

AGENCY NAME:	Van Go Mobile Arts Inc.
PROJECT /ACTIVITY NAME:	JAMS (Jobs in the Arts Make Sense)
CONTACT PERSON:	Lynne Green, Executive Director
ADDRESS:	PO Box 153, 715 New Jersey, Lawrence, KS 66044
PHONE NUMBER:	785-842-3797
AMOUNT REQUESTED:	\$ 69246

When does the fiscal year for the program being funded begin? 1-Jan-07

Has your organization received funding from the City previously ? Yes

If so, what was the source and amount of funding received ?

Last year Van Go received City Alcohol Tax (\$40,300) and Outside Agency (\$31,800) Funds.

Description/Justification (Using 300 words or fewer, describe the program for which funding is being requested, the importance of the program and why City funding is needed.)

See Attached

This request should be supported (maximum of three pages) with the following information:

1. Description of funding support received from all other sources such as the United Way, Douglas County, USD 497, state/federal grants and private funding.
2. Total budget for the agency, number of personnel, and how the requested funding would be used (e.g., personnel, equipment, material, etc.).
3. Does the agency anticipate the need to request funding beyond 2007?

Additional information may be provided within the **three (3) page limit**.

Submit this form and any additional supporting material electronically by April 10, 2006 to Debbie Van Saun, Asst. City Manager, via email to: dvansaun@ci.lawrence.ks.us

300 Word Summary:

Van Go is a year-round youth employment and prevention program for at-risk teens. Lawrence's largest employer of at-risk youth and the *only* comprehensive job-training program in Douglas County, Van Go's nationally recognized JAMS program uses art as the tool to give troubled, high needs teens, ages 14-21, a life changing experience. JAMS, Jobs in the Arts Make Sense, hires 90 youth annually to make permanent, public works of art which are sold in the Lawrence community, giving kids accustomed to failure a rare opportunity to succeed.

In January 2006, Van Go was honored in a White House ceremony as the first Kansas organization ever to win the prestigious "Coming Up Taller" award. This highly competitive prize honors excellence in after-school programs nationwide and is juried by the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, the NEA and the NEH.

Van Go is on the verge of completing our 2-year, 1.3 million dollar capital campaign. The renovation of our 12,000 sq. foot building will allow Van Go to double the numbers of youth served as well as to expand the scope of services provided. Likewise, we have doubled our request to the City for FY '07 in anticipation of this exponential expansion of vocational services to the Lawrence community. This expansion will benefit the City in the following ways:

1. **Soft skills' Training**
 - Businesses surveyed in 2005 by the USD #497 Administrative Taskforce on Technical Education indicated that a gaping hole exists in available "soft skills" training in the Lawrence workforce (see narrative for details).

2. **Economic Development**
 - Over \$66,000 will be paid in wages to at-risk youth in 2006.

 - Van Go brings revenue into Lawrence from funding sources outside the Lawrence community (see narrative for details).

3. **Prevention**
 - Van Go delivers social services and prevention programming that deters Lawrence youth from the risky behaviors of crime, drug and alcohol use.

1. Following is a description of Van Go's 2006 income budget:

United Way	7 th Judicial District Juvenile Justice Authority	NIYEA/KDHR	Private Donations	City of Lawrence, Outside Agency	Topeka Community Foundation
\$24,500	\$17,000	\$15,000	\$60,000	\$69,246	\$7500

Kansas Arts Commission	W.I.A.	Annual Fundraiser	Gallery sales & commission work	Building Rent	City of Lawrence, Alcohol tax
\$15,500	\$100,000	\$30,000	\$50,000	\$5,000	\$50,000

2. The total budget for the agency in 2006 is \$423,000.

Personnel:

Three other full-time employees, the JAMS Program Director, the Art Director, and an Office Administrator join Executive Director Lynne Green. Van Go also has a ½ time Social Worker (MSW), a ½ time Development Director, and a ½ time CFO. Van Go contracts with a grant writer and with teaching-artists who are hired for special projects.

Use of Funding:

Van Go will use the City Outside Agency funding to pay for a portion of staff salaries.

