

Eligibility

Completed by kristen@momentumfdc.com on 4/16/2023 12:06 PM

Case Id: 35366

Name: Artists ReEnvisioning Tomorrow Inc - 2023

Address: Not applicable

Eligibility

Please provide the following information.



City of Peoria Violence Prevention

City of Peoria
419 Fulton Street
Peoria, IL 61602
309-494-8600

Applications are available to not-for-profits, 501(c)3 organizations, and government agencies to provide violence prevention programs for City of Peoria residents.

Programs must meet the criteria of one of five priority areas: Thriving Neighborhoods, Empowered Youth & Young Adult, Restorative & Resilience, Intervention, or Violence Reduction. For these categories the minimum funding request is \$50,000 and the maximum funding request is \$400,000. All programs must be evidence-based and have measurable results. A total of \$1,200,000 is available for violence prevention with \$700,000 in federal funding from the American Rescue Plan and \$500,000 in state funding from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO).

There is also funding available specifically for Workforce Training. In addition to measuring the number of people served, these programs must also measure how many clients are connected to permanent employment. The minimum request for Workforce Training is \$150,000 and the maximum is \$300,000. A total of \$300,000 is available for Workforce Training in state funding from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO).

Eligible applications will be reviewed by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Services Advisory Commission and agencies will be notified of funding decisions following City Council approval.

Questions? Contact grants@peoriagov.org

1. Does your program serve low-income residents of the City of Peoria?

Yes

2 Is your organization (or the lead agency) a not-for-profit, 501(c)3, or government agency?

NOTE: If your organization does not meet this requirement, you may partner with a qualifying "lead agency" that will serve as your fiscal agent.

Yes

3 Does your organization (or the lead agency) have a completed audit for its most recent fiscal year? (This must be a full audit. 990 forms do not meet this requirement.)

NOTE: If your organization does not meet this requirement, you may partner with a qualifying “lead agency” that will serve as your fiscal agent.

Yes



IF YOU ANSWERED 'NO' TO ANY OF THE ABOVE QUESTIONS, YOUR ORGANIZATION DOES NOT QUALIFY FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION FUNDING.

A. Applicant Agency Information

Completed by kristen@momentumfdc.com on 5/9/2023 3:04 PM

Case Id: 35366

Name: Artists ReEnvisioning Tomorrow Inc - 2023

Address: Not applicable

A. Applicant Agency Information

Please provide the following information.

A.1 Violence Prevention Program Title

Change That Narrative Through Arts, Education and Culture

A.2 Organization Name

Artists ReEnvisioning Tomorrow Inc

A.5 Address

919 NE Jefferson Avenue Peoria, IL 61603

A.3 Contact Person

Nikki Romain

A.4 Title

Executive Director

A.6. Contact Phone Number

(309) 713-3744

A.7. Contact Email Address

nikki@artincpeoria.org

A.8 Program operating location if different than listed above.

Not applicable Not applicable Not applicable, IL 61603

A.9. If partnering with a lead agency, lead agency name:
NOTE: If your organization is not a not-for-profit, 501(c)3, or government agency, AND/OR does not have a completed audit for its most recent fiscal year, you may partner with a qualifying "lead agency" that will serve as your fiscal agent. If partnering with a lead agency please complete this Lead Agency Agreement below.

Please complete and upload the Fiscal Sponsor Agreement



[Fiscal Sponsor Agreement](#)

***No files uploaded*

A.10 Lead Agency contact name, email and phone number

Nikki Romain (309) 713-3744

A.11 Date of Incorporation

12/12/2017

A.10 Federal Employer Identification Number

82-4003451

A.11 City of Peoria EEO

An EEO number shows that an organization has registered with the City of Peoria as an Equal Employment Opportunity organization. Please follow the instructions on [this form](#) to register. For more information on completing the form, please see this [instruction guide](#).
03763-240331

A.12. Agency Unique Entity Identifier (UEI):

All agencies receiving federal money must register for a UEI. In April 2022, The federal government phased out the use of the DUNS replacing it with the UEI. For more

information please [click here](#)

NABHATC4E385

A.13. SAM Cage Code # and Expiration

All agencies receiving federal money must register for a SAM Cage Code. Please visit www.sam.gov to register for free. Please also provide the expiration date of the SAM Cage Code. Agencies must have a DUNS number to register for a SAM Cage Code

8AF52 Expires 2024-02-04

A.14 Agency Annual Operating Budget

\$1,389,963.00

A.15 Number of Paid Staff

42

A.16 Number of Volunteers

21

B. Funding Requested

Completed by kristen@momentumfdc.com on 5/10/2023 3:45 PM

Case Id: 35366

Name: Artists ReEnvisioning Tomorrow Inc - 2023

Address: Not applicable

B. Funding Requested

Please provide the following information.

B.1 Requested Amount: Min \$50,000 and Max \$400,000

NOTE: The Minimum request for Workforce Training is \$150,000 and the Maximum is \$300,000.

\$314,325.00

B.2. Total Project Budget

\$314,325.00

B.2 Number of Unique Clients to be served

120

B.4 Priority Area

Empowered Youth & Young Adult

B.5 Please provide a Detailed Project Budget for administrative costs

Item	Amount	Short Description
Personal and Fringe	\$6,087.39	Executive Director administrative oversight - 4.5% of time and fringe benefits
Other	\$21,520.00	Accounting services and annual audit
	\$27,607.39	

B.6 Please provide a Detailed Project Budget for direct program costs

Item	Amount	Short Description
Personnel and fringe Direct expenses	\$248,946.62	Salaries, fringe benefits and wages for Executive Director (10.5% of time), Site Leader, Program Assistant and Teaching Artists
Travel	\$0.00	Not applicable
Equipment	\$0.00	Not applicable
Materials and Supplies	\$16,514.00	Snack and beverages for youth served: \$5,200.00 Art Supplies: 11,314.00
Contractual	\$10,438.26	Social Emotional learning Behavioral Training: \$4,438.26 Workshops for Participants: \$6,000
Program Expenses	\$9,349.00	Sawyer Database for participant data tracking: \$2,149.00 BambooHR (employee time tracking

		software: \$7,200
Other	\$1,469.74	Program marketing expenses
Other	\$0.00	
Other	\$0.00	
Other	\$0.00	
Other	\$0.00	
Other	\$0.00	
Other	\$0.00	
Other	\$0.00	
Other	\$0.00	
Other	\$0.00	
Other	\$0.00	
Other	\$0.00	
Other	\$0.00	
	\$286,717.62	

C. Program Information

Completed by kristen@momentumfdc.com on 5/9/2023 3:46 PM

Case Id: 35366

Name: Artists ReEnvisioning Tomorrow Inc - 2023

Address: Not applicable

C. Program Information

Please provide the following information.

