

**2019 Auburn Arts Commission  
Project Support Grant  
Application Form**

**Projects from January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019 Deadline:  
October 23, 2018**

*granting committee will meet on November 6, 2018*

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Name SAMPLE ARTIST PROJECT APPLICATION

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Number \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Website (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Tax ID# or SSN \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Organization Budget \_\_\_\_\_

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

Project Title Welcome Immigrants

Project Start Date June 01, 2019 Project End Date August 31, 2019

Project Location/Venue Any public space, likely a park or community center

Grant Amount Requested (typically \$500 - \$2,000) \$2,000

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION / PROPOSAL**

*Tell us about your project or event. Be specific, list activities and goals. (half page or 2,200 characters max)*

I would like to offer Auburn a poetic temporary art installation which builds community solidarity for struggling refugees and immigrants, free and accessible to everyone during the summer of 2019. This is a visual art piece most easily installed along a fence, so the best location would likely be a fence at a public park or community center, but I am open to other installation locations.

Concept: There has recently been an increase in public anti-immigrant sentiment and I want to offer a counter opinion. Art is often vague and open to interpretation, but right now what we really need is a strong, clear message that all are welcome here.

Physical description: Please see the attached photos of the existing parts of the project for a better understanding of the project than I can explain with words.  
<https://koncsek.com/welcome-immigrants>

Welcome Immigrants is a 13-line poem etched onto painted wood which can be read forward or backward equally. It is designed to be installed in a public setting with the lines placed horizontally next to each other. Each line is translated into several languages, with the English and translations grouped together. Each line and each translation is laser etched onto a separate wood panel for simple modular installation. Each panel is 40 inches long.

The content of the poem is as follows:

Welcome, immigrants  
From across the seas  
Let's share our stories together  
I want to learn about you  
I want to learn from you  
Let's gather together  
Speaking and listening  
Let's respect each other  
Let's protect each other  
Our differences make us strong  
When we join together  
From across the land  
Welcome, immigrants

I choose the languages for translation based on the demographics of the area where the project will be installed, with an attempt to include at least the top 5 languages spoken in the neighborhood. The current iteration of the project includes English, Spanish (Mexican), Chinese (Mandarin), Hindi, and Russian. For you, I would like to add at least Vietnamese, Tagalog, and Korean, but I intend to work with you to determine the most appropriate languages.

## **PROJECT IMPACT / PUBLIC BENEFIT**

*How will the project benefit the citizens of Auburn and/or local artists? Describe your intended audience and how you will reach them.*

We need explicit, inclusive, verbal displays expressing appreciation for our diverse community. I don't think there's anything like this out there right now in the visual arts realm. There's also not a lot out there that specifically addresses and welcomes people who don't speak English. As the daughter of a refugee, I see the value of presenting art multilingually, and want to encourage it by role modeling it.

Since Welcome Immigrants will be an art installation exhibited in several different languages, it will directly reach several lingual minority communities not usually served by literary art. Installation at a public venue (likely a public park) will increase accessibility as the art will be available to anyone for free and accessible to everyone regardless of their work hours. I'll also make sure the work is installed in a location which is wheelchair accessible and safe for kids.

## **FEASIBILITY**

*Tell us why you can successfully complete this project (past successes, qualifications of participants, partnerships, etc.)*

I am a public artist by trade and have created several art installations at parks and other public and private venues, mostly in outdoor environments where they are unsupervised and exposed to the elements. I specialize in interactive and immersive art, often with a social justice core. The following are some examples of my recent work (photos at <http://koncsek.com/public-art>) :

- My Home

Park installation of painted wood panels installed at Lake City Mini Park providing a voice for homeless Seattleites about their concept of what "home" means to them. Created in collaboration with a group of individuals residing at the Mary's Place Family Center.

- Solve this Fence

Interactive laser cut wood logic puzzle designed around a theme of resistance and solidarity.

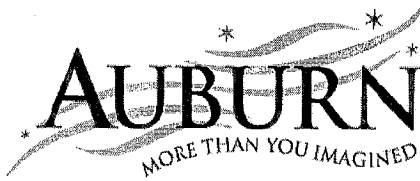
- Choose Your Own Way - Neighborhood-scale immersive walking adventure story installation with laser etched painted wood pages hosted on Little Free Libraries.

## **NEED FOR SERVICES / URGENCY**

*How will these funds make a difference to your project? Please describe exactly how the funds will be used.*

The project is partially funded by the City of Bellevue for its current iteration, so part of the project is already created. For installation in Auburn, I will need to expand it to include languages appropriate for the area, and so will require the funding I am requesting. Without further funding I would not be able to add area-appropriate languages, which would defeat the purpose of presenting the work. The installation has high materials and services costs, which cannot be substituted by volunteer time, so I will need the grant to complete the project.

This project is scalable. More funding means it will reach more people with translation inclusion, but if full funding is not available, I can scale back to include fewer languages.



