

The YMI Cultural Center

*FY 2018 Buncombe County Community
Funding*

The YMI Cultural Center

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Application Form

Project Name*

Name of Project

The YMI Cultural Center

Amount Requested*

Amount Requested

\$40,000.00

Service Area*

Which Commissioner Districts are served by this program?

Access a map of Buncombe County Commissioner districts [here](#).

District 1

District 2

District 3

Which county sustainability goal aligns best with the goals of this project?*

Based on the Buncombe County Sustainability Plan, select a Category, Goal & Objective that align with the focus of the project and the specific results that will be achieved.

Access the Buncombe County Sustainability Plan [here](#).

Community > Citizen Participation in Community Decisions > Increase opportunities for civic engagement and participation

If applicable, select a second sustainability goal that aligns with project goals.

Result 2 is optional - Select if project aligns with more than one Sustainability Category, Goal & Objective.

Economy > Sustainable Localized Economy > Support small business development

If applicable, select a third sustainability goal that aligns with project goals.

Result 3 is optional - Select if project aligns with more than one Sustainability Category, Goal

& Objective.

[Unanswered]

Project Description

Project Description*

Description of Project

The YMI Cultural Center(YMI) is a portal for community and civic engagement. It lends itself as a repository for community and nonprofit organizations to host forums, facilitate workshops and lectures and to take issues with relevant concerns facing our collective populations. The YMI also provides gallery space for local and traveling exhibitors to display their work.

In 2015-2016 the YMI realized a long-time pursuit of utilizing its commercial lease space and currently serves five (5) small business owners by leasing them store front/retail or office space in the 18,000-sq. ft. edifice.

The YMI also serves as a place where individuals can participate in cultural exposure forums gaining a greater awareness of the rich ethnic heritage of Buncombe and surrounding counties. It is a center for encouraging the contemporary culture and artistic expression vital to securing and sustaining an equitable and inclusive community. The mission of the YMI includes enhancing the lives of Buncombe County residents through comprehensive and multidisciplinary cultural arts programming in the performing and visual arts. The YMI Cultural Center continues its tradition of community service. This is accomplished by sharing cultures through art, music, theatre and education with an emphasis on African American heritage. We accommodate on-site tours. The spacious gallery welcomes culturally diverse exhibitions.

How many people will this project serve?*

State the number of individuals or households in Buncombe County that will be served by this project. Also state the number of people that will experience the desired result. For example, if dropout prevention services are being delivered to 100 students, how many will successfully graduate from high school?

We anticipate connecting with at a minimum, 10% of the Buncombe County population. Annually an estimated 15,000 people are attracted to the Goombay Festival. However this number does not include the estimated 5,000 visitors to the YMI Cultural Institute annually for site tours. Also, there are an estimated 2,500 individuals who attend program offerings at the YMI. Overall, the YMI estimates nearly 30,000 individuals or households in Buncombe County, NC and neighboring areas are served by the YMI Cultural Center, Inc. on an annual basis.

Describe the people this project will serve.*

Characterize the demographics of the project's target population in terms such as age, gender,

income, race, ethnicity, geographic area, etc. Include information about method of referral/recruitment of the target population.

Since 1893, the YMI Cultural Center has consistently welcomed all people. The enduring goal of the organization is to foster a positive experience grounded in African American history and culture and simultaneously incorporate the history of the State of North Carolina. In spite of the historical restrictions placed on African Americans in the United States, the YMI has not diverged from a mission of inclusiveness. Demonstratively, the YMI Cultural Center has been referred to as the "gathering place". Taking pride in stating, "we celebrate culture", the YMI as a regional gathering place strives to serve all residents of Buncombe and western North Carolina. The YMI as a recognized "thought leader" aligns itself with a variety of organizations to offer diverse programs that emphasize education and economic awareness, while also highlighting entrepreneurial initiatives. Similarly, space within the physical structure can also be rented for special events, meetings and exhibitions.

What key steps will you take to achieve the results of this project?*

Describe the core elements of your implementation plan, including milestones that will take place within the funding timeframe.

