

Proposal Summary
Meeting Date: 8/23/2017

SkyART
Request # 115366

Project Title:	Campaign for Limitless Potential
Duration:	12 months
Request Date:	7/12/2017
Request Amount:	\$150,000
Recommended Amount:	\$150,000
Program Area:	Education
Population Served:	Youth at Risk
Type of Support:	General Operating Support
Grantee Location:	Chicago, IL
Primary Contact:	Ms. Sarah Ward

Project Abstract

Grant funds will be used to complete Sky ARTS's campaign to improve facilities and build programing quality and reach. Funds to be added to a board-designated reserve to support increased general operating expenses associated with organizational expansion and new program development over the next 36 months.

Organizational Background

SkyART was founded in 2001 as the South Chicago Art Center, with 18 students meeting two days a week, in a small studio. The mission remains: to provide young people with quality programming in a safe and accessible space. It operates in areas of Chicago where there are very few other cultural opportunities, much less ones that are free, consistent, and high quality. It has been the only program of its kind on the Southeast Side. In addition to contributing to the cultural life of multiple underserved neighborhoods, the SkyART Studios facility is an important social hub in a place where there is a dearth of meaningful opportunities for community engagement, and is a point of connection where otherwise underserved residents of the city can access a rich variety of cultural assets from within and beyond the local community. The target population is typical of the South Chicago community, where residents work hard to overcome high rates of poverty, unemployment, and crime. In this mostly Latino and African American neighborhood, the most recent census data indicates that 30% of households fall below the poverty line, 20% are unemployed, and 27% have no high school diploma; the Chicago Tribune reports crime rates in the top 20% of Chicago neighborhoods; and more than 98% of children are eligible for free or subsidized lunch, as tracked by the Chicago Board of Education.

Over the years, the organization has grown considerably, now reaching over 1,200 participants weekly in multiple locations. Stretching outside the studio, in 2002, they initiated programming at two local schools, who they still work with today. In 2006, they expanded beyond South Chicago to include programs at schools in neighboring communities. Today they partner with nearly 20 schools in a dozen South Side neighborhoods. Other milestones included: obtaining not-for-profit status in 2003; founding

a 15,000 sq. ft. Artists Garden, which is both an outdoor studio space for program participants and a community garden tended by neighbors and friends. They established an internship program, which employs an average of 15 local teens and young adults annually; provides valuable work experience and the opportunity to gain twenty-first century job skills. Participants receive one-on-one mentoring and professional development opportunities. In October 2015, they changed their name to SkyART and moved from the small, rented space that had been home for 14 years to the fully owned, newly refurbished 6,000 sq. ft. SkyART Studios facility (on East 91st St.), which includes three multi-purpose art spaces, a state-of-the-art computer lab, equipped for a variety of digital media applications, and a newly completed fifth space dedicated to ceramics and metal sculpture

SkyART maintains an engaged board of fourteen Directors from diverse industries and disciplines. They are a dedicated group of leaders who have passionately guided the thoughtful and responsible development of the organization. They have consistently exceeded annual give/get requirements and helped grow SkyART’s family of institutional and individual donors. The organization has a staff of 7 full-time employees who bring both advanced degrees and experiences in a variety of areas related to the work of the organization.

Annual Revenue Sources

Grants	57%	Government	15%	Earned Income	8%
Fees	0%	Private Support	19%	Other	1%

Finances

	Budget	Actual (unaudited)	Actual
	06/30/2018	06/30/2017	06/30/2016
Revenues	\$862,950	\$899,487	\$1,489,388
Expenses	\$862,950	\$753,449	\$708,206
Surplus (Deficit)	\$0	\$146,038	\$781,182
Net Assets		\$2,242,151	\$2,095,843

Program Description

SkyART provides free, safe, creative spaces where connections are made and young people are empowered and emboldened to reach beyond expectations and to realize their full potential.

Free visual art programs that serve young people ages 3-24 include Studio, School and Community programming that work cohesively, share resources and build a creative community between the various locations where they are conducted.

- Studio Programs are offered at the SkyART Studios five days a week and include: Open Studio time, a weekly Art Basics course, Experimental Studio courses, Registration-based courses, Cultural Field Trips, as well as advanced arts opportunities for young adults who see art as a catalyst in their future.
- School partnerships with public, private and charter schools on the South Side bring the visual arts to institutions with little or no arts programming. In-class Arts Integration delivered by SkyART Teaching Artists in partnership with classroom teachers, enhance classroom achievement. After-school classes, Parent/Teacher workshops, and Advancement in the Arts classes are also conducted.

- Community Programs at facilities coordinated by partnering community organizations range from 1-day workshops to multi-week art courses. The Chicago Public Library, The Chicago Park District, Metropolitan Family Services, The YMCA, Boys and Girls Clubs are representative. All Community Programs maintain the same high quality instruction and content as Studio and School Programs.

