



City of Lawrence
Outside Agency Funding
APPLICATION

General Information: Each year, the City Commission considers requests for the allocation of dollars to a number of agencies that provide services benefiting the Lawrence community. The decision on funding a request will be made during the City's annual budgeting process. The decision will be based upon the availability of funds, the need demonstrated through the agency's application, the stated objectives of the applicant's program, past performance by the agency in adhering to funding guidelines (as appropriate), and the ability to measure progress toward the program objectives.

PLEASE NOTE THAT FUNDS WILL BE DISBURSED ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE UNLESS OTHERWISE AGREED TO IN WRITING:

- o FIRST HALF OF FUNDS WILL NOT BE DISBURSED BEFORE APRIL 1
- o SECOND HALF OF FUNDS WILL NOT BE DISBURSED BEFORE OCTOBER 1

Instructions: Applications for 2010 funding must be complete and submitted electronically to the City Manager's Office at ctoomay@ci.lawrence.ks.us by the deadline of 5:00 pm on Friday, May 8, 2009.

Questions? Contact Casey Toomay, Budget Manager at ctoomay@ci.lawrence.ksu.s or at 785-832-3409.

Section I. Applicant Information

Legal Name of Agency: Van Go Mobile Arts, Inc.
Name of Program for Which Funding is Requested: JAMS (Jobs in the Arts Make Sense)
& Arts Train
Primary Contact Person: Lynne Green
Address: 715 New Jersey, Lawrence Kansas 66044
Telephone: 785.842.3797 Fax: 785.842.4628
Email: lynne@vano-go.org

Section 2. Request Information

- A. Amount of funds requested from the City for this program for calendar year 2010: \$50,000.00
B. Will these funds be used for capital outlay (equipment or facilities) in 2010?

No funds will be used for capital outlay.

If so, please describe:

C. Will these funds be used to leverage other funds in 2010? If so, how:

Yes. Van Go will use this City investment to leverage \$200,000.00 from state and federal sources.

D. Did you receive City funding for this program in 2009? If so, list the amount and source for funding (i.e. General Fund, Alcohol Fund, etc.):

Yes. The Jobs in the Arts Make Sense program received \$35,000.00 from the General Fund and \$44,000.00 from the Alcohol Fund in 2009.

E. If you are requesting an increase in funding over 2009, please explain exactly how the additional funds will be used:

Van Go completed a multi-year capital campaign in 2008 to fund building renovations which significantly expanded art studios and teaching space, including a state-of-the-art Mac computer lab for graphic design instruction and a fully equipped shop for the creation of wood products, furniture and sculpture. A permanent gallery for public display and sale of Van Go creations is also an important feature of the new space. The renovations will allow Van Go to expand its programs and effectively serve 32% more young people each year. Van Go's new facility also offers the organization additional earned income through space rental, and the gallery is now open year round giving increased capacity for sales.

Section 3. Agency and Program Budget information

A. How many paid full time employees work for your agency? 7 Volunteers? 100+

B. What percent of your total 2009 budget goes to employee salaries and benefits? 58%

C. What percent of your total 2009 budget is used for operating expenses? 36%

D. What is the total estimated cost to provide the program in 2010? \$956,050.00

E. What percent of 2010 program costs are being requested from the City? 5%

F. List other anticipated sources of funding and funding amount for this program in 2010:

<u>Anticipated Funding Source</u>	<u>Dollar Amount</u>
United Way	\$ 25,000.00
Juvenile Justice Authority—7 th District	\$ 16,000.00
Kansas Department of Commerce (Workforce Investment Act funds)	\$ 208,800.00
City of Lawrence Alcohol Tax Fund	\$ 60,000.00
Kansas Arts Commission and National Endowment for the Arts	\$ 15,500.00
Art commissions and product sales	\$ 100,850.00
Private donations (foundations, corporations and individuals)	\$ 122,100.00
TOTAL 2009 ORGANIZATION BUDGET	\$ 756,968.00

Section 4. Statement of Problem/Need to Be Addressed By Program

- A. Provide a brief statement of the problem or need your agency proposes to address with the requested funding and/or the impact of not funding this program. The statement should include characteristics of the client population that will be served by this program. If possible, include statistical data to document this need.

Van Go's programs are dedicated to improving the lives of high-needs youth using art as the vehicle for self-expression, self-confidence and hope for the future – and impact and guide every aspect of programming. By integrating the creation of art into the acquisition of job skills, “life skills” and crisis counseling, the youth at risk become better equipped to successfully transition into adulthood. A key aid in that transition is the tremendous self-confidence youth gain from the public display and sale of their art in the community.