C.1. Provide a brief description of your proposed program and goals. Describe the work to be performed, including the activities to be undertaken or the services to be provided, frequency and duration of services to be received by the average client or participant, and who will be carrying out the activities.

According to a study by LeConté J. Dill, DrPH, MPH, young people of color residing in distressed urban areas face challenges in accessing social capital that supports positive development and the transition to educational and employment opportunities. Youth-serving organizations play important roles in helping youth access and leverage networks. Relationships with supportive adult staff at the youth-serving organizations put youth in contact with caring, trusted adults of color outside of their families who serve as role models for them. These adults provide accountability to young people, serving as powerful forces in distressed communities. Adult staff at youth-serving organizations activate social leverage to enhance current and future educational and professional opportunities for the youth - boosting young people's current self-esteem and helping them envision positive futures for themselves.

The Change That Narrative Through Arts, Education and Culture (Change That Narrative) program will provide mentorship and intensive training to 20 black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) youth ages 15-24 to help them build employment, leadership and life skills. Following completion of the training, youth will be employed with ART Inc as Youth Leadership Teachers (YLTs) who will assist with programs and teaching art education classes - earning income, gaining valuable work experience, and serving as positive role models to younger youth. During the school year, youth will write and perform social impact theatrical productions that will be performed and shared throughout the community and provide an alternate perspective to the violence that plagues their neighborhoods. Youth

C.7. Describe the number of people to be served and the outcomes that will be measured. (Please see program guidelines for example measurable results. Multiple outcome measures must be included.) What is the basis for selecting the outcomes and how do they demonstrate achievement of the overall goals of the project? Describe the evaluation tools that will be used to track/monitor the progress of the activity, how progress will be measured, why these measures were chosen, and how these methods are evaluated. If you are expanding a current program or reinstating a previous program, please discuss the impact the program has had in our community, specifically highlighting quantitative and qualitative outcomes.

The goals of the program include:

- To serve 100 low-income children in grades 1-8 with the ART Inc afterschool program.
- 90% of students served will improve proficiency in arts curriculum offered.
- To help 20 at-risk youth ages 16-24 build employment, leadership, and life skills; increase their income; and gain valuable work experience through employment in ART Inc's arts education programs.
- To hold 10 Teen Summits where teens and young adults discuss the social impact issues affecting their lives.
- 75% of youth participating in Teen Summits will feel empowered and like they have a voice in addressing the issues that affect their neighborhoods.
- Provide 100 younger children served by ART Inc in grades 1-8 with positive role models and mentors they can emulate.
- To actively engage at-risk youth in the development and sharing of positive messages that will impact their community.
- 20 youth age 16-24 will participate in creating a media campaign of counter narrative messages to combat violence, drug dealing, and other negative behaviors.

served will also facilitate Teen Summits with other teens to discuss the social issues that affect their lives on a daily basis, and create a media campaign of counter narrative messages to combat the crime, violence, drug dealing and other negative behaviors prevalent in their neighborhoods. The goals of the program include:

- To help at-risk BIPOC youth build employment, leadership, and life skills; increase their income; and gain valuable work experience.
- Provide younger children served by ART Inc with positive role models and mentors they can emulate.
- To actively engage at-risk BIPOC youth in the development and sharing of positive messages that will impact their community.
- To empower and give BIPOC youth a voice in combatting the negative behaviors they see in their communities with positive messages that they and their peers can relate to.

C.2. Explain specifically how this program addresses the Priority Area selected on the previous page. How does the program address the goal of violence prevention in the City of Peoria?

Many of the challenges in at risk communities are systemic in nature. Those challenges unfortunately have given birth to self-inflicted wounds. Over the years those self-inflicted wounds have become as harmful as the systemic challenges that gave birth to them. As an example, the idea of co-operating with law enforcement to rid Black communities of the worst elements has become paramount to being a traitor.

Everyone has heard, if not used the term “snitches get stitches”. Yet there has never been a counter narrative to challenge that perspective. The idea of not telling on each other in Black communities was born out of survival. Often the punishment was far greater than the offense. Now this tool that Black and Brown people have used to survive has morphed into the weapon of their destruction.

Through the programs at ART Inc there is a deliberate strategy to “Change That Narrative” of some of the most prevailing and destructive thoughts that persist in Black and Brown communities. There are a host of destructive and demeaning thought processes that need to be challenged including snitching, gangsters, pimping, drug dealing, and many more. The community can be challenged to look at things differently through paintings,

- To empower and give youth a voice in combatting the negative behaviors they see in their communities with positive messages that they and their peers can relate to.

Employment records in BambooHR will be used to track employee time, income and work performance. Attendance records will be used to track participation in training sessions and in Teen Summits. Skills development will be measured using pre- and post-assessments. Data accuracy will be ensured using Sawyer Database client management software. ART Inc also collaborates and partners with Peoria Public Schools for access to student profile, grade and behavioral information. Parents give consent to access each student's records with the school district so that ART Inc can monitor grades and behavior. Parents also provide feedback on program through surveys.

ART Inc has consistent, effective and efficient processes already in place to continually evaluate and monitor program performance. The Executive Director and Associate Director make sure that all data aligns with program goals, and determine/monitor program outputs, outcomes, use of measurement tools and program improvements with this structure. The Board President, board members, staff and volunteers remain in communication with the Executive Leadership. ART Inc strives to share the processes and benchmarks with everyone else who plays a role in the success of the children being served including parents/caregivers, teachers, community members, and stakeholders. The team-style leadership of the Executive Director is to communicate concerns and suggestions for the continual improvement of all programs. All committees, including the program committee, meet monthly and update the entire board at each board meeting.

