

**Buncombe County FY2020 Strategic Partnership Grants
Application Summary Sheet**

Project	SEEDS to STEM: Growing the STEM pipeline through expanded K-8 science education in Buncombe County
Organization	Asheville Museum of Science (AMOS)

Amount Requested	\$50,000	Strategic Priority or Sustainability Goal	Education/Youth Support
New or Renewal Request	Renewal	Commissioner Districts Served	All

Organization Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As WNC’s center for experiential science learning, AMOS strives to spark imagination & foster lifelong curiosity through school field trips, in-school & after-school programming, summer science camps, Saturday STEAM education & in partnership with the city & county organizations.
Project Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish free passes for museum visits by low-income families thru 1,000 passes provided to residents of subsidized housing, YMCA after-school programs, Homework Diners, and community partners. Engage K-12 students at subsidized housing, community centers, Avery Learning Center, and YMCA after-school programs with STEM activities that connect to their classroom learning Achieve a 25% increase the number of Buncombe County Schools students AMOS serves in their school classrooms, or through field trips to the museum, in consultation with classroom teachers to help meet their curriculum needs re: K-12 state standards.
People Served	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economically disadvantaged families experience barriers to enrolling their children in quality out-of school learning environments such as fee-based STEM camps and after-school programs.
Outcomes	<p>Key metrics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing the number of educational visits to low-income community sites, increasing the number of participants by 20% Increasing the number of BCS students by 20% Increasing the number of BCS students/siblings engaged at an after-school program by 10%

Budget			
Amount Funded FY2019	\$20,000	Increase Request	\$30,000
Project Budget	\$124,000	Total Organization Budget	\$900,000

Other Funding Sources: Also pursuing funding for this project through the Duke Energy Foundation, the City of Asheville Strategic Partnerships Fund, Wells Fargo, and GlaxoSmithKline. Generates revenue through program fees, museum admissions, individual donations & corporate gifts.

Additional Information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting/exceeding performance targets for FY2019 grant

SEEDS to STEM: Growing the STEM pipeline through expanded K-8 science education in Buncombe County

FY2020 Strategic Partnership Grants

Asheville Museum of Science (AMOS)

Anna Priest
43 Patton Avenue
Asheville, NC 28801

info@ashevillescience.org
O: 828-254-7162

Amanda Bryant

43 Patton Ave
Asheville, North Carolina 28801

abryant@ashevillescience.org
O: 8282547162

Application Form

Question Group

Please complete the form below and upload the required files for your application. Organizations submitting more than one project must complete one submission form for each project. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Priority is given to nonprofit organizations with projects that contribute to Buncombe County's strategic priorities or sustainability goals.

For FY2020, no Strategic Partnership Grant applications will be considered for the strategic priorities "Affordable Housing" or "Early Childhood Education." Funding for affordable housing projects is managed through Buncombe County's Affordable Housing Services Program. Funding for early childhood projects will be managed through the newly forming Early Childhood Education and Development Fund.

Project Name*

Name of Project.

SEEDS to STEM: Growing the STEM pipeline through expanded K-8 science education in Buncombe County

Amount Requested*

\$50,000.00

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](#).

BCS Strategic Plan Guiding Principles 1 & 4; STEM Career Development/Workforce Development beginning of the career pipeline; Economic and income driver; and serving Renewable Energy goals through education.

Organization Description*

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

As WNC's center for experiential science learning, AMOS strives to spark imagination & foster lifelong curiosity through school field trips, in-school & after-school programming, summer science camps, Saturday STEAM education & in partnership with the city & county organizations. Area educators & parents depend on AMOS to provide hands-on, fun learning activities aligned with NC K-12 educational standards & help close the achievement gap in STEM.

In 2018, AMOS served over 52,500 people, including 3,566 students who visited the museum for a school field trip and 2,472 students in their classroom by AMOS STEM educators. Many more experienced our interactive STEM learning after school.

Over half of Buncombe students qualify for free/reduced lunch. Local manufacturing & technology employers report they struggle to hire talent with ready STEM skills. Schools need community resources where whole families access a variety of learning opportunities and are inspired to pursue higher goals.

