

City of Lawrence Outside Agency Annual Report For Calendar Year 2017

Reports on activity should be submitted electronically to Danielle Buschkoetter, at dbuschkoetter@lawrenceks.org by Thursday, February 15th 2018 at 5:00pm. For the following questions please refer back to your [2017 application for funding](#).

Reporting Period: Calendar Year 2017

Agency Name: Lawrence Arts Center

1. Refer to the program in which your agency received funding; provide a participant success story that helps demonstrate the accomplishments of the program.

The Lawrence Arts Center Financial Aid Fund enables success stories every day, and proves that access to the arts is sustaining, not an optional add-on but an essential facet of life. One student, a 14 year old girl and the eldest of six children, had a particularly rough year, during which both her parents and one of her siblings had surgery. She planned to save her babysitting money for six months to a year in order to enroll in ballet classes. Her therapist recommended that she apply for financial aid instead. She paid \$20 from her babysitting fund; the rest was covered by the Financial Aid Fund. Another student, a man living out of a van in order to support a friend and her family, applied for financial aid in order to attend Lawrence Arts Center classes while he saved to enroll in Johnson County Community College. He was granted 90% off of tuition, but asked to pay at a rate of 40% off. Both of these students have expressed that participating in programs at the Lawrence Arts Center has positively impacted their lives and outlook. Continued funding from the City of Lawrence supports patrons like these and ensures that lack of means is not a barrier to access.

2. Refer to your 2017 application for funding; provide a brief narrative of the activities funded with City funds.

Thirty thousand dollars in scholarship funds supported approximately 235 of the more than 1,200 low-income children and adults who required financial aid to be able to participate in visual and performing arts education at the Lawrence Arts Center during 2017.

3. Refer to your 2017 application for funding; provide specific detail (use supportive documents, if needed) to demonstrate what progress was made toward your proposed outcomes.

We continue to see a significant increase in requests for financial aid. In our grant application, we projected that in the 2016-2017 fiscal year, financial aid would increase by 5% compared to the \$127,256 spent in the 2014-2015 fiscal year. In fact, over the 2016-2017 fiscal year, the Lawrence Arts Center distributed \$152,788 in financial aid, a 20% increase over 2014-2015. All \$30,000 dollars received from the City of Lawrence were used directly as financial aid tuition. This enables individuals and their families to access arts education programs, as well as allowing the Arts Center to maintain its commitment to outreach and scholarship support to organizations like Douglas County CASA, Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Community Shelter, and Family Promise. In addition, children from Head Start and Little Nations at Haskell Indian Nations University were enrolled in arts-based preschool classes at the Lawrence Arts Center on a weekly basis. We also are pleased to have provided after school educational outreach to more than 200 children per week through our partnership with Boys and Girls Club. It is thanks to the City of Lawrence that we are able to meet the financial aid needs of Lawrence families.

4. Refer to the line-item budget provided in your 2017 application for funding; is this accurate to how your allocation was actually spent? If no, what changed and why?

We accurately predicted that 100% of funds received from the City of Lawrence would go to financial aid for tuition for students to take classes at the Lawrence Arts Center.