ART Inc has been implementing the Change That Narrative program for over a year and is on track to meet all goals and objectives. All teens currently served participate and assist with the ART Science & Leadership Academy Afterschool (ASALA) Program from 2:30 - 6:00 pm working 9 - 15 hours per week. In the classrooms, they get hands on experience with homework and tutoring help assisted by interns from Bradley University. Eight Teen Summits featuring a panel of professionals have been held to date focusing on topics selected by teens. Topics selected by

murals, plays and songs. Not only will the young people that participate in this program benefit from this “movement” but the community will as well. They will be challenged to ask themselves who deserves to be spared - someone who is destroying the community at every turn, or those that stand up and challenge the status quo!

Arts and culture are powerful tools with which to engage communities in change. They are a means to public dialogue, build empathy and understanding, create healthy communities capable of action, provide a means for community mobilization and activism, and help build capacity and leadership. At-risk, disadvantaged, and marginalized youth are seldom afforded avenues for healthy self-expression—which, in turn, increases risk. The second component of the Change That Narrative program focuses on providing youth with a healthy outlet to express their feelings about the negative things happening in their communities and to empower them to make an impact with positive messages that they and their peers can relate to.

- Youth will use the skills they learned to research the statistics of the topics they choose and facilitate a series of Teen Summits with their peers.
- Summits will focus on topics chosen by youth surrounding the social justice and social impact issues they face in their lives.
- Youth will work with local professionals to create a media campaign to combat the violence and other negative behaviors impacting their communities.
- Youth will write creative theatrical productions which will be shared through performances at local schools and community organizations.
- Youth will assist in creating podcasts and Public Service Announcement commercials by writing, filming, editing, marketing and acting.
- Youth will spend time during the most crucial hours of the day in a safe, creative, environment that keeps them off the streets and away from elements that create and perpetuate violence.

Studies have found that intensive intervention in which at-risk adolescents’ partner with professional coaches to write and perform their own play before a live audience, have the following positive effects: decreased hyperactivity/inattention, decreased anhedonia (the inability to feel pleasure - a common symptom of

teens include: Bullying, Snitching, Gun Violence, Teen Mental Health, Cyberbullying, Entrepreneurship, Teen Activities, Culture and Appearance, School Life, Let’s Talk About Sex, Boundaries and The Company You Keep. The two Teen Summits not yet completed are scheduled and will be held by June 30th.

Teens have also developed resumes, learned about business software for time tracking and payroll, participated in mock interviews, explored career and higher education opportunities, learned about financial literacy and budgeting, and benefitted from life skills education. The teens have also completed community service projects and learned firsthand how they can make a difference in their neighborhoods.

C.8. For Workforce Training programs only, how many clients will you connect to permanent employment?

Not applicable

C.9. How will your organization track and record client demographics for the proposed program? How will you track outcome measures listed above?

ART Inc intends to collect data on the following metrics:

- Youth enrolled demographics by age, gender and race/ethnicity.
- Youth enrollment by eligibility criteria
- Youth provided with support services
- Youth connected/linked to outside services
- Youth assessment information
- Employment information
- Performance measurement information

ART Inc intends to collect data on the following metrics to evaluate progress and program effectiveness:

Improving educational performance

- Youth will maintain or improve school attendance.
- You will maintain or improve grades or progress reporting in school.
- Youth will develop or improve career aspirations and choices.

Life skills education

- Youth will build anger management and conflict resolution skills.
- Youth will improve decision-making, communication and problem-solving skills.

depression as well as other mental health disorders), and improved anger inhibition/suppression. At-risk youth moving into adulthood are a population who often struggle with viable employment. This program will provide employment training, and valuable “real world” employment experience, and increased income directly to this specific population.

A wealth of national literature points to the concrete and potential social impacts of the arts:

- **Youth Development and Education:** Research shows the arts promote academic and life outcomes by providing opportunities to learn critical thinking skills and build technical capacity for expression. This suggests that arts education plays a key role in the development of local talent and a 21st century workforce. Integrating art disproportionately benefits low-income students, demonstrating out-size gains in English and Math scores, fewer behavioral challenges, college attendance, voting, and volunteering in their community.
- **Health and Wellness:** Studies show that the arts impact human health and wellness, particularly in aging adults and people diagnosed with Alzheimer’s or other disorders that cause dementia and recovering patients. The presence of arts and opportunities for arts engagement also contribute to community-level health and wellness.
- **Neighborhood Vitality:** The arts contribute to fostering community ownership, cohesion, and sense of pride. Particularly in neighborhoods with limited economic resources, arts and cultural resources and engagement creates social capital and supports equitable development. (Social Impact of the Arts Study 2018).

At-risk students involved in arts are 23 percentage points more likely to attend college than peers with low arts involvement. (The Arts and Achievement in At-Risk Youth, 2012)

67% of music therapy participants with dementia felt less anxious and reduced their use of medication (Creative Health: The Arts for Health and Wellbeing, 2017)

Concentrated cultural districts are associated with reduced poverty without neighborhood displacement, improved

Parental involvement

- Families will increase parental monitoring of academic performance.
- Youth will benefit from structured activities that promote positive family interaction.

Cultural and artistic activities

- Youth will increase their level of physical activity through program offerings.
- Youth will build teamwork skills.
- Youth will engage in cultural enrichment and fine art activities and improve proficiency in arts curriculum offered.

Positive adult mentors

- Youth will benefit from increased support during times of personal or social stress.
- Youth will benefit from increased support for healthy decision making.
- Youth will benefit from increased access to support with academic tasks and/or homework.
- Youth will benefit from increased opportunities for career awareness and mentoring.

Service-learning activities

- Youth determine and meet real, defined community needs through program offerings.
- Youth learn beyond the classroom through active participation in service experiences.
- Youth develop and use skills and knowledge in real-life situations.
- Youth experience a sense of belonging to a community and an awareness of their responsibility to that community.

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)

- Youth will demonstrate improved problem-solving skills within a scientific, mathematic or technological context.
- Youth will learn how to work in teams and to build positive relationships.
- Youth will develop the ability to acquire and apply new knowledge.
- Youth will be better prepared to enter the workforce.

