

**Buncombe County FY2019 Strategic Partnership Grants
Application Summary Sheet**

Project	Family Voices
Organization	Asheville Writers in the Schools and Community

Amount Requested	\$12,460	Strategic Priority or Sustainability Goal	Educational Resources
New or Renewal Request	New	Area Served	District 1

Organization Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The mission of Asheville Writers in the Schools and Community (AWITSC) is to ignite social change through the power of arts, culture and restorative self-expression. The programs prioritize work with communities of color who are experiencing poverty, and provide access to artist mentors of color in the literary, visual, media and performing arts. Since 2012, the Family Voices program has been a resounding success at both Ira B. Jones and Hall Fletcher Elementary impacting approximately 320 students and 60 families.
Key Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over the course of 10 weeks, artist mentor(s) work one hour per week in the 3rd classrooms at each school. The student families come together in the evenings to share a meal and create stories, poetry, and art with similar focus. Anthologies, in both English and Spanish, are published and each family receives a copy at a culminating celebration. Meals, childcare, transportation, simultaneous interpretation and translated texts are provided to remove barriers to participation. Teachers attend as writers, not educators, encouraging a shared experience with families. They receive a stipend for their time.
People Served	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Voices will engage the 3rd grade students and families of Hall Fletcher Elementary and Emma Elementary, both Title 1 schools. The program will serve approximately 125 students and engage 40 families total. Hall Fletcher has 53.3% students of color, 43.6% are of African or Latinx descent; 64.8% of students at Hall Fletcher Elementary receive free lunch. Asheville Writers in the Schools and Community has partnered with Hall Fletcher through the Family Voices program for four years. Emma Elementary has 69.5% students of color, with 44.8% identifying as Latinx, and 16.2 % of African descent. 99.3% of students receive free lunch.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40 families will be directly involved with the school community and engaged in the education 75% of all 3rd grade students and 100% of students and families participating in the evening program will report an increase in confidence and positive feelings toward reading, writing and the school through activities which are creative, culturally-relevant, bilingual, and relationship building. 100% of teachers will learn new practices and techniques through observation and participation

Budget			
Amount Funded FY2018	n/a	Increase Request	n/a
Administrative Budget	12% (from 2016 IRS Form-EZ)	Total Organization Budget	\$212,100 (projected FY2019)

Other Funding Sources: Buncombe County Isaac Coleman Grant; Other grants, Individual donations, Government funding, Private foundations, community organizations, program service fees, T-shirt sales, In kind income

Strengths
Project serves underserved, underrepresented, minority, and/or high-need population
Strong implementation plan
Innovative and/or creative program design

Family Voices

FY2019 Strategic Partnership Grants

Asheville Writers in the Schools and Community

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Application Form

Question Group

Project Name*

Name of Project.

Family Voices

Amount Requested*

\$12,460.00

PROJECT NARRATIVE

Area Served*

Which areas of the County will be served by this project? Which Commissioner District(s) will be served?

A Buncombe County Commissioner district map is available at [THIS LINK](#).

This project will serve communities in Commissioner District 1, specifically the children and families of Emma Elementary and Hall Fletcher Elementary.

Organization Description*

Tell us about your organization. What is your mission? Highlight two or three key facts and accomplishments that best define your organization.

The mission of Asheville Writers in the Schools and Community (AWITSC) is to ignite social change through the power of arts, culture and restorative self expression. Our programs prioritize work with communities of color who are experiencing poverty, and provide access to artist mentors of color in the literary, visual, media and performing arts.

- Since 2012, the Family Voices program has been a resounding success at both Ira B. Jones and Hall Fletcher Elementary impacting approximately 320 students and 60 families.
- In 2016, AWITSC launched Word on the Street/La Voz de Los Jovenes which centers the creativity and leadership of teens of color in the production of a bilingual online arts and culture magazine for youth. Contributing youth creatively express their experience and vision for the world online while the managing “squad” builds artistic, academic and career-focused skills.
- In 2017, the Asheville City Schools Foundation honored AWITSC as a Community Champion.

