interest to GKV Foundation

September 2021

04-3196265 seeks \$35,000 to launch Stage 2 pilot arts programs for people with developmental disabilities—a historically marginalized population hard hit by the pandemic. This request builds on Stage 1 funding from GKV Foundation (and match giving it inspired) to specifically address the pandemic’s impact on people with disabilities. In addition to providing opportunities for creative expression, GKV-funded pilots will help people with disabilities regain physical, communication, and social skills lost in a time of painful isolation and disconnection.

Building on successful remote workshops in Stage 1, 04-3196265 will launch in-person workshops in new art forms including hip-hop, portraiture, and songwriting, adding storytelling as a new genre. New curricula will employ trauma-informed teaching to address the pandemic’s harmful impact on people with disabilities. 04-3196265 will offer workshops at low or no cost so fees are not a barrier.

With funding from GKV Foundation:

- 200 people with disabilities will participate in multi-week, in-person workshops in hip-hop dance, songwriting, and portraiture in our studios and in local schools and day-habilitation programs, harnessing the benefits of the arts including increased self-confidence, strengthened feelings of community and belonging, and a powerful sense of agency.
- Students with disabilities in 8 school districts including Title 1 schools and adults in brain injury and day-hab programs will participate in a storytelling pilot, sharing their unique perspectives in a collaborative format fostering full inclusion of those who cannot physically write.
- Building on training from nationally recognized experts, 04-3196265 faculty will create curricula rooted in trauma-informed practices to nurture social-emotional skills vital to participants’ inclusion in the wider community and promote healing.

Stage 2 will build on lessons learned in the initial pilot to strengthen outcomes and secure additional funding. Numbers of participants will double to include 200 (or more) people with disabilities.

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