In 2008, 60% of the youth employed by Van Go lived in poverty, compared to the Douglas County poverty rate of 12% for youth under 18. Most face the multiple problems associated with poverty—delinquency, academic failure, truancy. Of the youth served at Van Go in 2008:

- *24% suffered from mental health issues
- *43% were deficient in reading
- *57% were deficient in math
- *41% had IEPs (Individualized Education Plans) at their schools
- *15% were criminal offenders in the juvenile justice system
- * 6% were in foster care or state custody

Van Go youth are those who normally “slip through the cracks” in adolescence, as few programs serve them, and most agencies consider them too difficult to reach. Those same youth continue to struggle after adolescence, their risk factors translating into unemployment, poverty and reliance on social services in adulthood.

- B. How was the need for this program determined?

From the organization's inception, Van Go has anticipated the needs of the community we serve. We began after-school programs at targeted elementary schools in 1997, long before the need was addressed with the arrival of 21st century funds. Van Go has since adapted programming to meet identified needs among Lawrence's teenage and young adult populations.

In 1999, Van Go created the JAMS program (Jobs in the Arts Make Sense) for at-risk youth in response to needs cited in the 7th Judicial District's Community Comprehensive Plan, which called for “additional opportunities for youth to participate in community service work as a deterrent to negative behavior.” JAMS fills that need by providing constructive experiences for youth during the high-risk after-school and summer hours, deterring negative behavior such as substance abuse, according to data collected among local 10th graders by the Kansas Communities That Care initiative:

- *37.3 % reported using alcohol in the past 30 days
- *14.9% reported using marijuana in the past 30 days
- *13.5% reported being drunk or high at school in the last year
- *7.4% reported selling illegal drugs in the last year.

The 7th Judicial District’s Community Comprehensive Plan also called for “the development of more culturally specific and vocationally oriented mentoring programs,” *another* need JAMS has filled through job training, crisis counseling and life skills lessons for its diverse participants.

In 2003, Van Go anticipated local trends by developing its Life JAMS program for older youth, age 18-21. Life JAMS targets these young adults with a comprehensive approach including social services, paid worksite placements, on-site tutoring and community mentoring. Two years after the inception of Life JAMS, the Kansas Action for Children’s 2005 Kids Count Data Book revealed the following:

*From 1996 – 2001, the percent of high school dropouts increased 33% in Kansas, while the national average showed a *decrease* of 10%;

*From 1996 – 2001, the percent of youth not attending school and not working increased 17% in Kansas, while nationally that figure *decreased* 11%;

*The percent of 18-24 year olds living in poverty in Kansas in 2002 was 26%, while the national average was 20%.

In 2009, in order to most effectively serve this population of young adults who need help transitioning to adulthood, Van Go created the ArtsTrain. The ArtsTrain will deter unemployment and poverty among young adults by offering practical job skills and career exploration, which proved lacking among local youth in a 2005 study conducted by the University of Kansas Policy Research Institute for the USD 497 Administrative Task Force on Technical Education. Former USD 497 students who received GEDs rather than high school diplomas—members of the same socioeconomic, racial and health demographic that Van Go serves—reported a lack of preparedness for acquiring jobs. “They did not believe they were well prepared for employment and desired more help with soft skills, such as resumes, applications, interviews, W-2 forms, body language, how to ask questions about a job, as well as on the job etiquette, including the unspoken rules... They would welcome increased involvement from the business community in career development and exploration programs.”¹

C. Why should this problem/need be addressed by the City?

Van Go is the only area organization meeting the City’s identified needs for work opportunities, mentoring and job training for the area’s neediest youth. The resulting prevention of costly behaviors, development of the local economy and improvement of overall community health save the city enormous resources in time and money. Now, more than ever with the downturn in the economy, the job skills and personal support Van Go provides is essential to the success of the young people Van Go serves. Because of the delivery of the services to these young people, they leave the program as productive, employed members of our community. A recent survey of JAMS graduates indicated 85% were participating in secondary education or were employed.

¹ Krider, Charles E. “Assessment of the Technical Training Needs of the Lawrence Community,” KU Policy Research Institute, May 2005.