All client and performance measurement will be tracked using the Sawyer CRM database.

child welfare, and lower morbidity (CultureBlocks Philadelphia, 2013)

The National Endowment for the Arts has proven that children who participate in the arts are more likely to excel academically and develop positive skills and behaviors. In addition, more than 14 million school age children (25 percent) are on their own after school and during the summer. Arts education is often overlooked, even though it can be a pathway to creative thinking, personal growth, and a successful future. It is typically the first thing to go in lower-income public school curriculums, which leaves inner-city youth without an artistic outlet, or at least one that is professionally guided.

This program will utilize intensive evidence-based social and behavioral skills training. Youth in adolescence and young adulthood participating in this training will build leadership and communication skills, gain tools and resources needed to face adversity, handle challenges, and make good decisions. At the conclusion of the training, youth will apply what they have learned and gain valuable employment skills by serving as teaching and program assistants and by serving as role models to the younger children served by ART Inc's art education programs.

To impact violence in a community, the goal of public information efforts must be twofold: to change public perception about youth violence and available solutions and to convince adults and youth that their active involvement is essential to success. To achieve these goals, public information campaigns should enable people to reach informed judgments about preventing violent crime. The message should reflect an awareness of the increasing cultural diversity in this country, be sensitive to gender-related differences and problems, and appeal to the priorities of key decisionmakers. According to the United States Department of Justice, to be effective public information campaigns should:

- Persuade young people to turn away from violence and dangerous lifestyles.
- Educate parents and other community residents about solutions to youth violence.
- Demonstrate to youth, parents, and youth-serving professionals how they can be part of the solution.

The Change That Narrative media campaign will incorporate all of these proven elements to reduce

C.10. How will outreach about program availability be conducted? What experience does your organization have with the target population of your program? What is your organization's capacity to carry out the program and provide direct services and/or case management for participants?

ART Inc works closely with Peoria Public Schools to ensure the participation of underserved and marginalized youth. Peoria Public Schools are committed to ensuring these students have access to all of the benefits an arts education provides and devotes its resources to assisting ART Inc in reaching these populations. ART Inc will also utilize existing relationships with local social service agencies to identify and outreach to priority population youth. Participants for the program will be recruited using radio, social media, news appearances, and through other marketing activities – including targeted marketing efforts (at festivals, resource fairs and community events) in those area of the city most impacted by violence.

ART Inc was co-founded by Jonathon, Associate/Artistic Director, and Nikki, Executive Director, Romain on December 12, 2017. The Romans both credit the arts with saving their lives. Between the two of them they have a rich history within the world of art spanning several decades crossing over multiple disciplines. In 2018, the organization began offering after school arts programming based in local schools.

ART Inc's goal is to make arts education and culture affordable and accessible to all children, youth, and their families in the area regardless of their financial situation. ART Inc offers the Arts Science & Leadership Academy (ASALA) programming to address the arts education and achievement gap in inner city of Peoria with outreach to at-risk communities and investments in positive youth development. ASALA programming includes the following:

- ASALA (Art Science and Leadership Academy) for grades 1st-8th - offered 5 days a week from 3:00-5:30 pm from September-May
- Summer Arts Camp for grades 1st-12th - offered 5 days a week during the month of June.
- Spring And Fall Break Camp for grades 1st-12th - offered 5 days a week during the spring and fall breaks in the school calendar

violence in the communities served.

C.3. How long has this program been in operation or is it a new program?

This program has been operating for over a year. ART Inc received a R3 Restore Reinvest Renew grant from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority to start the Change That Narrative program in the spring of 2022. That program has been a s

C.4. What specific geographic area does the program serve? (List Census Tracts or City-Wide.)

City-wide with an emphasis on census tracts in the city of Peoria most impacted by violence.

C.5. Specifically, what is the need for the program, what does the program do, and what is the target population for the program? Describe how the activity addresses community needs to reduce violence in the community. Be precise in the project design and how it is linked to goals. Use data and facts for the need and provide sources for the data.

ART Inc is located north of downtown Peoria in the impoverished North Valley community. The neighborhood is racially diverse and has alarming levels of family instability, mental health issues, abuse, crime, homelessness, poor health, and poverty. Studies show that children from low-income families are less likely to be consistently involved in arts activities or instruction than children from high-income families. Peoria Public Schools has a 74.6% graduation rate and 69.8% of the students are from low-income families. In addition, 71% of the students in the district come from households in the low to poverty level income bracket. 98% of ART Inc clients come from this demographic. These students cannot afford outside arts education or tutoring; most do not have parental support, financial resources, or a home environment conducive to arts and academic success. The most crucial hours for youth are immediately after school. ART Inc was founded to help address this need in the community by offering arts education and tutoring during the school year and to address the learning gap that happens when school is not in session.

With a crime rate of 41 per one thousand residents, Peoria has one of the highest crime rates in America compared to all communities of all sizes - from the smallest towns to

- Workshops and Production for grades 1st-12th - offered 4-5 times a year for 4-6 weeks.

All components of the ASALA program provide a positive, safe, nurturing environment for children to receive homework and academic assistance; build social, emotional and life skills; and explore the arts during those critical “out of school” hours. Children explore theater, music, painting, ceramics, woodworking, photography, creative writing, and dance. Many of the classes have elements of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Match) incorporated into the curriculum. Programming is offered to children regardless of their financial situation and ability to pay. Youth participating in the program benefit from the many advantages an arts education provides, including, but no limited to:

- Improved critical thinking, verbal and math skills
- Reduced likelihood of dropping out of school and increased likelihood of pursuing higher education
- Promotion of a positive family environment
- Fostered creative thinking (72% of business leaders cite Creative Thinking as the number one skill sought when hiring)
- A healthy outlet to express feelings and anxieties
- A sense of accomplishment and pride that is empowering and contributes greatly to self-esteem
- Improved awareness of self and others and improved communication and inter-personal skills
- Improved cognitive and fine motor skills and an enhanced ability to focus.

Since its founding in 2017, Art Inc has employed approximately 97 teaching artists and served 1,200 students by eradicating the barriers that prevent youth from accessing arts education and benefiting from the many advantages an education in the arts provides both socially and academically.