- During the funding time-frame, the representatives from the YMI Cultural Center will continue to:
- ☑ Hire an Executive Director
 - ☑ Work with a professional festival coordinator for Goombay Asheville! The 2017 Goombay Festival that will take place at the Roger McGuire Park in downtown Asheville in September 2017
 - ☑ Continue hosting local and traveling exhibitions
 - ☑ Seek grant funding to host at a minimum, one major national exhibition each year [NC Arts Council, NC African American Heritage Commission]
 - ☑ Participate in annual board training on various topics through CoThinkk
 - ☑ Maintain the services of an administrative assistant that will continue to perform general office duties including answering phones, greeting visitors, and conducting tours Monday through Thursday
 - ☑ Maintain the services of a facilities technician for day-to-day (Mon-Fri) maintenance and cleaning of the YMI building
 - ☑ Expand public access to the YMI Cultural Center by one day (to include Fridays).

Describe the evidence of success that backs this project's approach.*

What evidence of success (i.e. evidence-based research, practice model, accreditation, industry standards, and/or other framework) are you using as a basis for your project design?

The practice model we find as the best fit is the Tri-Sector Cultural Practitioners Model [Toby Johnson, PhD]. This model encourages community engagement.

Describe your data collection, tracking, and reporting procedures.*

Explain your methods for documenting project, service and client information. Include a description of any software or other tools utilized.

Currently, the Microsoft Office Suite (e.g, Excel, Word, PowerPoint, Access) serves as the tool for data collection, tracking and reporting. Further, the financial data is captured by using Quick Books Nonprofit Edition.

Explain your technological resources and capacity.*

Explain your current technological strengths and barriers and how this impacts your ability to track data and report outcomes. Who is responsible for adaptation and use of technology within your organization?

Technological barriers impact the representatives at the YMI Cultural Center from capturing total attendance at the Center. YMI representatives have explored several tools that would assist the organization when gathering data to support foot traffic. Capturing this data would allow the YMI representatives to analyze trends. Staff and board members are responsible for tracking data and providing the information to report outcomes. SquareUp, an online payment processing system was implemented during the 2016 Goombay Festival. Employing SquareUp services afforded the YMI the opportunity to track the beverage consumption data during the most recent festival.

Organizational Profile

How does the proposed project support your mission and strategic plan?*

State your mission and the date of your most recent strategic plan, and explain how the proposed project helps advance your organizational goals.

The mission of the YMI Cultural Center in celebration of and with respect for people of all ethnicities promotes interculturalism and the preservation of cultural identity. The most recent strategic plan for the YMI Cultural Center began development during a workshop facilitated by one of the co-founders of the CoThinkk organization, in October 2016. The outcomes from the strategic initiatives are mechanisms that will support the organization goals. Aligning with the mission and organizational goals, the activities hosted within the YMICC exemplify how to embrace a celebration of cultural expression through exposure to a variety of artistic expression. Whether they are exhibitions depicting historical moments, music workshops, jazz concerts, oral expression or a festival celebrating Afro-Caribbean culture, the YMI is historically - the gathering place.

What expertise/accomplishments do you have that are relevant to the proposed project?*

List your organization's strengths as well as accomplishments from the past 3 years that position the organization to be successful with the proposed project.

- ☑ Promoted the YMI and space usage has increased visibility in the community
- ☑ Hosted exhibit on local health disparities for 1.5 months. Event sponsored by UNC Asheville, Buncombe County, and Mission Hospitals
- ☑ Hosted "Americans Who Tell the Truth" exhibit with featured speaker Dr. William Barber, President of the North Carolina Chapter of the NAACP

☑ Continued the IRS-sponsored VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program for middle income taxpayers. Expanded the volunteer base to include Hands On Asheville volunteers and UNC Asheville student volunteers.

☑ YMI's Community Taking Issues Forum: hosted the "African Americans in Western North Carolina Conference.in collaboration with UNC Asheville

☑ Hosted the community-based reception for the inauguration of the UNC Asheville Chancellor, Mary K. Grant

☑ Hosted the nationally acclaimed "Cash Crop" exhibition

Describe partners that are critical to the success of your organization.*

List any external partners, intermediaries or advisors important to your success, and describe their role and evidence of their commitment. Describe successful collaborations with these people or groups.

Key people: YMI Board of Directors: All directors are volunteers who willingly donate their time and expertise to complete all required tasks. The YMI Cultural Center employs a part-time administrative assistant and part-time facility manager.

Other successful alliances include:

☑ Community participation in activities at the YMI (e.g., Taking Issues Forums, social events, dance classes, income tax assistance, etc.)

☑ UNC Asheville: collaborative programming (e.g., lectures, guest speakers, sharing and co-creation of exhibits)

☑ Links, Inc.: hosts annual meetings at the YMI.