Van Go training: Readyng the workforce

- The new ArtsTrain provides vocational training in the high-demand fields of carpentry, painting and digital arts, through a curriculum informed by focus groups of local employers.
- For JAMS youth, “soft skills” like communication are honed as apprentice-artists partner with local business to design and create commissioned art bench through an interview process with clients (a firm handshake and good eye contact are stressed and practiced).
- For ArtsTrain and JAMS youth, attendance, punctuality, time management, goal-setting, teamwork and task completion are charted, measured, evaluated and rewarded.
- For ArtsTrain and JAMS youth, “life skills” are practiced in weekly sessions on topics such as fiscal responsibility, transition planning, health and employment issues.
- By facilitating the Best Employability Skills Training for over 500 junior high students from USD 497, Van Go increased knowledge and preparedness of future members of our workforce.

Van Go employment: Economic development

- Over \$398,647.00 will be paid in wages to at-risk youth employees and Van Go staff members in 2009. Nearly all of that money stays in Lawrence, much of it keeping the poverty-stricken families of our youth participants financially stable.
- Building renovations at the newly dedicated Van Go facility in East Lawrence invested hundreds of thousands of dollars into the local construction industry, and the building designed by renowned architect Dan Rockhill will be a local attraction available for event space rental and shopping in the new art gallery, keeping local dollars in Lawrence and bringing outside money in.
- Van Go brings revenue into Lawrence from sources outside the community. In 2009, Van Go will bring \$235,773.00 (31% of the agency budget) into Lawrence from state and federal sources (Kansas Department of Commerce/Workforce Investment Act funds and the Kansas Arts Commission). Van Go’s 2009 operating expenses will be covered in part by \$22,000.00 from foundations outside our community. Thus, Van Go leverages the City’s financial support by generating additional dollars that directly benefit our at-risk youth and community.
- Van Go creates at least 90 positions annually for youth who would have difficulty find employment elsewhere, and will create even more jobs with the inception of the ArtsTrain. Total numbers served will increase by 28 youth per year.
- Van Go youth attending Lawrence public high schools receive one hour of credit toward graduation through their participation in Van Go programs, encouraging graduation and the long-term economic impact of a workforce with high school diplomas or equivalents.
- Van Go generated \$40,800.00 in commissioned/product sales in 2008, keeping local spending money in the community.

- The RIMS II economic impact model, which calculates the extended economic effects of the nonprofit sector, states that nonprofits such as Van Go generate *indirect* effects (the result of purchases by the nonprofit sector from other sectors—for example, transportation, communications and utilities—that generate income and employment in these other sectors) and *induced* effects (the result of nonprofit employees spending their income on goods and services provided by businesses other than their employer, such as grocery stores). The model states that, based on these indirect and induced effects, 30.4 jobs are created for each \$1 million in nonprofit expenditures. Thus, based on Van Go’s 2009 budget of \$756,968.00 Van Go fuels the need and demand for approximately 22.8 jobs beyond the organization itself.²

Van Go prevention: Healthy communities

- Van Go’s new monthly leadership activities provide 120 at-risk youth annually with valuable knowledge and preparedness in areas such as managing personal finances, applying for college or employment and socioethnic diversity.
- For every \$1 spent on prevention programming, \$4.48 is saved in community spending on the health and well-being of dependent citizens.³
- JAMS keeps at-risk youth occupied and productive during the risk-prone hours of 3-6 p.m., a priority in cities across the country. The U.S. Conference of Mayors’ ten-point plan, “Strong Cities, Strong Families, for a Strong America” (January 2007), calls for increased funding commitments directly allocated to quality after-school programs, along with new summer youth employment initiatives to offer work experience, skills training and education strategies to young people as part of a local workforce development system. Van Go already does all of the above!
- Douglas County Assistant Prosecutor Shelley Diehl said of Van Go’s JAMS program, “As a member of the Community Comprehensive Planning Team, I can tell you that the Team felt strongly that youth who have employment opportunities available to them are less likely to engage in anti-social, criminal and dangerous activities.”
- Van Go youth share the same risk factors and demographics as incarcerated youth⁴, until Van Go programs intervene with art therapy, counseling, employment and other support. These services cost an estimated annual \$5,000 per child, 6% of the \$82,939 average cost per incarcerated child in Kansas in 2006.
- Van Go youth stay out of jail, delay parenthood, subsist with fewer social services and eventually raise their own families with less hardship than did their parents. This means generations of more self-supporting, tax-contributing citizens of Lawrence.⁵

² *Economic Contribution of Florida Nonprofits: A Resource for the Public Good*, The Philanthropy Center, 2002.