The Executive Director and Associate Director make sure that all data aligns with program goals, and determine/monitor program outputs, outcomes, use of measurement tools and program improvements with this structure. The Board President, board members, staff and volunteers remain in communication with the Executive Leadership. ART Inc strives to share the processes and benchmarks with everyone else who plays a role in the success of the children being served including

the very largest cities. The year 2021 broke a record for the record number of homicides in the city. In all, 34 people were the victims of homicide last year. The chance of becoming a victim of either violent or property crime in the city is one in 25. Crime in the city of Peoria is especially prevalent in the 61603 and 61605 zip codes. Located in the heart of the 61603 zip code and serving children from the surrounding neighborhood as well as 61605 and 61604, the staff of ART Inc sees the impact that poverty, violence and crime has on the families in the neighborhood every day.

The Heart of Illinois United Way conducted a Community Needs Assessment in 2020 to determine how best to meet the education, financial stability and health needs of people in central Illinois and Identified the following trends:

- The number of low-income households is increasing—as a larger percentage of households are earning less than \$35,000, while the number of households earning \$35,000 or more has declined.
- Household income is disproportionately affected by race and gender, which is reflected in the level of income earned by educational attainment.
- Single-parent households—particularly those with a female head of household and children under 18—are much more likely to live in poverty.
- Low-income individuals have household situations that impact their ability to succeed academically. When a child is hungry and cannot concentrate, or when a single parent cannot find childcare so they can take a night class, the lack of resources to meet basic needs hinders their ability to learn.
- Chronic truancy has been linked to serious delinquent activity in youth and to significant negative behavior and characteristics in adults, while excessive student absenteeism is linked to higher rates of poverty, health challenges, community violence and difficult family circumstances.
- Income growth continues to be uneven by race, ethnicity and gender. The median income for Black households remains at or below pre-recession levels. Poverty rates are likely to worsen as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Many populations have difficulty finding work because they have lower levels of educational attainment, lack occupational or soft skills, and face other home or family life barriers. Populations most affected by workforce

parents/caregivers, teachers, community members, and stakeholders. The team-style leadership of the Executive Director is to communicate concerns and suggestions for the continual improvement of all programs. All committees, including the program committee, meet monthly and update the entire board at each board meeting.

Nikki Romain (actor/singer/writer) serves as Executive Director, developing, overseeing and providing input for Programs, Development, Marketing, Human Resources, and Financial Management. Serving on the Board of Directors for Heart of Illinois United Way and Arts Alliance Council provides opportunities to engage in strong partnerships; cultivates personal and business development; and expands her leadership skills. Nikki is the Vice President of the Greater Peoria Illinois Chapter of Jack and Jill of America Inc. and the Arts Facet Chair in the Central Illinois Chapter of The Links Inc.; both fostering the growth and successful development of African American youth. She is directly involved in all programming planning, execution, and evaluation at ART Inc.

As Artistic/Associate Director, Jonathon Romain oversees the facilities, collaborates on all fronts with the Executive Director while keeping a clear eye on the future and fiscal responsibility. With over 30 years of experience as an entrepreneur, he brings valuable insight and expertise to all areas of ART Inc. In addition to being a renowned artist and prolific speaker, Jonathon also serves on the PCCEO board of Directors and is an active member of Peoria's Public Arts Advisory. Jonathon will directly oversee the marketing direction for the Change That Narrative program.

Program Director, Joy Holmquist, will coordinate all aspects of the Change That Narrative Program including but not limited to planning, implementation, researching, data collection and measurement, assessing successes and challenges, and analyzing progress toward program goals. The Program Manager reports to and meets with the Executive and Associate Directors on a weekly basis. A Site Leader and the Youth Services Assistant will coordinate all aspects of the Change That Narrative Program including but not limited to planning, implementation, data collection and measurement, assessing successes and challenges, and analyzing progress toward program goals.

readiness barriers include: adults with a high school diploma/equivalent or less; people living in poverty; low-income, at-risk youth moving into adulthood; and racial/ethnic minorities.

ART Inc is aware that youth and young adults in our community are faced with hunger, poverty, violence, and other adversities and trauma which has a direct impact on their lifestyle, nutritional levels, education, and day-to-day experiences. Emily Blankenberg referred to Maslow's hierarchy of needs and the desire to follow the law. "Maslow said that each individual looks to complete a hierarchy of needs. Those needs include basic needs for survival (i.e., food, water, and shelter). Therefore, when an individual is deprived of a basic need there is an increased amount of economic, physical, mental, and emotional stress that the individual feels. When a large group is denied these rights- including continuous access to food, access to clean drinking water, access to shelter - the marginal benefit to follow the law significantly diminished, while the incentives to break the law increases".

ART Inc programming provides a comprehensive approach to reducing violence by providing targeted, integrated services and economic opportunities to youth exhibiting individual and family risk factors and residing in the most distressed areas of the city.

Youth Intervention Services provided include:

- Connection with caring, adult mentors.
- Family and caregiver activities that strengthen family bonds and community involvement.
- Consistent safe place programming offered both during school hours and during the critical "out-of-school time" consistently supervised by caring adults.
- Age-appropriate life skills education that develops healthy and pro-social skills, expands opportunities to try new skills and develop new interests, to build friendships, find their place in a group, and gain developmentally relevant experiences.
- Employment and college readiness and skills development through education and on-the-job training.
- Self-care, wellness and therapeutic recreation activities to build well-being and deal with the stress and challenges caused by the prevalence of violence in their communities.

Juveniles are most likely to commit and be the victims of violent crimes during the hours immediately after the

They will work with YLTs to provide mentorship and to ensure their success and needs are being met. They will meet and/or communicate with the YLTs daily to obtain data, identify barriers, and ensure efficiency of the program.

C.11. How does the program collaborate with other agencies? Describe your agency's working relationship with other organizations and describe services and programs by other agencies that will provide additional or similar services to your clients. Please detail the formal agreements and history of partnerships within the community. Do these agreements lead to cost savings for your agency?