Strategic Priority*

Which of the following priorities best reflects the primary goal of your project?

Buncombe County Commissioners are dedicated to strengthening the quality of life for everyone by setting new fiscally, socially and environmentally responsible goals that will guide decisions and improve our community for future generations. The Board has committed to strategic priorities as a guide to shape partnerships and investments of resources to insure a healthy, safe, well-educated, thriving and sustainable community.

Details about the Strategic Priorities are available at [THIS LINK](#).

Other Sustainability Goal

Strategic Priority - Other Sustainability Goal

If you selected "Other Sustainability Goal" from the list of Strategic Priorities, please list it here.

Details about the Sustainability Goals are available at [THIS LINK](#).

Increase parent and community involvement in the educational system and in the education of individual children. * Promote programs that supplement equitable educational opportunities for all ages

Shared Vision*

What critical community problem or challenge are you hoping to improve through this project?

Sustained higher levels of school engagement are often not realized for families of African or Latinx descent. Assumptions about lack of ability or interest, invitations only to conferences or assist with school activities and language barriers reinforce a lack of trust in the schools. Family Voices engages families, students and educators in creative writing workshops which honor their language, culture, knowledge, and talents. This builds pride, trust and ongoing relationships with the school community.

To address the persistent performance gap for students of African and Latinx descent, educational strategies have targeted them for interventions, not systemic and environmental changes impacting self worth and engagement. Family Voices' inclusive creative writing activities connect educators to these students' home knowledge, neighborhoods and cultural heritage, breaking down barriers to an equitable education while inspiring student pride and interest in reading and writing

Key Steps*

How will the project work? What are specific activities and milestones that your project entails?

Family Voices engages children, educators, and families in art and writing together. Over the course of 10 weeks, artist mentor(s) work one hour per week in the 3rd classrooms at each school. Students and educators experience new creative perspectives and ideas for practicing the art of writing through activities and mentor texts which center narrative and experiences, drawing on the personal, place, culture and community. Beginning the second week of the program, the student families come together in the evenings to share a meal and create stories, poetry, and art with similar focus. Anthologies, in both English and Spanish, are

published and each family receives a copy at a culminating celebration. Meals, childcare, transportation, simultaneous interpretation and translated texts are provided to remove barriers to participation. Teachers attend as writers, not educators, encouraging a shared experience with families. They receive a stipend for their time.

People Served*

Who are the members of our community this project will serve? How many people will be served? Include demographics, including age, area median income, race, neighborhood and/or school.

Family Voices will engage the 3rd grade students and families of Hall Fletcher Elementary and Emma Elementary, both Title 1 schools. The program will serve approximately 125 students and engage 40 families total.

Hall Fletcher has 53.3% students of color, 43.6% are of African or Latinx descent; 64.8% of students at Hall Fletcher Elementary receive free lunch. Asheville Writers in the Schools and Community has partnered with Hall Fletcher through the Family Voices program for four years.

Emma Elementary has 69.5% students of color, with 44.8% identifying as Latinx, and 16.2 % of African descent. 99.3% of students receive free lunch.

Partners*

Which other organizations are you working with to reach your goals? What other local organizations provide similar services or serve similar beneficiaries, and how do you work together?

AWITSC collaborates with Emma Community Ownership, Nuestro Centro and Cerezontle Interpretation Cooperative on other projects. All three have relationships with the Emma Elementary community and will promote the Family Voices program to families.

Family Voices is an official partner of Asheville City Schools Parent U, which helps to promote the family evenings.

We will collaborate with the 3rd grade teachers at both schools on classroom and evening activities, involving families, publishing the anthology and celebrating the authors.

AWITSC is the only organization in the area to offer in-depth and lengthy artist mentor residencies focused on creative writing.

Personnel*

Who is responsible for the project? Briefly describe project leaders and the role each will play in the project. How do these leaders reflect the population or community that you serve?

