

Curtis Viselli



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The Gift of Music

Champaign Unit 4 Music Education Grants Program

APPLICATION

Overview

The goal of the grant program is to support and enhance K-12 music education in Champaign Community Unit School District 4 schools. Grants will be awarded biannually on a merit basis in keeping with the eligibility and review criteria outline below.

Deadline

To be considered for Fall 2016 funding, applications must be submitted via mail, personal delivery, or email to the Champaign Urbana Schools Foundation Office, on or before NOON, April 15, 2016. All qualifying applications will be reviewed by a selection committee. Grants for the Fall 2016 semester will be announced on or before May 6, 2016.

Eligibility Guidelines

Who May Apply: Applicants must be a K-12 teacher of music education in Unit 4. Collaborative proposals submitted by more than one educator are welcome.

Eligible Activities: Activities may benefit a classroom, grade level or be whole or multi-school directed. Specific activities that will be considered for funding are:

- Student attendance at an instrumental, choral, operatic or musical theatre performance.
- A guest artist or artist in residence program.
- Purchase, maintenance or repair of musical instruments or equipment (such as music stands).

Eligible costs: Eligible costs include transportation, tickets, or substitute teachers (for performance based proposals), artist fees (for guest artist/artist in residence), and purchase, maintenance or repair costs (for musical instruments or equipment.) The costs of relevant instructional or student resource materials are also eligible. The cost of food (snacks, lunches, etc.) for students is not an eligible grant expense.

Review Criteria

Grants will be awarded solely on the merit of the proposal. Preference will be given to projects with a classical music focus. Status as a high-need school as defined by the percentage of students eligible for free and reduced lunch will not be a factor in the review process.

General: All proposals must demonstrate a direct connection to the music education curriculum. Performance-based proposals must also show evidence of student preparation relevant to the performance. Proposals for instruments must include detail on the school's current instrument or equipment inventory and the number of students who are using, as well as the increased number of students who will benefit from the new instruments or equipment.

Match: Applicants must include a minimum local match of 15% to cover program expenses. In the case of instrument/equipment requests, the required match is 50%. (The match can be from the PTA, booster club, building or district budget or other sources.)

Note: Any non-consumables purchased with grant money become the property of Champaign Unit 4 School District.

Project Reporting

Within three months of project completion applicants must submit a final report documenting program outcomes and the number of students served by the program. The report must include an element written or drawn by students. Final reports will be reviewed and archived, and feedback will be provided to students and teachers. Failure to submit a final report will disqualify the applicant from future grants.

Payment of Funds

The grant is a reimbursable grant. As such, grantees must submit receipts verifying program expenses in order to receive grant payment. Once received, CUSF will review and issue a grant check within one week. Alternative arrangements can be made on an as needed basis.

Section 1: Applicant information

Name: Curtis Viselli

School email address: visellcu@champaignschools.org

School email address re-enter: visellcu@champaignschools.org

Section 2: School information

What is your job title: Strings Teacher

What grade/s do you teach: 5th-8th

Your current school: Edison Middle (6th-8th), Westview Elementary (5th), Bottenfield Elementary (5th)

School mailing address: 306 W. Green Street, Champaign IL, 61820 (Edison – Home building location).

Number of years teaching music education: 4 (including this year)

Number of years employed by Unit 4: 2 (including this year)

Section 3: Tell us about your project.

Project title: String Instrument Purchase

Amount requested: \$1,000.00

Project Synopsis: *Provide a brief description of the project goal(s), how the grant funds will be used, and the number and grade level of students who will benefit from the project. (Maximum 3-4 sentences.)*

The goal of this project is to provide functioning, quality instruments to Orchestra students, particularly those who are unable to afford their own. The money from this grant will be used to purchase two 3/4 size Cellos, one 14" Viola, and one 15" Viola that will be available for school use. These instruments will serve 5th-8th Grade students, and will be used by approximately 12 students per year. Since these instruments will be used over multiple years, the total number of students impacted will be greater.

