

04-2666826 seeks a \$50,000 grant to pilot a pair of sensory-friendly performances of a Shakespeare play on its campus next spring. These performances, aimed at reducing participation barriers in arts and culture, are part of a broader institutional priority to advance inclusion, diversity, equity, and access across 04-2666826's programming.

A sensory-friendly performance is any live performance designed for individuals with sensory input disorders—such as autism and anxiety—and other disabilities. These performances are modified to help these individuals, together with their families or any accompaniment, enjoy themselves in a welcoming, relaxed, and inclusive setting. During a sensory-friendly performance, for example, guests can move, talk, eat, and enter and exit the theatre as needed.

For its proposed sensory-friendly performances, 04-2666826 will present a 90-minute version of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*—featuring an ensemble of seven education artists—from the 2023 edition of a long-running “tour” that annually brings these abbreviated productions to dozens of northeast schools and education centers.

In the venue where these performances will be held, sound and lighting levels will be lowered, while specific production scenes will be adjusted to be less severe. The lobby will have designated quiet areas. Throughout the venue, trained staff and volunteers will be on hand to provide assistance. Ahead of the performance dates, 04-2666826 will also offer venue tours, introductions to cast members, written materials, and other orientation resources. 04-2666826 will partner with local peers that work extensively with the targeted population to ensure the experience is appropriate.

The outcome of the pilot, expected to reach 300–400 individuals, will help 04-2666826 evaluate the feasibility of incorporating sensory-friendly performances into future seasons and apply lessons learned to other program areas.

Aside from helping cover production and other expenses, the grant will allow 04-2666826 to offer tickets at low or no cost.

We assert that 04-2666826, the applicant, meets GKV Foundation's Minimum Requirements as stated in the GKV website.