☑ Heart Health education sessions held at the YMI focusing on African American women of the faith communities.

☑ YMI Board of Directors- volunteer board that is active and engaged in governance and sustainability of YMI

☑ City of Asheville: supporting via in-kind for annual Goombay festival

☑ Buncombe County: funding to offset operations

Financial Information

Nonprofit financial assurance requirements:

Financial statements, prepared using a recognizable basis of accounting (i.e., modified accrual) and IRS Form 990s must be submitted to Buncombe County annually.

- Organizations with annual revenues of \$300,000 or greater must submit financial statements audited in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards.
- Those with revenues between \$100,000 and \$300,000 must submit financial statements reviewed in accordance with SSARS 19.

- Those with revenues of less than \$100,000 must submit non-disclosure financial statements compiled in accordance with SSARS 19.

All financial statements must be reported on by a certified public accountant and include a full balance sheet, income statement, and cash flow statement.

These requirements are considered minimum requirements. Organizations may submit a higher level of assurance than is required.

IRS Form 990 - Upload Here

Click Choose File to upload a copy of the 990 form you most recently completed.

2014 FINAL Tax Return Documents (YMI CULTURAL CENTER IN).pdf

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

Include a statement of intent to comply with nonprofit financial assurance requirements as listed above.

The form 990 for the period ending on 6-30-2016 has not been completed. The YMI is contracting with a local CPA firm to complete the financial information for the organization.

Financial Statements - Upload here

Click Choose File to upload a copy of the most recently completed financial statements (audit, compilation or review).

07172015_YMICC Compilation report.pdf

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

Include a statement of intent to comply with nonprofit financial assurance requirements as listed above.

The YMI fully intends to comply with nonprofit financial assurance requirements and have a compilation prepared to reflect the 2015 financial data and a full audit for the 2016 year by a CPA firm.

Complete Budget Worksheet - Upload Here*

Download the budget form [Here](#).

Complete the budget form for this project/program and the overall agency. Save it to your computer, then upload it by clicking Choose File.

2016 Copy of community-funding-budget-form.xlsx

Budget Narrative*

Describe all differences between current year and proposed year. List all pending funding sources with expected date of notification. Please detail any other information that may help clarify the budget.

Increase in Revenue: Two grants: Buncombe County Tourism Development Agency and Downtown Asheville After 5 were secured during this fiscal year. Rental revenue earned increased due to an increase in the number of tenants and the rental income from special events increased from the prior year. Also, revenue earned from the Goombay Festival increased from the prior year.

Increase in Expenditures: Salary expense increased due to raising one employee's hourly wage to align with the living wage in Buncombe County to \$12.50 per hour. The YMICC does not provide health insurance to this employee. Also, the increase reflects the employer liabilities required by the State of NC and the federal government associated with the payment of wages by the YMICC. Professional fees due and payable to contracting a new, local CPA firm to prepare the financial statements and the form 990 will increase from the prior year. The expenses associated with the Goombay Festival increased from the prior year.

What (if any) portion of requested funds will be used to support capital expenses?*

Capital projects are defined as those used to acquire or upgrade physical assets such as property, buildings, or equipment. Please detail.

None of the requested funds will be used to support capital expenses.

Employee Wages

Please provide information about the wage breakdowns of your employees. Living wage for Buncombe County has been identified as \$11.00 per hour for employees with employer-provided health insurance and \$12.50 per hour for employees without.

Employees with employer-provided health insurance*

List the number of employees in your organization with employer-provided health insurance in each wage category. For salaried employees, use hourly wage equivalents.

\$7.25 - \$10.99 per hour

\$11.00 - \$14.99 per hour

\$15.00 - \$19.99 per hour

\$20.00 - \$24.99 per hour

\$25.00 - \$29.99 per hour

\$30.00 - \$34.99 per hour

\$35.00 - \$39.99 per hour

\$40.00+ per hour

Not applicable.

Employees without employer-provided health insurance*

List the number of employees in your organization without employer-provided health insurance in each wage category. For salaried employees, use hourly wage equivalents.

\$7.25 - \$12.49 per hour

\$12.50 - \$14.99 per hour

\$15.00 - \$19.99 per hour

\$20.00 - \$24.99 per hour

\$25.00 - \$29.99 per hour

\$30.00 - \$34.99 per hour

\$35.00 - \$39.99 per hour

\$40.00+ per hour

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