Project Description

What do you propose to do? What is your plan? What are your goals?

AMOS will help drive Buncombe County's economic engine, grow the 21st Century STEM workforce, and close the achievement gap in science & math by expanding access to engaging, in-school and out-of-school STEM learning opportunities for students & families in Buncombe County Schools (BCS). Targeting those facing barriers to success in the STEM pipeline, AMOS will:

- Establish free passes for museum visits by low-income families thru 1,000 passes provided to residents of subsidized housing, YMCA after-school programs, Homework Diners, and community partners disadvantaged families

- Engage K-12 students at subsidized housing, community centers, Avery Learning Center, and YMCA after-school programs with STEM activities that connect to their classroom learning

- Achieve a 25% increase the number of BCS students AMOS serves in their school classrooms, or through field trips to the museum, in consultation with classroom teachers to help meet their curriculum needs re: K-12 state standards.

Key Steps*

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

- Hands-on STEM learning activities will be delivered in the community, focused on pockets of poverty & equity in summer and after schools at Buncombe community centers.

- Expand AMOS's role as a resource for professional development of teachers, supporting curriculum and activity design & evaluation.-Museum field trips & in-class programs delivered to groups of elementary & middle school students. Programs are aligned with NC curriculum standards, and AMOS educators work with teachers to tailor activities so curriculum needs are met.

-Distribution of 1000 free passes in subsidized housing, Homework Diners, YMCA afterschool programs, and partners including Children First, Green Opportunities, One Youth at a Time, Read to Succeed.

AMOS will track redemption rates of free passes and collect teacher feedback from field trips/classroom visits. Teachers will be surveyed after program delivery, and their responses will be implemented to shape future programming and improve outcomes.

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](#).

AMOS works with students & teachers across the county, with nearly 5,000 students served in 2018 with experiential STEM programming that supplements the learning they do in the classroom. In 2019 we expect to add at least 500 students at BCS middle schools through Homework Diners and YMCA 21st Century afterschool programs at Enka, Owen, Valley Springs, Reynolds, and N. Buncombe. While AMOS school field trips have served at least one class at all BCS elementary schools, we have not served every grade. In 2019 we'd like to serve every grade up through grade 8.

This proposal also seeks to bring our efforts to learning groups with our partners at community centers in Avery's Creek, Big Ivy, Buckeye Cove, Fairview, Leicester, Newfound, Ox Creek, Sandy Mush, and Spring Mountain. These communities contain over 10,000 low-income households with school-aged children who would benefit from our STEM learning activities--activities that many rural residents would not otherwise be able to access.

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.

Economically disadvantaged families experience barriers to enrolling their children in quality out-of-school learning environments such as fee-based STEM camps and after-school programs. This situation applies to at least half of BCS students--12,000 students at minimum who qualify for free/reduced lunch. AMOS aims to reach at least 5,500 of these young people in the 2019-20 project year, with discounted programming offered at school and in students' communities. And additional 1,000 will receive the free passes for museum admission. The racial demographics match those of Buncombe County as a whole, continuing our mode of meeting people where they are, in their communities - at community fairs such as the WNC State Fair, afterschool programs operated by YMCA, local festivals, community centers and scheduled school visits developed in close partnership with BCS teachers.

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?

Buncombe County Schools - BCS teachers help develop specialized field trips and in-class activity visits at elementary schools; free museum passes will be distributed thru social workers and also through Family Resource Centers at all elementary and middle schools.

United Way - Homework Diners, once each week at Enka, Erwin, and Owen Middle Schools

YMCA - afterschool programs at Enka, Erwin, Reynolds and Owen Middle Schools
 NCSU Cooperative Extension Service - community centers across Buncombe County have welcomed us to provide venues for community-based learning activities and ticket distribution
 Avery Learning Center - AMOS Afterschool Program
 LEAF Community Arts - AMOS educators will travel with LEAF Easel Rider to augment their hands-on arts instruction with STEM learning activities at community events/festivals incl. Buncombe County's Fall Festival, and Buncombe County libraries for their summer library festival programming, and Buncombe County Celebrate STEAM Day at Nesbitt

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?

