

**City of Lawrence
2007 Alcohol Tax Funds
Request for Proposals
Calendar Year 2007 (January – December)
Cover Page**

Agency Name: Van Go Mobile Arts Inc.

Program Name: JAMS (Jobs in the Arts Make Sense)

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Request is for funding in the following categories and amounts:

<u> X </u>	Prevention	\$ <u>50,346</u>
<u> </u>	Treatment	\$ <u> </u>
<u> </u>	Intervention	\$ <u> </u>
<u> </u>	Coordination	\$ <u> </u>

1. Program Description

JAMS (Jobs in the Arts Make Sense) is Van Go's year-round, innovative youth employment program for at-risk teens ages 14 – 21. The program was developed to fill the existing gap in social services for this age group in Lawrence. Van Go's goal is not to create artists, but to use art as the vehicle to help teens gain protective factors, job and life skills, and the economic resources needed to be successful. Van Go receives referrals from our community partners who identify teens who are: living in poverty, involved in the juvenile justice system, in foster care, at-risk for drug and alcohol abuse, truancy and teen pregnancy. Van Go interviews, hires, and pays teens minimum wage to create artwork to be sold in the student-run gallery. Approximately \$50,000 (12% of our budget) worth of student-made artwork is sold annually to the Lawrence community, with the proceeds going back to support the program.

In addition to teaching important job skills, such as task completion, punctuality, responsibility, and teamwork, JAMS artists receive life skills training. Essential to this training is building protective factors that help our youth make positive life choices. We have an MSW Social Worker on staff that counsels our teens and connects them with helpful resources in the community, such as DCCCA. Van Go is an agency whose prevention programming fits perfectly into the *Communities That Care* model developed by Drs. Hawkins and Catalano, which is the prevention approach adopted by the State of Kansas. Van Go incorporates three steps described in the CTC model that are essential to positive bonding. Van Go:

- 1) provides opportunities for involvement – Participating youth are involved in the planning and creation of original artwork. Working with professional teaching artists to create public works of art, at risk teens enhance their self-esteem, while making a positive contribution to their community.
- 2) enhances the development of cognitive and social skills – All participants learn, practice, and are evaluated on effective and respectful communication with their peers and staff (i.e.: not interrupting others, expressing frustrations appropriately).
- 3) recognizes participants for skillful performance – All Van Go projects culminate in a public show or performance recognizing the teens and their work.

Additionally, Van Go uses proven effective strategies that were documented in the 1999 nationwide *YouthArts* study, sponsored in part by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The study shows that arts programs for at-risk kids deter delinquent behavior, reduce court referrals, improve participants' ability to complete tasks, and improves communication skills. Many of the best practices recommended in the study are key components of Van Go programming:

- ***collaboration among various agencies**
- ***active student participation in public performance or exhibition**
- ***low staff/participant ratio**
- ***programming that meets at least twice a week for at least two hours**

2. Needs Assessment

Van Go's services are quite unique and are not provided by any other agency in Douglas County. Van Go is the only arts-based social service agency in Kansas and is the largest employer of at-risk youth in Lawrence. We ONLY serve at-risk youth and specialize in their development. Many of our participants are alienated from their school environment and have no outlets for positive self-expression; these are children for whom anonymity and failure are routine. Research from Hawkins & Catalano has demonstrated that protective factors, such as those provided by Van Go, buffer the exposure to risky behavior. Van Go is the *only* organization in Douglas County that:

- 1) targets at-risk youth for direct social services using the arts
- 2) employs at-risk teens year round and provides them with opportunities for leadership, skill-building, and employment
- 3) engages children in a process of working together to solve problems and complete art projects
- 4) connects alienated teens to their community through visible public art projects

2005 CTC data for USD 497 also indicates a need for Van Go's programming. Troubling statistics indicate that:

- 35% of 10th grade respondents report having used alcohol in the past 30 days
- 16.2% reported using marijuana in the past 30 days (nearly twice the state average of 8.6%)
- 40% of 10th graders reported availability of drugs as a risk factor, while the state average was 27%

3. Outcomes

Van Go will serve 90 at-risk youth during this funding cycle and will provide a total of **9200 hours of direct service**

Process Outcomes

- 1) 30 hours of life skills lessons, including drug and alcohol prevention, will be provided to 90 at-risk youth, ages 14-21, during 2007

Behavioral Outcome

- 1) In 2007, 88% of the participants will show an improvement in their overall workplace evaluation scores conducted at week two and eight

Outcome Evaluation

The evaluation tool used by Van Go to measure the extent to which its constituents are learning clear standards is the Participant Work Evaluation. This form measures the elements of the program that we feel are most essential for successful completion of JAMS.

The JAMS Program Director evaluates the teens at the end of weeks two, four, and eight. The results are shared with each individual – cash bonuses are given to those who have shown improvement and strategies for improvement are provided for those who have not yet met the program's objectives. A copy of this evaluation form is available for your review.

4. Coordination

Van Go works with community agencies to ensure coordination of prevention services and to avoid duplication. To minimize fragmentation, local partnerships have been formed and include collaboration with:

*Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center - WRAP social workers refer students to Van Go. WRAP staff is essential in Van Go's effort to make sure that at-risk teens are being identified and that services offered during the school day are continued after school.

*Douglas County Youth Services - DCYS staff and juvenile court personnel refer teens to the JAMS program.

*The Lawrence/Douglas County Housing Authority - Because many of our low-income teens live in public housing, the Housing Authority sponsors Summer JAMS apprentice-artists' salaries for their residents.