**2019 Auburn Arts Commission  
Project Support Grant  
Application Form**

**Projects from January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019 Deadline:  
October 23, 2018**

*granting committee will meet on November 6, 2018*

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Name SAMPLE ARTS ORGANIZATION APPLICATION

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Number \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Website (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Tax ID# or SSN \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Organization Budget \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

Project Title Public Arts Programming During Late Play Dates

Project Start Date January 01, 2019 Project End Date December 28, 2019

Project Location/Venue White River Valley Museum

Grant Amount Requested (typically \$500 - \$2,000) \$2,000

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION / PROPOSAL**

*Tell us about your project or event. Be specific, list activities and goals. (half page or 2,200 characters max)*

**OVERALL GRANT PURPOSE:** We are requesting \$2,000 to sponsor one year of artist involvement in our Late Play Date family events.

**INSTITUTIONAL BACKGROUND:** Over the past 28 years the White River Valley Museum has grown from an all-volunteer grass roots agency open 4 hours a week with a budget of \$14,000 a year, to a fully professional institution with five staff members, a wonderful crew of 35+ volunteers, an extensive fieldtrip and family education program, award winning permanent and temporary exhibits, a second site: the Mary Olson Farm, and an annual operating budget of over \$620,000. Serving kids and families through these venues with educational programs is what we are all about!

Our current five year plan is organized within the vision:

**ENCOURAGING ENGAGEMENT, COMPASSION AND A DESIRE TO LEARN MORE**

Each year we tour all kindergarten, first, third and eighth graders from the Auburn School District and many students from home, private and out of district schools—totaling over 6500 students a year. We host two temporary shows a year: typically one featuring art, the other focusing on interpretive personal and local history. In 2018 those exhibits were *Suffer for Beauty: Women's History Revealed Through Undergarments*, and *Sasquatch: Ancient Native Perspectives on the Mysterious Beings of the Woods*.

**LATE PLAY DATES:** Part of our visitors' experience during monthly FREE evening hours are what we call a Late Play Date. From six to eight pm on each first Thursday children and families tour the museum and stop along the way at stations where they are encouraged to participate in different themed activities such as:

- Native storytelling with Upper S'Klallam artist Roger Fernandes
- Music and stories with regional author Eric Ode
- A snack and paint session with Crystal Lowy
- Hands on art creation with Mary Ellen Bowers
- A carving demonstration with Kenneth Greg Watson.

Without a sponsor we are typically unable to afford these enhanced experiences which so benefit our audience and respectfully offer payment to local artists.

## **PROJECT IMPACT / PUBLIC BENEFIT**

*How will the project benefit the citizens of Auburn and/or local artists? Describe your intended audience and how you will reach them.*

NEED: In our neighborhood over 95% of the kids qualify for Free or Reduced Fee Meals. District wide, that number is about 45%. We have seen that children raised in suburban low income settings tend to be 'under experienced'. They typically are unable to travel, attend museums, sporting events, forests, farms or zoos. For those reasons we have developed a mission based on providing low or no cost entertaining and educational services.

BENEFIT: This grant proposal, if successful, will help us continue to provide artist-filled first Thursday evening hours, where families with kids engage in fun and interesting ways at a museum...often their first museum experience! We believe that this kind of programming introduces parents and children to the arts in a way which is accessible, relevant, and memorable. Additionally we believe in paying artists for their work and time, which is one of the key reasons for this grant application.

## **FEASIBILITY**

*Tell us why you can successfully complete this project (past successes, qualifications of participants, partnerships, etc.)*

QUALIFICATIONS: The curators and administrators at the museum all hold Master of Arts degrees in Museum Studies, and the educators are highly creative with years of museum education experience. Curator of Education Rachael McAlister cooked up the idea of offering a Late Play Date four years ago. Following her lead, we expanded our FREE open hours to include the first Thursday evening of each month, opening from 6 to 8pm.

PAST LATE PLAY DATES: McAlister programmed those events with kid-friendly themes. Stations were scattered about the museum and staffed by volunteers. Each evening included a 'make and take' activity appropriate for kids ages 3 to 12. Attendance was slow, averaging 10 to 20 people per Late Play Date. Then we thought to improve the marketing and the program offerings...but had to raise money to do so.

## **NEED FOR SERVICES / URGENCY**

*How will these funds make a difference to your project? Please describe exactly how the funds will be used.*

With a 2018 grant from the Robert Chinn Foundation, we began to pay artists to demonstrate and perform during our Late Play Dates, and to advertise Late Play Dates through Promoted Facebook Posts.

We found that the combination greatly increased the typical evening attendance and allowed us to introduce a museum and arts programming to 40 to 50 new people each evening. With the Chinn grant of \$2000 we hired five artists/performers, advertised with Promoted Facebook Posts, and covered part of the cost of the front desk staff.

However, Robert Chinn Foundation grants are available on an every-other-year basis, so if we want to continue with this level of programming, we must find support elsewhere. We hope that it might be from the City of Auburn Arts Commission and thank you for your time and consideration.