

Online Activity #2

L595-Grant Methods for Educators and Librarians

Web-Based Workshop

Fall 2003

Carol L. Tilley, instructor

1) Funding Source #1:

*Name of agency: IMLS

*Name of grant program: Museums for America

*Purpose: "FY2004 Museums for America funding will support projects and activities, designed by the institution, that strengthen museums as active resources for lifelong learning and key players in the establishment of livable communities."

*Limitations: Grant period up to two years, three years with strong justification. Three funding categories are available: \$5,000-\$24,999; \$25,000-\$74,999; \$75,000-\$150,000. 1:1 matching funds are required in each category. "Projects should be investments for the future, not one-time activities with no long-term institutional impact."

*Source found: Carol's tip. This is a brand-new granting program--and a big one (currently the largest grant program for museums at IMLS).

*Proposal to submit: The Mathers Museum "What Is Culture?" exhibit. The transportation need *might* appeal to the IMLS, especially in a consortium of museums with the intention of building broad community access; but the tone of the online presentation leads me to believe that they want to support something more conceptually ambitious than a bus.

*Notes: The deadline is Jan. 15, 2004. This program seems written precisely for our vision for this exhibit: a long-term project designed to enhance learning across our spectrum of audiences, enriching multiple communities and inspiring new activities and partnerships.

The catch: the matching funds requirement. Ideally, we would find a large local/regional funder such as Vectren or Lilly to vouch for our value to the community (I won't profile those two for this assignment, since others have already done so, altho I did collect their stats from the Foundatoin Directory). Finding a single source to pony up half of what we're looking for could be difficult (our NEH grant proposal was I think over \$100,000). I *think* w/1:1 matching you just have to match the dollar amount, not get it all from one place, however (which would make things a lot easier).

2) Funding source #2

*Name of agency: Community Foundation of Bloomington & Monroe County, Inc.

*Name of program: not specified.

*Purpose: Giving primarily to enhance the quality of life in Bloomington and Monroe County, Indiana, by support to the arts, social and health care, education, and preservation and beautification programs. Types of support include building/renovation; equipment; program development; seed money; scholarship funds; program-related investments/loans.

*Limitations: Giving limited to Bloomington & Monroe County, Indiana. No dollar limits (min. or max.) specified in the Foundation Directory.

*Source found: Foundation Directory, 2003 ed.

*Proposal: Partnership with MCPL to run after-hours programming for teens. Might also solicit support for the museum-coalition transportation idea.

*Notes: I'm not certain that my after-hours programming proposal fits their goals. I would contact the agency to ask about viability before proceeding. Alternative sources of support for this proposal would include Bloomington Parks & Rec and the

Bloomington Volunteer Network (long-time partners of the Youth Services Dept. at MCPL and co-sponsors of the MCPL Teen Advisory Board), plus solicitations of local businesses to supply such things as refreshments and materials.

3) Funding source #3:

*Name of agency: The Kroger Co. Foundation

*Name of program: none given (community grants)

*Purpose: "to enhance the quality of life in communities where Kroger customers live and work...to support education and youth, feed the hungry, and assist local arts and civic organizations." (website:

http://www.kroger.com/corpnewsinfo_charitablegiving_p3.htm)

*Limitations: No dollar limits (min. or max.) stated online. Only proposals from 501c3 non-profit organizations are considered. No support for national organizations or programs, individuals, medical research organizations, or golf and other sports events.

*Source found: Linda Judd's tip. Thanks to my classmates for the important reminder to seek partnership with companies like Kroger and Target that want to be associated with things the community loves and benefits from.

General notes: In working with the Foundation Directory, I found notations on "Types of support" to be critical, in conjunction with the examples of grants made (when available). Unless I misunderstood the notations, if an agency primarily makes large contributions to capital campaigns of major institutions, or prefers to offer general operating support (e.g., Ball Bros. Foundation), I'm guessing that they probably won't be interested in a smaller scale project for a specific event or series.

In looking at Vectren, Lilly, and Ball Bros., I would probably query them (or study their giving records) to determine the likelihood that they would support projects in Bloomington. Vectren has focused on Evansville, Lilly on Indianapolis, and Ball on Muncie (perfect fit for my classmate at BSU!).

On Vectren's website I saw that they give 43% to Health & Human Services, 25% to Education, 22% to Civic projects and 10% to Arts and Culture. To strengthen my case I would probably want to demonstrate that support for Mathers Museum projects would benefit all three areas of Education, Civic, and Arts & Culture.

Regarding the transportation proposal: interested parties have recommended two avenues of support for field trip busing: the PTA, and Star of Indiana.

Finally, as I blather myself to sleep, here (I have even less control over the air-temperature of my typing when I'm tired...): I'm probably going to want to take advantage of the grant-writing help offered by the Technical Assistance Team of the City of Bloomington's Community and Family Resources Dept. They can help point me to local agencies and programs that might support my ideas, as well as coach me on grant methods. They also offer advice and assistance on how to recruit boards of advisors/fundraisers to support your organization (something the Mathers Museum is in the process of doing).

Hey, it's not midnight! Did I turn it in on time??

Cheers,
Abbie