

Writing Sample: Karissa St. Pierre

Grant Funder: Amelia Peabody Foundation

SAMPLE PROPOSAL RESPONSES:

Summary of Request:

The Boys & Girls Club of [Client City] respectfully requests your consideration of a \$25,000 grant to support our after-school Drama Club for youth ages 8–18. Participants perform a full-scale musical production each spring, and year after year, the program continues to grow as youth become more engaged.

Our recent performance of Willy Wonka Jr. was so successful that youth and parents are asking for additional opportunities in the performing arts. To build on this momentum, we plan to extend the program across the full school year, allowing us to offer both a fall and spring production. We will also deepen the quality of the program by offering acting classes and workshops, and by hiring a professional choreographer, costumer, and music director.

Funding from the Amelia Peabody Foundation will support set design, props, costumes, rights to scripts and music, stage rental fees, and key artistic personnel. It will also fund a portion of salaries for our full-time Education Director, who leads the Drama Club, and our part-time Drama Assistant.

Statement of Alignment with the Amelia Peabody Foundation:

By supporting our Drama Club, the Amelia Peabody Foundation will help fulfill its mission to increase the number, range, and depth of positive learning experiences available to materially disadvantaged young people.

The majority of participants would not be able to afford private theater programs, and many lack consistent transportation to extracurricular activities. Our program removes these barriers by providing transportation from school, along with a free snack and dinner.

In contrast to other local performing arts programs that are strictly ability-based, our Drama Club is inclusive. While participants audition for roles, no child with a sincere interest is turned away. Every participant is given a meaningful role—onstage or behind the scenes—including lighting and sound, stage management, costuming, set design, and choreography.

Participation also connects youth to a broader network of Boys & Girls Club services, including homework help, swimming, STEM programming, fine arts instruction, cooking classes, and teen-centered programming.

Program Impact Statement:

Enhancing our Drama Club is essential to maintaining engagement and expanding opportunities for youth development. Since 2016, the program has provided a safe, welcoming, and accessible environment for self-expression. Participants learn to set and achieve goals, collaborate as a team, and manage their emotions.

These skills translate directly to academic success. According to Massachusetts' most recent standardized English assessment, only 35% of [Client City] students in grades 3–8 are reading and writing at grade level. Drama Club reinforces literacy skills in a natural and engaging way through line memorization, group reading, problem-solving, and perseverance.

Following our most recent production of Willy Wonka Jr., parents and youth completed a program quality and planning survey. Among parents, 90% indicated their child would participate in additional Drama Club activities if available, such as multiple productions, talent shows, improvisation classes, and scene study. Similarly, 90% of youth expressed interest in expanded offerings.

Parents consistently highlighted the friendships their children formed as a key benefit. Many participants attend different schools and would not have otherwise met. Survey results show that 80% of youth made a close friend through Drama Club, and 60% reported they would not have tried theater at all without the program.

All parents surveyed (100%) reported significant improvements in their child's confidence. Youth also reported increased confidence, stress management, and self-esteem. Parents

overwhelmingly noted that these gains are positively impacting their children's performance in school.