³ *The Costs and Benefits of After-School Programs*, September 2002

⁴ 2006: Average confinement time for juvenile offenders was 10.6 months, about the same duration most Van Go kids are served. Most incarcerated youth are 16 or 17 years old, our target ages. Incarcerated youth are 63% Caucasian, 33% African-American and 3% American Indian, similar to Van Go demographics.

⁵ Youth wages are taxed for FICA/Social Security but not federal taxes.

Section 4. Description of Program Services

- A. Provide a brief description of the service you will provide and explain how it will respond to the need you identified in Section 3. The description should include how many clients will be served, and should describe as specifically as possible the interaction that will take place between the provider and the user of the service.

In addition to 90 JAMS youth served, Van Go provides monthly leadership and learning opportunities and career exploration to 500 Lawrence junior high youth through the Best Employability Skills Training coordinated through partnership with USD 497. These Van Go initiatives will continue in 2010, along with the existing JAMS program and the ArtsTrain. Total youth served in 2010 will be over 600.

JAMS is the only arts-based job training program in Kansas and is the largest employer of at-risk youth in Lawrence. Each year, the program improves the lives of 90 area youth, ages 14-18, who are alienated from their school or family environments and are accustomed to anonymity or failure. Participants are referred by social workers, counselors, mental health professionals and court personnel; they work 10 hours per week after school, and 20 hours per week during the summer, creating murals, custom-designed benches or other artwork for public display. Youth earn minimum wage, with merit-based raises, while learning valuable job skills and experiencing a creative outlet. JAMS is not designed to create artists, but instead uses art as the vehicle to help youth gain job skills, life skills and economic resources.

The ArtsTrain takes the JAMS mission to the next step by targeting disconnected young adults, ages 18-21, who need guidance to successfully transition to personal, economic and societal maturity. The ArtsTrain provides in-depth vocational training to approximately 24 youth per year in applied arts fields: woodworking, graphic design and painting. Soft skills and life skills will continue to be addressed as participants work on punctuality, teamwork and communication. ArtsTrain youth will learn through on-site training and off-site employment, where they will be monitored by Van Go staff. The ArtsTrain curriculum is based on feedback from focus groups of local business owners who are most aware of skill sets required of successful employees. As with Life JAMS, ArtsTrain youth will have Individualized Life Plans that incorporate a variety of goals beyond employment (i.e. obtaining G.E.D., moving out of a parent's home, getting out of debt, etc.), continuing Van Go's holistic, comprehensive approach to serving at-risk youth.

- B. Describe any efforts your agency has made to explore the community to determine if there are any other agencies providing similar types of services. What efforts have you made to coordination services?

Van Go works with these community agencies to ensure coordination of prevention services and to avoid duplication:

Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center - WRAP social workers refer students to Van Go. WRAP staffers are essential in Van Go's effort to make sure that at-risk children 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 youth to the JAMS program.

The Lawrence/Douglas County Housing Authority – Because many of our low-income youth 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 a task force charged with creating vocational programming in Lawrence.

USD #497 – The partnership between Van Go and the school district continues to strengthen. Local junior high school students have attended career exploration events at the Van Go facility, and JAMS participants earn high school credit for their involvement with Van Go. School counselors and social workers are important partners referring and recruiting students as well as communicating grades, attendance, and discipline problems so that a coordinated effort can be made on behalf of each child.

Other agencies - Van Go has also been involved with the Arts Roundtable and the After-School Alliance to look for ways to expand options for at-risk youth.

Section 5. Program Objectives

Please provide three specific program objectives for 2010. Objectives should demonstrate the purpose of the program and measure the amount of service delivered or the effectiveness of the services delivered. A time frame and numerical goal should also be included. Examples include, “75% of clients receiving job training will retain their job one year after being hired,” “increased fundraising efforts will result in a 15% increase in donations in 2010,” “credit counseling services will be provided to 600 clients in 2010,” “new digital arts program will serve 275 students in 2010” etc. **Applicants will be expected to report their progress toward meeting these objectives in their six month and annual reports to the City.**

Program Objectives

1. 85% of JAMS participants will receive an increased score in their Work Evaluations from week 2 to week 8

2. 90% of JAMS participants will complete the program

3. Daily attendance of JAMS participants will average 90%

Please return completed application electronically to ctoomay@ci.lawrence.ks.us by 5:00 pm on Friday, May 8, 2008.

Office Use Only					
six month report received	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	audit received:	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no
annual report received:	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	tax return received:	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no