ART Inc works closely with Peoria Public Schools to ensure the participation of underserved and marginalized youth. Peoria Public Schools are committed to ensuring these students have access to all of the benefits an arts education provides and devotes its resources to assisting ART Inc in reaching these populations. Peoria Public Schools District 150 will help identify and recruit youth exhibiting risk factors to participate in the program. The District's Work-Earn-Learn program provides ART Inc with student workers. As an afterschool intervention, the program provides a way for students to have a sense of pride and accomplishment while bettering their situation. ART Inc programs will benefit youth in both keeping students in a sheltered and supervised environment as well as providing positive role models willing to teach students how to make healthy choices.

ART, Inc has a partnership with the Illinois State University Center for Mathematics, Science & Technology. They also partnered with the University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener program in creating the Lettuce Share Romain Community Garden. Other partnerships include: Junior Achievement, Big Picture Peoria, The Peoria Playhouse Children's Museum, The Dream Center, PAME, IL Math Academy, Quest Charter Academy, Peoria Grown, Family Core, Spanish Circle, Peoria Park District, Peoria Symphony Orchestra, PAME, and Neighborhood House. ART Inc will continue these partnerships in order to meet the goals for the Change That Narrative program. ART Inc will utilize their current partnership with Bradley University who will provide college students to help tutor the YLTs and help them with their homework and any subjects they are struggling with at school.

school day ends. High-quality afterschool programs such as ART Inc's programs provide students with safe learning environments during non-school hours. A report by Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, a nonpartisan organization of over 5,000 law enforcement professionals, shows that when youth have access to after-school programs, crime and incarceration go down. Juvenile arrests around the country have declined 70% while participation in after-school programs has increased by over 50% since 2000. Yet more programs are necessary to meet the need, especially in areas and communities of concentrated poverty like those served by ART Inc.

C.6. Provide information on how the program is evidenced-based. Provide clear, detailed information to support that project design. Please refer to research, third-party program evaluations or other objective data that indicates program design and note all sources of data. NOTE: Programs must be evidenced-based to be eligible for funding.

Research shows that youth get the most out of programs that:

- Develop thoughtful, fun, accessible activities
- Survey and build on student's interests
- Motivate and engage all students to participate
- Connect to grade-level benchmarks, standards and the school-day curriculum to increase academic achievement
- Provide real-world activities that connect to the broader community
- Provide effective tutoring and differentiated instruction for all skill levels
- Integrate technology and provide homework help
- Plan activities that engage students and enhance skills
- Provide staff training and professional development.

ART Inc programming is based on these standards and uses the basis of Teen REACH, a cost-effective, out-of-school time prevention program with a track record of success. The goal of the program is to expand the range of choices and opportunities that enable, empower and encourage youth to achieve positive growth and development, improve expectations and capacities for future success and avoid or reduce risk-taking behaviors. ART Inc provides a safe environment for youth and a unique comprehensive array of supports including, academic assistance, life-skills building, mentoring with caring adult role models, and job preparation.

Partnerships with Simantel and WTVF will provide YLTs with mentors in the fields of marketing and writing. The Slane College of Communications at Bradley University is providing ART Inc with facilities and college students to mentor youth as they create a series of Change That Narrative podcasts. Free Street Theater will work with teens to write and perform Change That Narrative skits. Blue Child Entertainment is partnering to develop film curriculum for ART Inc's educational programs and will also be working with teens to create Change that Narrative public service announcements. Upon discovering one of the YLTs needed assistance with reading and graduating from high school, ART Inc partnered with ICC to create a GED program, which will now be ongoing program and a pathway to attend ICC.

C.12. How does your agency practice and promote diversity, equity and inclusion?

ART Inc strives to create a diverse workforce where its employees are valued as individuals who together as a team. The team provides services to a diversified target population regardless of gender, ethnicity, race, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, age, physical or mental challenges, marital status, or any other cultural descriptors. Everyone who has contact with the agency is treated with respect, dignity, and fairness. ART Inc's administration promotes not only awareness of the issues surrounding cultural diversity but demonstrates sensitivity to these issues by interacting in an appropriate manner with members of other cultures.

All employees, volunteers, program participants, the Board of Directors, and the general public not only value diversity but:

- Are conscious of the dynamics that are inherent when cultures interact;
- Share cultural knowledge; and
- Develop necessary adaptations when delivering services which reflect an understanding of diversity between and within cultures.

These elements will be demonstrated in all services that employees of ART Inc deliver. They are also reflected in attitudes and policies. To assist employees in becoming culturally proficient, training will be scheduled on a consistent and regular basis in the areas of cultural awareness and competency.

The ART Inc program seeks to provide youth with safe environments and caring adult and teen role models, and to guide them toward healthy development, marketable skills, and opportunities by focusing on all seven of the prevention-focused areas of service.

1. Improving educational performance – programming includes homework assistance, tutoring and enrichment activities to encourage creativity.
2. Life Skills Education – to build conflict resolution, anger management, healthy decision making, and problem-solving skills.
3. Parental involvement – provide opportunities for parents/guardians to provide input into program activities, participate actively in youths' development and academic achievement and promote positive family interaction.
4. Cultural and artistic activities – providing a safe outlet for youth to try new skills, develop new interests and with a healthy outlet to express their feelings about the negative things happening in their communities and to empower them to make an impact with positive messages that they and their peers can relate to. Under the guidance of professional Teaching Artists, youth will explore theater, music, painting, ceramics, woodworking, photography, creative writing, and dance.
5. Positive mentors – opportunities for youth to develop positive relationships with caring adults and other teens. Positive relationships with ART Inc program staff, professional Teaching Artists, and Youth Leadership Teachers will provide a foundation of support to help youth navigate challenges in their personal and academic lives and make healthier decisions. Youth Leadership Teachers will gain real-world work experience that can be applied to their future careers.
6. Service-learning activities – opportunities to provide meaningful service to their community that empower youth to feel they can make a difference and help them build values, skills and knowledge in real-life situations.
7. Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) – opportunities to help youth develop the skills needed to solve problems, process complex information, work as a team - preparing them for future workforce opportunities.

All seven of these areas are already incorporated into the majority of ART Inc programming.

ART Inc is a Black-led organization. As such, the issues of equity and racial justice are pre-eminent and inform every decision the organization makes and everything the organization does. ART Inc is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for the community through inclusive arts education and cultural programs. They provide a safe, structured and enriching environment in which families can constructively engage their imaginations, while discovering pathways to a brighter future. There are several after-school and summer camps offered by the Peoria Park District, Peoria Art Guild, and other organizations throughout Peoria, but ART Inc is the only organization offering multiple forms of arts education accessible to all children with no cost barriers.