Amount Requested	Position	Description
\$18,900	1/2 time Social Worker (100%)	Provides crisis counseling, referrals to outside agencies, supervises KU social work interns, and does all WIA grant reporting.
\$9450	1/2 time Development Director (50%)	Operates the Annual Giving Club, heads the annual fundraisers and coordinates the capital campaign.
\$26,500	Full time Office Manager (100%)	Administrative responsibilities, website management, database management, and volunteer training.
\$10,200	Contracted grant-writing services \$21.25/hour for 40 hours/month	Responsible for generating \$290,000 in income for 2006
\$4196	Fica, benefits	
\$69,246		

3. Van Go will continue to request funding beyond 2007. As long as there is an unmet need in the community for Van Go's youth employment programming, we will continue to seek local funding for these essential services. With the anticipated expansion of programming, the City will benefit as follows:

1. Soft Skills training = a readied workforce:

- Attendance and punctuality – tracked daily and evaluated
- Time management and goal-setting – charted, measured and evaluated and rewarded
- Teamwork – cooperation and respect taught, evaluated and rewarded
- Task completion--taking initiative, follow-through is stressed, evaluated and rewarded
- Communication Skills – every summer our apprentice-artists partner with local business to design and create a commissioned art bench. Interviewing the client, a firm handshake and making good eye contact are stressed and practiced
- Life Skills –Weekly sessions on topics such as fiscal responsibility, transition planning, health and employment issues

2. Economic Development=Broader tax base:

- Over \$66,000 will be paid in wages to at-risk youth in 2006. Nearly 100% of that money stays in Lawrence. Because 80% of our youth come from families living in poverty, the dollars earned at Van Go help keep their families financially afloat, becoming contributors to, not recipients of, public monies.
- Van Go brings revenue into Lawrence from sources outside the community. In 2006, \$190,000 or 44% of the agency's revenue came from outside sources. Thus, Van Go leverages the City's financial support by generating additional dollars that directly benefit our at-risk youth.

3. Prevention = Healthy Communities

- For every \$1 spent on prevention programming, \$4.48 is saved (The Costs and Benefits of After-School Programs, Sept. 2002)
- Keeps at-risk youth busy during the risk-prone hours of 3-6 p.m.

We have a 4:1 student/adult ratio that allows Van Go to give intensive one-on-one services to the youth we serve. Last year Van Go served 90 teens with 9200 hours of direct service (102 hours of service per teen annually). This unique team of caring adults sets clear and positive standards for appropriate behavior.

Van Go is always working towards self-sufficiency, and currently raises \$50,000 or 12% of our budget through gallery sales and commissioned work. Examples of this commissioned work include 25 painted newspaper boxes for the LJW, 150 benches located at community businesses and organizations, an interior mural for Amarr Garage Door Co., and an outdoor mural at the Lawrence Public Library.

We cannot overstate how important it is for local dollars to help fund this youth economic development program. Van Go exclusively serves at-risk youth who otherwise would not be served by giving them meaningful opportunities to feel valued and connected to their community. We turn at-risk youth into contributing citizens.

As long as Van Go continues to fill an unmet need in the community, public financial support makes sense. Van Go successfully closes a gap in services that otherwise would remain unfilled.



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TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

City's art program for youths receives White House award

By Katie Heinz - Special to the Journal-World

Thursday, January 26, 2006

Washington — A Lawrence arts program received national recognition Wednesday during a White House ceremony.

Van Go Mobile Arts Inc. received a 2005 Coming Up Taller Award for its Jobs in the Arts Make Sense program, which is known as JAMS. First lady Laura Bush presented the award to Lynne Green, Van Go's executive director, and Faith Darnell, a 17-year-old JAMS participant.

"To be recognized like this, it's awesome. It's the best," Green said. "We feel like we just won an Academy Award."

Van Go's program for at-risk teens was one of 17 organizations to receive the award, which comes with a \$10,000 grant. The recognition is given to after-school arts and humanities programs across the United States that encourage educational achievement; more than 250 organizations were nominated.

"The programs we recognize with the Coming Up Taller Awards bring caring adults into the lives of children so these children can become successful and healthy adults themselves," said Bush, who presented the honor on behalf of the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities.

First lady Laura Bush greets Lynne Green, left, and Faith Darnell, representatives of Lawrence's Van Go Mobile Arts Inc., at the White House as they are presented with a 2005 Coming Up Taller Award. Wednesday's awards were presented to after-school arts and humanities programs that promote educational achievement.

Green started JAMS in 1999. Young adults ages 14 through 21 earn minimum wage to create and complete art projects commissioned by local organizations and businesses. Participants are also paid for artwork that is sold in the Van Go Gallery. The program employs 100 teenagers each year from the Lawrence area.

Darnell has been with JAMS for nearly four years. She has helped paint a library mural and has worked with glass, jewelry and paint. She said the program has given her confidence.

"I just grew more as a person. My social skills developed a lot more, and it was just very fun, very nurturing," Darnell said.

Green said the impact of the program has been “astounding.”

“We have seen kids really transform,” Green said. “Art is such a powerful tool to do that, and for the children in the program, they have succeeded and transformed their lives, found jobs and gotten good grades.”

Green said she planned to put the award money into a savings account for the program. Van Go is in the midst of a \$325,000 fund-raising drive to build expanded headquarters in Lawrence.