The artist mentors hired and trained by AWITSC will be project leaders at each school, partnering with the classroom teachers on the scheduling, curriculum planning and implementation, outreach to families, author celebration and evaluation.

Each school will have two artist mentors , one of African descent and one of Latinx descent.

AWITSC will provide administrative support for additional review of curriculum, scheduling interpretation and material translation, meals and transportation, design, layout and printing of anthologies.

Ultimately, AWITSC Co-Directors, Tamiko Ambrose Murray and Janet Hurley will be responsible for ensuring the quality delivery of the program at each school.

Success*

How will you measure results? What will success look like? How will you document the impact of your project? Include whether there is a model that serves as basis for project design.

The program is based on successful models researched and implemented by the National Writing Project. AWITSC has run Family Voices twice at Ira B. Jones Elementary and four times at Hall Fletcher Elementary.

Evaluation tools will include surveys combining open questions and Likert scales, at the beginning and end of the program. Attendance will be recorded at each family writing workshop.

40 families will be directly involved with the school community and engaged in the education of their children through participation at family writing workshops.

75% of all 3rd grade students and 100% of students and families participating in the evening program will report an increase in confidence and positive feelings toward reading, writing and the school through activities which are creative, culturally-relevant, bilingual, and relationship building.

100% of teachers will learn new practices and techniques through observation and participation, documentation via survey.

Funding*

What is your plan for finding the balance of the project budget? What is your funding timeline and what are your other sources of support?

With the support of the Buncombe County Strategic Partnership grant, and our other generous community partners, we would be fully funded for this project by November of 2018 to begin programming in January of 2019.

Pending Funds:

Asheville Area Arts Council- \$1,200 (May '18)

Based on past experience, we expect financial support from the Hall Fletcher PTO \$500

Committed Funds:

Cash on hand from individual donors \$3000

Sustainability*

How will this project be maintained? Please describe funding sources and how you plan to sustain the project in future years.

Funding for Family Voices has been community and grants driven. Since 2011 the organization had been volunteer run, with payment only going to artist mentors. In the past 12 months, the organization has grown exponentially, with the success of Word on the Street/La Voz de Los Jovenes and thanks to an investment from an anonymous donor who is dedicated to the capacity building of AWITSC. This donation allowed us to begin paying staff for the first time. In the next year, AWITSC will be working with Nonprofit Pathways to build the capacity of our staff, board, and volunteers. The long term sustainability of AWITSC will be the focus of our capacity building work and will include building and developing relationships with individual donors, private, and public grant funders.

ATTACHMENTS

Project Budget*

Download the budget form at [THIS LINK](#).

Complete the budget form for this project and the overall organization.

Save it to your computer, then upload it.

strategic-partnership-grants-FY2019-budget-AWITSC.xlsx

Financial Statements*

Upload a copy of the most recently completed financial statements.

All financial statements must be audited, reviewed or compiled by a certified public accountant and include a full balance sheet, income statement, and cash flow statement.

If your organization does not have financial statements, briefly state the reason.

AWITS 2016 Financial Statements.pdf

Please note that our official incorporated name is Asheville Writers in the Schools (AWITS), but we conduct our activities as Asheville Writers in the Schools and Community(AWITSC).

IRS Form 990*

Upload a copy of the 990 nonprofit tax reporting form that you most recently completed.

If your organization does not have a 990, briefly state the reason.

AWS 216 Form 990EZ 2017-10-18 (1).pdf

Board of Directors List*

Upload a current list of your organization's Board of Directors.

If your organization does not have a board of directors, briefly state the reason.

Board of Directors 2018.docx

Authorized Signatory

By typing in below the name of the authorized signatory and date of submittal, you acknowledge that your governing body has authorized this application, that it is true and current to your knowledge. As a condition of any grant awarded, this organization will provide all information in the manner described in the contract to be executed between the organization and Buncombe County or its designee, including program and financial reporting.

Name & Date

Janet Hurley 2/9/2018