Art Inc's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement is stated in the employee handbook as follows, "At ART Inc, we are committed to providing a fair and welcoming environment for everyone that enters our building, works in our employment, or participates in our programs within the parameters of the law."

ART Inc commitment to equity and racial justice is clearly demonstrated by its decision to purchase, and invest significantly, in an abandoned school building in one of Peoria's most impoverished neighborhoods. An area characterized by devastating health concerns, lack of employment, education loss, mental health issues, social support disruption, and increased family and community violence where children do not have the opportunities to explore the arts that children in other areas do. ART Inc. choose this location as a means to promote positive development in the area's most at risk youth. The National Endowment for the Arts has proven that children who participate in the arts are more likely to excel academically and develop positive skills and behaviors. In addition, more than 14 million school age children (25 percent) are on their own after school and during the summer.

C.13. Please provide a breakdown of your current staff demographics by race/ethnicity and gender identity.

80% of ART Inc's staff are African-American, 15% are white, and 5% are Hispanic/Latino. 58% are female and 43% are male.

At-risk youth moving into adulthood are a population who often struggle with viable employment. This program will provide employment training, and valuable “real world” employment experience, and increased income directly to this specific population. Youth will benefit from mentorship and intensive training to help them build employment, leadership and life skills. Training will be designed to build the skills identified by GPEAK and the State of Illinois as “Essential Employability” competencies and will include the following skills: communication, cultural competence, adaptability and flexibility, teamwork and conflict resolution, problem solving, decision making, critical thinking, initiative and self-drive, reliability and accountability, and planning and organization. Following completion of the training, youth will be employed throughout the community - earning income and gaining valuable work experience.

According to the United States Department of Justice, researchers have verified that long-term public education campaigns on violence prevention are effective strategies to help fight violence. They also concur that involving youth and developing community consensus are essential to an effective public education process. A well-designed public education campaign can make a positive impact on public opinion, target specific audiences, and be a cost-effective way of providing critical information to a large number of people. It can educate all members of the community about effective prevention and intervention strategies. It can help communities identify and access local resources and inform policymakers of tested, proven options for effective violence and crime prevention at all levels.

The effectiveness of media campaigns is well documented. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration linked the sharp decline in drunk driving crashes and deaths over the past two decades to effective behavior modification and explicit changes in community attitudes and values due to public information campaigns. Many national, Federal, State, and local organizations have conducted information campaigns on a wide variety of criminal justice issues. Both the private and nonprofit sectors have initiated media campaigns aimed at reducing all types of violence, including domestic and other family violence, child abuse, violence with guns and other weapons, and

C.14. Please provide a breakdown of your Board of Directors or governing body by race/ethnicity and gender identity

60% of ART Inc’s board identify as women and 80% of the board members are people of color. 100% of the leadership positions at ART Inc are held by people of color.

juvenile violence. The National Citizens' Crime Prevention Campaign conducted a large-scale public education effort, symbolized by McGruff®, the "crime dog." Locally, crime prevention practitioners view the McGruff® campaign as an effective catalyst to generate citizen action, galvanize police-community partnerships, and rally local and State crime prevention efforts. An extensive independent evaluation funded in 1991 by the Department of Justice (DOJ) found that the McGruff® anti-crime campaign can teach an individual about crime prevention for only 2.2 cents in Federal funds, and the campaign spends only 2.9 cents to generate individual action.

C. Program Information Cont'd

Completed by kristen@momentumfdc.com on 5/10/2023 3:41 PM

Case Id: 35366

Name: Artists ReEnvisioning Tomorrow Inc - 2023

Address: Not applicable

C. Program Information Cont'd

Please provide the following information.

C.15. Staff Qualifications: Please identify key program staff, titles and include background and qualifications (education, experience, training, etc.). Include ALL staff to be funded with Violence Prevention funds and staff that will compile reports. If the position has not been hired, please include requirements in job description in the background section.

Staff Member	Name	Title	FTE on This Program	Grants Funds Used
Bachelors, 5+ years nonprofit experience, 25+ years as performing artist and Teaching Artist	Nikki Romain	Executive Director	15%	Yes
BA w/ 10+ years Skilled Professional	Joy Holmquist	Program Director	25%	No
5+ years Skilled Professional	To be Determined	Site Leader	100%	Yes
BA w/ 5+ years Skilled Professional	Brittany Davis	Youth Services Assistant	20%	No
Entry Level	To be Determined	15 Teaching Artists	Part-time	Yes
5+ years Skilled Professional	To be Determined	3 Specialty Teaching Artists	Part-time	Yes
20+ years Skilled Professional	Tracey Webb	Youth Pathways Coordinator	Part-time	No
Entry Level	To be Determined	Program Assistant	Part-time	Yes

C.16. Are there or will there be any program membership or fees charged to the participant in the proposed program?

No

C.17. What is your organization's experience in managing publicly funded projects? Describe any specific experience your organization has in the administration of federal, state, and local government funds. If you are using a fiscal agency, you may list the information for that agency.

ART Inc has also been successfully in securing funding from the state of Illinois to support its programs. ART Inc has been managing a \$300,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Human Services for the past two years. The agency was successful in securing a \$600,000 Restore, Reinvest, and Renew Service Delivery grant from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, a Reimagine Public Safety Act Youth Development Services grant of \$307,586, and a Youth Investment Program grant of \$157,369 from the Illinois Department of Human Services

C.18. List funders for the last two years (including the City of Peoria, if applicable) and describe type and frequency

Printed By: Irina Riggerbach on 6/21/2023

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of monitoring. Also describe any findings, the resolution of those findings, and any monetary penalties incurred.

Illinois Department of Human Services: Annual fiscal and administrative review - This review did have some findings, however the audit is not complete so final outcome is still unknown.

Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority: Annual fiscal and administrative review

Community Foundation of Central Illinois: Completion of a comprehensive annual report for every grant awarded

Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation: Completion of a comprehensive annual report

Dominican Sisters of Springfield: Completion of a comprehensive annual report

Illinois American Water: Completion of a comprehensive annual report

C.19. Describe your organization's financial reporting system/accounting procedures and time keeping system regarding the proposed activity. How will your organization separate Violence Prevention funds from other funds for identification, tracking, and reporting? Describe your organization's internal controls that minimize opportunities for fraud, waste, and mismanagement.

ART Inc has comprehensive accounting, audit, and financial management policies that are designed to do the following:

- Ensure the maintenance of accurate, current and complete records of the financial results of each award.
- Identify the source and application of all grant awards.
- Ensure compliance with governmental and private funder reporting requirements.
- Compare expenditures with budget amounts for each award to ensure that costs do not exceed the budgeted amounts.

ART Inc establishes a separate account for each grant within its chart of accounts and general ledger. Supporting documentation includes the check number, date paid, and general ledger account code. ART Inc finance and accounting staff will ensure that all costs paid through the utilization of external funding sources are recognized as ordinary, necessary, within the budget, are arms-length transactions, and do not deviate from established practices of the organization. Segregation of duties outlined in financial policies minimize risk or fraud or mismanagement.

ART Inc uses BambooHR to manage employee attendance, time tracking, and grant allocations for part-time employees. An allocation spreadsheet is used for salaried employees as documentation to supported salary allocations between programs and/or employee time within those programs. In addition, a contracted accountant oversees an allocation tracking sheet and the budget reports for all grants.

C.20. As a part of the application process, your agency or sponsored fiscal agency must have conducted and must submit a copy of its most recent audit.

In the most recent audit, were any findings issued?

No

C.21. Is your agency required to complete a Single Audit?

No

C.22. Explain in narrative form how Violence Prevention funds will be used as shown in the proposed budget (e.g. describe specific direct service and administrative positions for the program). Describe the specific need for all items outlined in the budget and how you will ensure that all costs are reasonable per 2 CFR Part 200. Describe your program funding source diversity if applicable. Provide details on program expenses and explain how the cost per unit of service and the cost per unduplicated client are reasonable for this program.

In an average year, gun violence in America kills 40,000 people, wounds twice as many, and has an economic

consequence to our nation of \$557 billion. Without a doubt, the human cost of gun violence—the people who are taken from us and the survivors whose lives are forever altered—is the most devastating. In addition to this human impact, examining the serious economic consequences of gun violence offers a wider lens for understanding just how extensive and expensive this crisis is. This staggering \$557 billion figure is five times the nation's Americans. If shooting tragedies were prevented from occurring in the first place, the vast funds spent in the aftermath of gun violence could be directed toward beneficial and productive investments such as educating the next generation.

When taken in this context, the cost per participant served of the Change That Narrative program of \$2,619 – is a reasonable investment. The largest portion of the requested funding, \$255,304 is for wages, salaries, stipends and benefits for personnel working with youth in the program:

- Executive Director: 15% of time: \$17,250 (4.5% for administration and 10.5% for program).
- Site Leader: 100% of time: \$37,440
- Program Assistant: Part time: \$16,640
- 15 Part Time Professional Teaching Artists: Total \$85,500
- 3 Specialty Part Time Teaching Artists at \$15,000 each: Total \$75,000
- Fringe Benefits: \$23,575.74

Administrative expenses are \$ 27,607.38, which includes the 4.5% of the Executive Directors salary and fringe benefits (included above), as well as funds for accounting services and the annual audit.

\$5,200 is being requested for snacks and beverages for youth served and \$11,314 is requested to purchase art supplies.

Funding of \$10,433.26 is requested for Contractual Services which includes social emotional learning behavioral training and other educational workshops for youth.

Program expenses of \$9,349 include usage fees for Sawyer Database which is used to track participant information, data and outcome measures and BambooHR which is used to track employee time and other human resources data.

Other Expense of \$1,469.74 is for program marketing.

C.23. Is there any additional information you want to mention? Use bullet style for each item in the space provided.

Please see Program Fees Supporting Documents attachment for examples of communications pieces developed as part of the Change That Narrative program.

D. Conflict of Interest

Completed by kristen@momentumfdc.com on 4/27/2023 1:08 PM

Case Id: 35366

Name: Artists ReEnvisioning Tomorrow Inc - 2023

Address: Not applicable

D. Conflict of Interest

Please provide the following information.

As an applicant requesting funding, will any of your employees, agents, consultants, officers, or elected officials experience the following conflicts of interest:

D.1. Participate in the decision-making process for the approval of this application? (i.e., a City of Peoria City Council Member or a Member of the [CDBG Public Services Advisory Commission](#))?

No

D.2. Have a personal financial interest or reap a financial benefit from this program/activity?

No

D.3. Have an interest in any contract, subcontract, or agreement with respect to this application either for themselves or those with whom they have family or business ties during the program year and for one year thereafter?

No

If you selected yes to any of the above, clearly describe the conflict below.

Not applicable

E. Required Documents

Completed by kristen@momentumfdc.com on 5/9/2023 3:51 PM

Case Id: 35366

Name: Artists ReEnvisioning Tomorrow Inc - 2023

Address: Not applicable

E. Required Documents

Please provide the following information.

Documentation



Financial Audit *Required

ART Inc_Audited Financial Statements_2021.pdf



IRS Tax Exempt Letter *Required

ART Inc 501(c)(3) Determination Letter.pdf



Audit Findings

***No files uploaded*



Please upload a copy of the Single Audit

***No files uploaded*



Program Fees Supporting Documents

Change_That_Brochure.v.1.13.23.pdf

Submit

Completed by kristen@momentumfdc.com on 5/10/2023 3:46 PM

Case Id: 35366

Name: Artists ReEnvisioning Tomorrow Inc - 2023

Address: Not applicable

Submit

Please provide the following information.

☒ I certify that the information contained in this application is true and correct; that it contains no misrepresentations, falsifications, intentional omissions, or concealment of material facts; and that the information given is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I agree to comply with all federal and City of Peoria requirements if funded.

Agency CEO Name

Marsha (Nikki) Romain

Agency CEO Signature

Nikki Romain

Electronically signed by kristen@momentumfdc.com on 5/10/2023 3:42 PM