As a regional expert in evidence-based STEM education, AMOS's strength is meeting students where they are, delivering the excitement of STEM discovery in their neighborhood, at school, and at the museum.

The Lead Educator is the primary staff member overseeing scheduling and implementation of programs delivered at schools and community centers, as well as class trips to the museum. Leading a team of educators, this person interfaces with teachers and partner agencies to determine curriculum needs specific to each class--pegged to state standards--working with teachers before and after each session to ensure an impactful experience.

AMOS' Operations Director and Visitor Services Associates will be responsible for creating and tracking special museum admission passes. Our Community Engagement Director will lead the creation and distribution of marketing materials. The Executive Director will oversee program implementation, evaluation, reporting, public safety, and supervises staff.

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.

While this project is designed to serve the unique needs of individual classrooms and community groups, the free museum pass program is a nationwide network with participating museums across the U.S.

Success means that all county residents can enter the museum regardless of their ability to pay, and all K-8 students in BCS can experience high-quality, hands-on programs that spark their interest in science, technology, engineering, and math. Key metrics include:

Introducing free passes for museum entry. AMOS uses a point-of-sale system to track all visitors, enabling evaluation of the redemption rate.

Increasing the number of educational visits to low-income community sites, increasing the number of participants by 20%

Increasing the number of BCS students who participate in a school field trip to the museum or classroom education visit at school by 20%

Increasing the number of BCS students/siblings engaged at an after-school program (Homework Diner or YMCA 21st Century program) by 10%

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?

On a daily basis, AMOS provides high-quality, hands-on programs for public school, homeschool, afterschool, and family group learners. Yet program fees for these experiences cover only a portion (46%) of the actual cost to run them. Funds from Buncombe County Strategic Partnerships program will provide essential support to sustain these effective out-of-school learning programs for local students.

AMOS is also pursuing funding for this project through the Duke Energy Foundation, the City of Asheville Strategic Partnerships Fund, Wells Fargo, and GlaxoSmithKline. AMOS generates revenue through program fees, museum admissions, individual donations, and corporate gifts. All funding sources listed as pending in our budget will make their awards prior to the start of the new program year on July 1, 2019--and the program will serve as many external sites as possible with funds awarded.

Sustainability*

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

This will be AMOS' first attempt to extend free museum access to Buncombe's underserved communities beyond the ZoomPass program administered by the county library system. This year will serve as a benchmark against which AMOS can measure future progress in introducing low-income families to the museum. Tracking the redemption rate of the free passes distributed will allow AMOS to set specific goals for improvement in subsequent years and ensure delivery of passes directly to low-income residents.

AMOS's fee-based programs (field trips and in-class programming) only generate 46% of their actual cost. We rely on the support of community and foundation grants, and individual and corporate donors to supplement program fees and allow us to continue to provide our proven learning programs to all regardless of ability to pay. Without public funding through Buncombe County, we will be unable to sustain our programs and grow them to serve the community needs that leaders have identified.

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.

Copy of Buncombe Strategic Partnership Fund FY2019-2020 budget FINALajb.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.

AMOS Cash Flow (Merged).pdf

Our budget and reporting run on the fiscal year. Please see attached last years prepared finances. We are more than happy to provide reports for the current year we are in at this time as well.

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.

990 AMOS.pdf

Our current taxes for 17/18 are being finalized. Please find attached 16/17 documentation

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.

Matt Maultsby (President)
Rachael Sparks (Vice President)
Dr. Stephen Pinsky (Treasurer)
Drew Pollick (Secretary)
Carol Stein
Bryant Korzeniewski
Dr. Don Lewis
Amy Vaden
Bruce Minkin
Dorothy Goodman
Jill Lieberman
Ken Casebeer
Dr. Mark Knollman
Tom Morrissey
West Willmore

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

Amanda Bryant; Executive Director - 2/08/2019

Other attachments or supplemental information may be submitted to Rachael Nygaard at rachael.nygaard@buncombecounty.org

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- Copy of Buncombe Strategic Partnership Fund FY2019-2020 budget FINALajb.xlsx
- AMOS Cash Flow (Merged).pdf
- 990 AMOS.pdf