



P.O. Box 1767, Charlottesville, Virginia 22902

The Prana Fund



2017 Request for Proposals

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The Prana Fund in the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation is seeking innovative proposals from Charlottesville area nonprofit agencies or schools. Partnerships between organizations that serve lower-income children and that promote the visual arts are particularly encouraged.

Emphasis:

Nonprofit organizations eligible for this award will be those working in Charlottesville and Albemarle who serve **middle and lower-income children** and whose work with children focuses on **programs that integrate the visual arts with nature, environment, animals or wildlife (while the focus is on visual arts, programs focusing on the performing arts will not be excluded).**

Many children have not had the opportunity to be outside in the natural environment and experience its beauty and peacefulness. Through this exposure, children can learn to value the environment and be good stewards. The visual arts provide an outlet for expression and learning. The combination of both can promote an important sense of self-worth and connection to the world. For these reasons, the Prana Fund seeks to provide this type of opportunity for children in the area.

Special consideration will be given to projects that incorporate hands-on learning and a multi-disciplinary approach in a way that builds memory through alternative learning methods. *Established programs or new programs that have completed the pilot phase will be given priority over new program ideas.*

Examples:

The Prana Fund supports programs serving children that successfully integrate the visual arts and nature (while the focus is on visual arts, performing arts will not be excluded). Below are descriptions of projects that have received funding along with an example of *an additional enhancing idea* that would build upon the project and represent a deeper study into visual art. These additional ideas illustrate ways to incorporate a left brain/right brain approach that enhances learning while integrating the study of artists, art styles, and art history.

1. Boys and Girls Club of Charlottesville/Albemarle for their *Forest Discoveries* program. This program provided Boys and Girls Club members the opportunity to discover the “urban wilderness” forest located right behind the Cherry Avenue Unit of the Club, and it expanded the program to include a Scientist-in-Residence and an Artist-in-Residence. A public art exhibit was also held at the McGuffey Art Center.

**Additional Idea:* Children create murals, make paper maché, and are introduced to J. J. Audubon, an illustrator of birds and other wildlife, as a way to study images and make accurate drawings and constructions.

2. Youth Learning Academy for the *Design & Challenge Green Initiative*, a hands-on program that linked students (ages 6-18) with local architects and builders who provided skills training, active learning and mentorship opportunities in the design and construction fields. The program integrated environmental education, green design, and sustainable building practices into the Design & Challenge Initiative. The students were praised by the ASPCA for their “Barkitecture” project in which they constructed 125 dog houses for pets that lost their homes in Hurricane Katrina.

**Additional Idea:* Students choose an architectural style or architect, such as Frank Lloyd Wright, and use the style as inspiration for the design of their dog house.

3. The City Schoolyard Garden at Buford to expand their outdoor organic garden classroom. In addition to teaching the benefits of growing one’s own food, the garden provides an opportunity for classroom-to-garden instruction for ESL, English, Math, Science and Art classes.

**Additional Idea:* Students study examples of Matisse' "cut-outs" and then create their own designs or compositions using cut and torn colored paper made into shapes of vegetables and fruit. These designs could also be inspirations for printmaking. Additionally, students learn about Monet, the Impressionist painter who loved his garden so much he spent hours designing the garden and then painting the garden during different times of the day to show the effects of light on color.

Eligibility:

The agency must be a 501(c) (3) public charity or government agency (such as a school) working in Charlottesville and/or Albemarle County. A majority of the children served by the proposed

program must be lower-income. The Prana Fund will not support endowment campaigns, annual appeals, or awards to individuals.

Amount of Grant:

Funding requests up to \$15,000 will be considered, though smaller proposals are welcome. Proposals for up to three years may be considered; organizations that wish to request more than one year of funding should confer with CACF staff prior to applying.

Proposal Deadline:

Monday, November 6, 2017. *Your proposal should be submitted as one PDF and emailed to jsmyth@cacfonline.org by the deadline.*

Proposal requirements:

- Maximum 3 page project narrative**
- evidence of 501(c)(3) public charity status
- agency's most recent financial statement
- one-page project budget
- list of project leaders, artists and other professionals
- list of board of directors and key staff members' roles in the project

The recipient will be announced by December 18, 2017.

What is the Reporting Process?

A grant recipient is expected to use the funds for the purpose approved in the grant award, and funds are to be expended within the specified period of time. Grant recipients are expected to submit a written report on the funded project six months from the date of the grant and again upon grant completion. The **Prana Grant Reporting Form** will be mailed to recipient organizations along with grant award materials.

Please call Jan Smyth, Donor Services Manager, at (434) 296-1024 or email jsmyth@cacfonline.org for more information or with questions regarding your proposal idea.