



135 N. Grand Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90012
musiccenter.org

March 17, 2021

Mr. Bryant Domina
The Robert Nelson Foundation
PO Box 761398
Los Angeles, CA 90076

Hello Bryant,

Thank you very much for this opportunity to present The Music Center's programs to you and the Foundation's board of directors.

The Music Center shares The Robert Nelson Foundation's commitment to students with special needs, as exemplified by our annual Very Special Arts Festival, now in its 42nd year. While the festival takes place on one day, our work to provide arts education for all children is an active priority all year long, supported by a team of six education employees, a roster of 40-50 Teaching Artists and an annual budget of \$1.5 million. In typical years, we reach 150,000 children, the largest program in the west.

We invite The Robert Nelson Foundation to support our Education division and specifically, programs that share the delight of the arts with children of all abilities and bring the arts to low-income children in underserved school districts. I am recommending for your consideration our most highly respected programs from our education portfolio:

- The Music Center's Very Special Arts Festival - Our annual festival provides youth of all abilities the opportunity to learn, perform and celebrate their creative talents at this annual inclusive event
- VSAF Teaching Artist Residencies - Teaching Artists engage students in art making, teaching them various arts concepts, and help them prepare a performance that will be recorded for the VSAF
- Summer Arts Integration Symposium - Professional development workshops in which educators typically work side-by-side with Music Center Teaching Artists as learners and partners, creating, performing, and assessing their own work and teaching practices
- Arts Integration Partnerships - Music Center Teaching Artists work with teachers and students in their classrooms to connect and integrate grade-level curriculum and develop analytical, communication, and collaborative skills.

More information on each program is provided on the next page.

Please let me know if I can provide additional details on the programs or our plans for fiscal year 2021-2022 beginning July 1, 2021.

With appreciation,

Laurie

Laurie A. Selik
Senior Director, Institutional Giving
Cell: (310) 968-7606

The Music Center's Commitment to Students of All Abilities

The Music Center seeks to deepen arts education experiences for students of all abilities by expanding three legacy programs:

The Music Center's Very Special Arts Festival (VSAF) – Our annual festival provides youth of all abilities the opportunity to learn, perform and celebrate their creative talents at this annual inclusive event. Typically offered as an in-person event on our plaza, the 42nd annual VSAF will consist of online arts learning residencies that culminate in a virtual festival, celebrating the artistic achievements of children of all abilities with student performances, student artwork, performances by artists with disabilities, magic show, and more. This year's festival will be held on April 16, 2021.

In FY22, we aim to expand VSAF from one day to two days, including a Saturday, making the festival accessible to more children and their families. VSAF's 2021 budget is \$218,000 and is currently supported by individual donors and City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, National Arts and Disability Center, and the Kenneth T. and Eileen L. Norris Foundation.

Estimated incremental cost: \$125,000.

VSAF Teaching Artist Residencies – In each residency, Teaching Artists engage students in art making, teaching them various arts concepts, and help them prepare a performance that will be recorded for the VSAF. Each residency workshop is roughly 30 minutes in length (shortened due to online participation fatigue) and occurs three to five times, consisting of hands-on activities and exercises that merge the arts with core learning areas (reading, math, history, and science).

In FY22, we wish to expand the VSAF Teaching Artist Residencies from three schools to five schools.

Estimated incremental cost: \$25,000.

Summer Arts Integration Symposium - Educators typically work side-by-side with Music Center Teaching Artists as learners and partners, creating, performing, and assessing their own work and teaching practices. This three-day intensive training program occurred online last summer and will be online in 2021. The Symposium provided educators with participatory learning experiences focusing on arts practices as they pertain to creating arts curriculum, best practices for working with students with various disabilities, and deepening learning through the arts.

In FY22, we seek to add professional development workshop sessions on teaching students of all abilities.

Estimated incremental cost: \$75,000.

The Music Center's Arts Integration Partnerships

The Music Center's Education Department produces **Arts Integration Partnerships**, a program which sends Music Center Teaching Artists into Los Angeles County classrooms to work with 14,000 teachers and students in a comprehensive study of an art form based on the needs of each district. Each partnership is custom designed to connect and integrate grade-level curriculum and develop analytical, communication, and collaborative skills. Approximately 57% of the schools are participating in free and reduced lunch programs.

The annual budget for Arts Integration Partnerships is \$933,000. The program is partially supported by The Max H. Gluck Foundation, The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation, Capital Group, Edison International and The California Arts Council.