*Chamber of Commerce - Lynne Green, Van Go Executive Director has been working with the Chamber's Director of Economic Development and was appointed to the Technical Education Task force charged with creating vocational programming in Lawrence.

*USD #497 - School counselors and social workers are important partners, referring and recruiting students as well as communicating grades, attendance, and discipline problems, so a coordinated effort can be made in behalf of each child.

Beginning in the Fall 2006 semester, JAMS participants in grades 10-12 can earn high school credit for their participation.

5. Organizational Capacity

Executive Director Lynne Green has a Board of Directors that includes highly respected community leaders who help with program development, evaluation, and fundraising. Staff members include a full-time JAMS Program Director, a full-time Office Manager, a half-time MSW, a full-time Art Director, and part-time Development Director. Last year Van Go added a half-time CFO. We have received City of Lawrence Alcohol Tax Funds for the past six years and have proven our capacity to effectively use those funds.

6. Budget

Van Go requests \$50,346 from the alcohol tax fund for 2007. This represents an increase of 20% over last year's allocation. The reason for this increase is that Van Go is on the verge of completing our two-year, \$1.3 million capital campaign. The renovation of our 12,000 sq. foot building will allow Van Go to double the number of youth served, and expand the scope of services provided. We have increased our request in anticipation of this expansion of services to the Lawrence community.

Personnel: CFO (\$20,346) Funding is requested for the salary and FICA benefits of our half-time financial director. Kirk Heinz, CPA, MBA joined the staff last year, bringing with him over ten years of accounting experience, including two years as accounting manager for the national office of Camp Fire USA, a nationally recognized not-for-profit organization.

Personnel: Art Director: (\$10,000) Cathy Ledeker has been a lead artist at JAMS for the past six years. Demonstrating a real instinct for motivating our hard-to-reach population, Cathy brings a calming influence and high artistic standards to our at-risk youth. Her visual lesson plans guide the teens and help them to set and meet their goals. Cathy's services have been invaluable to Van Go, this past year Van Go was able to hire Cathy as a full-time Art Director, she is the lead teacher for all of our projects and will also oversee our SuperJAMS and LifeJAMS programs. Having this continuity of staff is essential and is a nationally-recognized indicator of an agency's success. The requested amount is for a portion of her salary, the rest being funded by other sources.

Art Supplies: (\$20,000) This portion of the grant will cover one year's supplies for use by the 100 at-risk youth hired by Van Go. Examples include acrylic and tempera paint, wood, hinges and hardware, polymers, paper, beads, and stains, clay, wire, fabrics, metals, wood and fiberboard, brushes, canvas, scissors, and all of the art-related tools needed for the program.

Van Go's budget is \$423,000 with broad-based funding support described in the following table. Ongoing local support provides an essential base to assure continued quality programming. Future sources of funding include support from local, state and federal agencies, private foundations, corporate donations, individuals and reimbursements through service provider agreements with WIA (Workforce Investment Act) and NIYEA (Neighborhood Improvement Youth Employment Act).

Every year Van Go leverages the city's investment by creatively utilizing community resources. Last year, Van Go received over \$6,000 in donated goods and services and over 2779 volunteer hours were logged. Further, the K.U. School of Social Welfare placed a masters level intern at Van Go who worked over 700 hours. The work that she contributed to the organization in the past year is valued at \$15,000. Next year, Van Go is slated to receive two K.U. interns.

Following is a summary of Van Go's support:

United Way	7 th Judicial District Juvenile Justice Authority	NIYEA/KDHR	Private Donations	City of Lawrence, Outside Agency	Topeka County Community Foundation
\$24,500	\$17,000	\$15,000	\$60,000	\$69,246	\$7,500

Kansas Arts Commission	W.I.A.	Annual Fundraiser	Gallery sales & commission work	Building Rent	City of Lawrence, Alcohol tax
\$15,500	\$100,000	\$30,000	\$50,000	\$5,000	\$50,000

ASSESSMENT DATA	GOALS/ OBJECTIVES	TARGET GROUP	STRATEGIES	PROCESS OUTCOMES	BEHAVIORAL OUTCOMES	IMPACT OUTCOMES
<p>Van Go bonds these teens to their community by providing a safe, enriching environment that stresses positive life choices and hope for the future.</p> <p>Protective Factor – Community Bonding: *47.8% of Douglas County 10th graders reported that there are people in their neighborhood, or the area around which they live, that are proud of them when they do something well. *Only 35.9 reported that there are lots of adults in their neighborhood they could talk to about something important.</p>	<p>Van Go's goal is to provide employment opportunities through life-changing arts-based experiences. The objective is to hire 90 at-risk teens for inclusion in all of our programming.</p>	<p>14-21 year old at-risk Lawrence/Douglas County youth</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) life skills training 2) economic opportunity through arts-based employment 3) small youth to adult ratio 4) job training 5) academic mentoring through community volunteers 6) daily goal setting strategy meetings 7) leadership opportunities 8) public recognition of work 9) team of caring adults, including an on-site MSW 10) quality art instruction from professional teaching-artists 	<p>1) 30 hours of life skills lessons, including drug and alcohol prevention, will be provided to 90 at-risk youth, ages 14-21, during 2007</p>	<p>1) 88% of JAMS participants will increase their overall scores on the Participant Workplace Evaluation Form from week 2 to week 8</p>	<p>By 2010, 70% of JAMS graduates will have made a successful transition to the workforce, as measured by follow-up interviews.</p>