

Priority: Education
Program Offer Type: Program Alternative /
Related Programs:

Lead Agency: Non-Departmental - All
Program Contact: Julie Neburka

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

“SUN Arts” is an extended-day education program that will provide culturally rich arts learning activities at 18 of the 46 SUN sites in the Portland metropolitan area through the SUN Community Schools Program. The Regional Arts & Culture Council (RACC) seeks funding from Multnomah County to restore this important program in the 2006-07 school year. As a charitable not-for-profit 501(c)(3) arts services organization, RACC is uniquely qualified to provide these services and to leverage the County’s investment with support from a variety of private sources including small and mid-sized local foundations.

Program Description

SUN Arts is part of a larger proven program, SUN Community Schools, which specifically addresses the service gaps of many low income families and at-risk youth in the County. Extended-day arts activities provided through SUN Arts include a variety of cultural workshops and bilingual activities for students and families. These arts activities are custom-designed for each school, but all provide standards-based learning experiences that build cultural awareness and important life skills such as communication and creativity. SUN Arts directly addresses community needs and service gaps by reaching families and children in poverty, particularly in North Portland, Inner Northeast, Outer Southeast Portland, Mid County and East County.

Program Justification

Arts education activities are proven to help young people express themselves in a positive, healthy, and creative manner, and to reduce the likelihood of academic failure. A 1996 YouthARTS development project funded by the U.S. Department of Justice and the National Endowment for the Arts demonstrated that arts education activities deter delinquent behavior and truancy problems while also increasing overall academic performance among at-risk youth engaged in after school arts programs. Studies from the Stanford University show that young people who participate in the arts achieve higher grades in other academic areas including reading, writing, math, and science. The President’s Committee on the Arts and Humanities demonstrated in 1999 that students who participate in arts education activities score 120 points higher on their SAT than non-arts students. 95% of Multnomah County residents surveyed last year believe that the arts are a vital part of our children’s education, and these proposed SUN Arts activities also result in opportunities for community involvement, including artistic performances and presentations that the entire community can attend. This funding request is based on an allocation of \$2500 per school at 18 SUN schools to provide 440 students, families, and neighbors at each site with a meaningful level of arts education activity – it has been our experience that \$2500 is an appropriate minimum investment per school in order to provide students with arts activities that achieve the desired results. \$2500 provides each school with about four artist residencies and one performance assembly or family-night-out per academic year.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY04-05)	Current Year Purchased (FY05-06)	Current Year Estimate (FY05-06)	Next Year Offer (FY06-07)
Output	Number of children served with arts education	3,504	0	0	8,000
Outcome	Success/satisfaction rate from SUN site co-managers	97%	0%	0%	97%
Outcome	Students improve state test scores in reading	73%	0%	0%	75%
Outcome	Students increase positive behavior	83%	0%	0%	85%

Performance Measure - Description

The Outcome Measures described above speak to our ability to use arts education activities to help the SUN Community Schools Program surpass 2004-05 levels of student achievement and behavior. Our goal is to help SUN schools that participate in the SUN Arts program achieve higher marks in these categories than SUN schools that do not participate in the SUN Arts Program. (For example, in the area of reading test scores, SUN Arts participants will score 5% higher than non-SUN Arts students.)

Legal/Contractual Obligation

Multnomah County's funding for the Regional Arts & Culture Council is a discretionary General Fund expenditure.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2006	2006	2007	2007
Contracts	\$0	\$0	\$58,500	\$0
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$58,500	\$0
Administration	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Program Support	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$0	\$0	\$58,500	\$0
Program Total:	\$0		\$58,500	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Program Revenues				
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

n/a

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was:

The SUN Arts program was eliminated in 2005-06 due to County budget constraints. In 2002-03, RACC served more than 8,000 individuals through after-school arts education activities in 15 SUN Schools. Program funding has been reduced over the years from \$50,000 to as little as \$19,000 in 2004-05, but RACC finds that it cannot effectively manage a meaningful program with the desired outcomes on so small of a budget. Our goal is to restore the program to 2002-03 levels and serve more than 8,000 children at 18 SUN sites.

In restoring this program, RACC will work to leverage the county's support with matching investments from a variety of public and private sources.