Project Detail:

If you are requesting funds for instrument purchase, repair or maintenance, please answer the following questions.

1. How is this project tied to Unit 4's music curriculum?

The music curriculum is heavily based in performance. To this end, students must have the appropriate materials (instruments) with which to progress through new material. Students who are learning fundamentals will have a much higher chance for success with instruments that do not hinder their development. Instruments of poor quality can make performing music very uncomfortable and difficult, which can in turn lead students to become discouraged at their lack of progress. In order to keep students motivated and achieving in a performance-based class, it is essential to provide instruments that are in working order.

2. What is currently available for your students to use and how many students are using it?

We currently have two 3/4 size Cellos, but both are in poor condition. Playing these instruments with proper technique and a quality sound is very difficult. They are currently being used by 4 students. Some of these students have a personal instrument at home, others do not, but since bringing a Cello to and from school is difficult, all Cellists use school-owned instruments for class instruction.

We have 5 Violas, only 1 of which is in good condition. These instruments are used by approximately 5 students. The two Violas we are requesting would replace 2 of the instruments we currently use.

3. Why are new instruments, new equipment and/or repairs necessary?

A number of Orchestra students at Edison Middle School use school instruments on a daily basis. Over time, many of these instruments have fallen into disrepair. Replacing these poor quality instruments is of the utmost importance to our education of Orchestra students. Instrumental performance is at the core of what is taught every day in Orchestra classes. Students who have no choice but to use damaged instruments, or instruments of poor quality will have a large hurdle to overcome in their progression through material which is already challenging for the beginning student.

Having the opportunity to use a quality instrument will make the performance process physically comfortable, leading to student success and motivation to progress through new material. Without this basic necessity many students will develop poor technique which will hinder their overall musical development.

Timeline: *Provide a timeline for completing your project.*

We will begin a bid process from vendors over the Summer and make purchases when school resumes in the Fall. The instruments will arrive shortly after, and students will begin using them immediately.

Budget details:

Provide a budget for your project using the table below. Please list expenses for the entire project. Applicants must include a minimum local match of 15% to cover program expenses. In the case of instrument or equipment requests, the required match is 50%. (The match can be from the PTA, booster club, building or district budget or other sources.)

Project Income		Project Expenses	
Note: Please list expenses for the entire project. See budget details regarding required match.		For example, artist fees & travel, instrument purchase, transportation, substitute teachers, instructional resources, any related travel as well as other direct expenses.	
Grant Request	\$1,000.00	3/4 Cello (2)	\$1600.00
Other Cash*	\$500.00 (Strings Budget)	14" Viola (1)	\$200.00
	\$500.00 (Building Budget)	15" Viola (1)	\$200.00
In-kind**	\$		\$
	\$		\$
	\$		\$
Total	\$2,000.00	Total	\$2,000.00

If the selection committee cannot grant full funding, is partial funding worthwhile? If so, which expenses are priorities?

Partial funding would still be extremely beneficial. Purchasing new Cellos is our main priority.

*for eg. Bldg/Dept budgets, PTA or boosters, grant, crowd-sourcing such as DonorsChoose.
 ** for eg. donation of time, goods or services.

Terms and Conditions

Please note this is a Reimbursement Grant, meaning you will need to spend the money and submit receipts to CUSF for reimbursement. If you have a financial hardship please consider the following:

1. For expenses that are verified, we will reimburse you within 3 business days, by sending a check to the address you provided in this application. We can make arrangements if you don't have access to cash or a credit card of your own.
3. I understand that if I am funded for this proposal that I will need to provide CUSF with the required final report within three months of project completion to ensure accountability for our donors. Failure to submit a final report will disqualify me from future grants.
4. If I buy any non-consumables with this grant money, they will become the property of my current school district.
5. If you agree with the terms and conditions? (Please initial below.)

CV Yes, I agree with these terms and conditions.