

City of Lawrence
Outside Agency
Bi-annual Report
2016

Reports on activity should be submitted electronically to Danielle Buschkoetter, at dbuschkoetter@lawrenceks.org. Reports on activities from January 2016 to June 2016 are due on July 15th 2016. Cumulative reports on activities from January 2016 through December 2016 are due on February 15th 2017.

Agency Name: Lawrence Arts Center, Inc.

Reporting Period (please check one):

- January - June
(deadline July 15)

X January – December
(deadline February 15)

1. Give a brief narrative of the activities that were funded with City funds over the reporting period checked above.

With the 50% reduction in City funding for building maintenance, the Arts Center has struggled to find the funds required to continue to be open seven days a week, 12 hours a day. The \$55,000 cut in city funding has made it difficult to support a full-time facilities manager, a part-time technical director, hourly technical staff support, weekend facility maintenance staff, and full-time staffing of our front desk. The Arts Center Development Staff have worked overtime to find additional contributions from sponsors and donors to make up for the funding deficit. Through their hard work, the Arts Center been able to continue to offer the people of Lawrence the benefits of performance, education, and exhibition year-round and outside of the regular work day. An additional reduction in City funds would likely result in a reduction in open hours of the Arts Center facility.

2. Provide specific detail (and supportive documents, if needed) to demonstrate progress made toward your goals/objectives.

The Arts Center works hard to provide full-time coverage of our City-owned building for facilities maintenance needs, full-time coverage of our front desk, and technical support for all events happening in the building including free uses by not-for-profits and City departments. We are able to maintain regular business hours as well as extended hours as needed for community and public events with support from the City. Our maintenance staff works to extend the life of the City's building and our technical equipment through proper use and maintenance.

We continue to implement new energy saving measures in our facility to ensure that we are being environmentally conscious and creating a cost savings for the City utility bill. We are also conducting a fundraising campaign to support the purchase and installation of a computerized security system in order to keep the 200,000 people who enter our building--50% of whom are children under the age of 18--safe and secure. We are also seeking funds to support looping technology for our 300-seat theater so that those with hearing impairments can still enjoy the benefits of the performing arts.

3. How have you impacted the citizens of Lawrence?

The citizens of Lawrence can enjoy performance, education, and exhibition seven days a week, at least 12 hours a day, at the Arts Center. Our availability and openness greatly benefit many in the City. We also make the building available to not-for-profit organizations at a minimum charge and prioritize any City of Lawrence event scheduling. City of Lawrence events are currently free of charge in our space.

4. What barriers, if any, have you encountered?

Although we have full-time facilities, technical, and front desk staff, we are struggling with security in our building. We are now facing new challenges presented by thefts and loitering in the building. This is of major concern due to the high number of preschoolers and children under 18 whom we serve. We do not currently have any security system installed in this City-owned building, and we have asked the City for funds to cover this but understand that the City has not been able to make this priority due to budgetary constraints. As mentioned previously, we are conducting a fundraising campaign to remedy this situation.

We are also seeking additional funding support to make our building as accessible to all people—regardless of physical or mental impairment—as possible. The installation of looping technology is the first step in this process.

5. Review the line-item budget you provided in your application. How much of your allocation has been spent?

100%