Programming seeks to provide exposure to and development of a broad range of essential art tools and technical skills. It also seeks to develop ‘soft skills’ whose use and value transcend the world of artmaking and are applicable to all forms of human endeavor. Among other things, participants expand their capacity for critical thinking and creative expression as well as their ability to observe, reflect and comprehend. Program participation and contact hours during the 2016-17 program were:

SkyART Participation: FY2017 Actuals			
	Total Participants	Total Contact Hours	Avg. Contact Hours per participant
School Programs - Youth Participants	1366	26844	20
Arts Integration In-school Residency	1110	20599	19
School Programs After-school	222	5265	24
Art Therapy	10	700	70
School Programs Advancement in the Arts	24	280	12
School Programs - Adult Participants	145	264	2
School Programs Parent Workshops	131	236	2
School Programs Classroom Teacher Training	14	28	2
Studio Programs	625	19400	31
School Trips to SkyART	106	255	2
Studio Programs	519	19145	37
TOTAL	2136	46508	22

Expected Outcome

With the completion of the fifth studio space, they expect to see an increase in the number Studio Program participants. While they could see an increase in overall participation numbers of 10 %, the effort in the coming year will be to improve program content and contact hours per student.

They expect to see:

- improvement in fundamental in art-making skills
- growth in general knowledge of art, art history, and the range of art and design mediums;
- acquisition of associated capacities, such as critical thinking
- improvement in academic performance.
- general expansion in the breadth of available creative options available at the SkyART Studios;
- overall improvement in the quality and depth of programs (e.g. more contact hours per student);
- development of new programs and partnerships

Program Budget

A recap of the of campaign and FY 18 budget are attached. They launched a \$2,500,000 campaign at the end of 2013 designed to cover both the capital expenses connected with the move to the SkyART Studios facility (acquisition, remodeling and equipping) and to cover associated increases in their annual operating budget. With all of the capital costs (approximately \$1M) met, they are requesting \$150,000 in

capacity-building funds. These funds, along with those already secured through the campaign, will be held in a board-designated reserve, to be applied to annual operating expenses in Fiscal Years 2018, 2019 and 2020.

Prior Grants

This is would be our first funding for SkyART

Recommendation

This request had an unusual development. Mike Furlong’s meeting the Executive Director’s parents and learning about the program coupled with Esther knowing the program and serving on the Board for a time led to Esther, Dan and Mike doing a site visit. This is a small grass root organization delivering art enrichment and personal development to a genuinely disenfranchised area of city. In their proposal they identified strongly with elements of our impact statements – “increasing the quality and quantity of experiential /co-curricular activities” and local practitioner engagement. They see the artist as entrepreneur and want to be part of the community support for self-employed creatives. I would recommend supporting it at the requested level. Should we choose to pay out the entire amount in 2017 we would request updates & program progress reporting for the three year period. There should be ways to create links with a number of the collegiate programs.

Campaign and FY2018 Operating Budgets

SkyART
7/12/2017

Campaign for Limitless Potential

Total: \$2,500,000

Revenue	Funds Needed	Funds Requested	Funds Committed
Coleman Foundation	\$150,000	\$150,000	
Board	\$300,000		\$297,300
Corporate	\$150,000		\$145,587
Foundation	\$1,450,000		\$1,422,754
Government	\$250,000		\$255,000
Individuals	\$200,000		\$232,528
Revenue Total	\$2,500,000	\$150,000	\$2,353,169

SkyART Operating Budget FY18

Income	Projected	Coleman Funds	Other Sources
Corporate Contributions	\$48,000		
Government Grants	\$70,000		
Foundation Grants	\$288,941		
Contributions Income	\$66,550		
In-kind Contributions	\$17,364		
Special Events	\$45,500		
Earned Income	\$80,000		
Interest Income	\$9,303		
Draw on Board Desig. Reserve	\$237,292		
Total	\$862,950	\$0	\$862,950

Expense	Projected	Coleman Funds	Other Sources
Salaries	\$450,000		
Personnel - Non-Artistic	\$25,000		
Personnel - Artistic	\$135,000		
Other Compensation Related	\$63,500		
Interns/ Assistant Teacher	\$33,000		
Office Related Expenses	\$35,000		
Art Supplies	\$36,000		
Other Studio Expenses	\$23,000		
Marketing	\$11,000		
Accounting	\$13,500		
Insurance	\$7,700		
Artist Professional Development	\$3,000		
Other Development	\$3,500		
Depreciation Expense	\$20,000		
Bank Service Charges	\$1,200		
Interest Expense	\$2,550		
Total	\$862,950	\$0	\$862,950