

## **Art Without Borders**

### **1. Brief History of the Organization and Description of Existing Services**

The Brownsville Museum of Fine Art (BMFA) strives to contribute to the art education and cultural enrichment of the community, exhibit works of art, arrange for and offer educational programs for children and adults, and encourage and develop the appreciation and advancement of art throughout the community.

Founded 1935, the Brownsville Museum of Fine Art began as an art producing organization by local artists knowledgeable in the visual arts and eager to share their enthusiasm with the public. Formerly the "Brownsville Art League" and housed in the historic Neale House, the name was changed to the Brownsville Museum of Fine Art in 2001. The BFMA is the only institute in deepest south Texas dedicated exclusively to the advancement of the visual arts.

In 2006, the Brownsville Museum of Fine Art opened a new 17,000 square-foot building with conservation and exhibition facilities in the heart of the Mitte Cultural District of Brownsville. The BFMA occupies a prime location at the head of Heritage Hike and Bike Trail, a nine-mile trail leading to the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site. Through many active programs of exhibitions, classes for children and adults, and special events, the Brownsville Museum of Fine Art is able to strengthen the community through art.

Currently, the Brownsville Museum of Fine Art offers ongoing courses in sketching and all media, including oil, acrylic, watercolor, and *Repoussé*—the art of embossing or pressing shapes into metal. BMFA also offers Saturday Art Camp, for children age 5 – 12, where the fundamentals of drawing, sculpture, foil embossing, painting, and art appreciation are taught. All classes meet Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. until noon and are taught by Texas Education Agency Certified Instructors. The Brownsville Museum of Fine Arts is also proud to host the 39th Annual International Art Show March 25 through May 1, 2010. In addition to professional artists competing for \$5,000 in prize money, the event features an evening of International art, music, and cuisine.

### **2. Description of the Project Proposed**

The most anticipated program offered at the Brownsville Museum of Fine Arts is the Summer Art Camp, available to children age 5 – 17. Summer Art Camp gives underprivileged children from across the Rio Grande Valley the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of art, art appreciation and much more.

The Brownsville Museum of Fine Arts will offer nine Summer Art Camps June 7, 2010 through August 6, 2010. All classes will meet Monday through Friday 9 AM to 11 AM or from 1 PM to 3PM. Each camp will be limited to 20 students, with a teacher, a teacher's aide and all supplies provided. Instruction will include fundamentals of art appreciation, drawing, sculpture, foil embossing, jewelry

making, painting in watercolors, tempera and acrylics, and more. The total cost of the five-course session is \$80 per child.

**3. Specific Dollar Amount Requested from the Foundation and Date Payment is needed:**

\$5,000

**4. Project Budget**

Major Budget Components	Amount Proposed in Grant Request
60 Camp Tuitions (\$80 each)	\$4,800
Art Fair and Exhibition	\$200
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
8 Instructors	1200
Art Supplies	1200
Administrative Costs *paperwork, accountant, lesson planning, marketing, etc.	2400
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>

**5. Plans to support the Project after the Grant Period**

**•Recognize and strengthen Arts in community**

Current corporate and community donors will be encouraged to invite a guest to the Brownsville Museum of Fine Art’s Fair and Exhibition to be held July 24, 2010. At the event, donors and their guests will be able to meet and greet student artists while also viewing student art work. Current donors and their guests will be encouraged to exceed the number of funded scholarships by 10%, from summer 2010, for the summer 2011 Art Camp Program.

**•Demonstrate Arts role in improving community**

The current number of Brownsville Museum of Fine Art contributing arts stands at 173. BMFA administration is challenging itself to increase the number by 10% for the next fiscal year. Further, all current and future contributing artists will continue to actively participate in community roles through such efforts as: Rio Grande Valley wide art education outreach, local university student art teacher mentoring, and increasing participation in civic engagement groups and organizations by 5% yearly.

**6. Plan to evaluate the Project**

Approximately 60 students will be served through the Brownsville Museum of Fine Art Summer Art Camps that will take place between June 7, 2010 and August 6, 2010. Of these, 54 or 90% will successfully complete and cap-off his/her week-long camp by showing their work at the Brownsville Museum of Fine Art Fair & Exhibition on July 24, 2010.

**7. Description of how this grant will directly serve your low- and moderate-income clients**

As per the Socioeconomic Mapping and Resource Topography (SMART) program, 2000 figures show the prevalence of disadvantaged youth within Cameron County as a whole. Disadvantaged indicators include the number and percent of individuals living below federal poverty level-which United States Census officials estimated at 33.5% in 2008. This figure is more than double the State of Texas figure of 15.8%. Additional indicators include the number and percent of individuals receiving public assistance and the number of households with minor children that are headed by a female. Further, the Brownsville Independent School District reports that 86% of its students qualify for free or reduced price lunch. Last but not least, the Brownsville Museum of Fine Art is located adjacent to the Buena Vida neighborhood-a historically impoverished neighborhood that serves as an incubator to many foreign nationals moving into the United States of America. It is the hope of the BMFA that neighborhood youth will have an increased opportunity to participate in their Summer Art Camp activities.

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Art Supplies	1200
Administrative Costs *paperwork, accountant, lesson planning, marketing, etc.	2400
Wells Fargo Foundation	\$5,000
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>

**5. Plans to support the Project after the Grant Period**

**6. Plan to evaluate the Project**

**7. Description of how this grant will directly serve your low- and moderate – income clients**