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Adjusted Allocation: 0.00

Remaining: -591,880.00
Laura Garcia, President, The ACPA Parent Group, 4401 Hilton Corporate Drive, Columbus, OH

Anthony Gatto, GG Howard, founder, has been an educator for 45 years, including thirty years at ACPA. He has designed and implemented the utilized school building, ACPA, is one of the very few non-profit, independently operated charter high schools in Ohio. ACPA is an example of a charter high school in the state, five-year state redesign for schools that have been able to accomplish this, possible only through careful budgeting and responsible spending. ACPA receives $8.3 million from the state, which is a share of resources in the classroom, doubling the amount spent on classroom materials annually.

500 3. Total Students Impacted:

4. Lead applicant primary contact: - Provide the following information:
First Name, Last Name of contact for lead applicant: Anthony Gatto
Organizational name of lead applicant: Arts & College Preparatory Academy (ACPA)
Unique Identifier (RIN/Fed Tax ID): 143610
Address of lead applicant: 4401 Hilton Corporate Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43232
Phone Number of lead applicant: 614-986-9974
Email Address of lead applicant: gatto@artcollegeprep.org

5. Secondary applicant contact: - Provide the following information, if applicable:
First Name, Last Name of contact for secondary applicant: n/a
Organizational name of secondary applicant: n/a
Unique Identifier (RIN/Fed Tax ID): n/a
Address of secondary applicant: n/a
Phone number of secondary applicant: n/a
Email address of secondary applicant: n/a

6. List all other participating entities by name: Provide the following information for each additional participating entity, if applicable: Mention First Name, Last Name, Organizational Name, Unique Identifier (RIN/Fed Tax ID), Address, Phone Number, Email Address of Contact for All Secondary Applicants in the box below.

7. Partnership and consortia agreements and letters of support: - (Click on the link below to upload necessary documents).

* Letters of support are for districts in academic or fiscal distress only. If school or district is in academic or fiscal distress and has a commission assigned, please include a resolution from the commission in support of the project.

* If a partnership or consortium will be established, please include the signed Straight A Description of Nature of Partnership or Description of Nature of Consortium Agreement.

UploadGrantApplicationAttachment.aspx

8. Please provide a brief description of the team or individuals responsible for the implementation of this project including relevant experience in other innovative projects. You should also include descriptions and experiences of partnering entities.

The administrative team, Richard Albeit, Anthony Gatto and GG Howard, have over sixty years of collective experience expanding innovative educational opportunities for students. Anthony Gatto, Principal, has been on staff all twelve years of ACPA’s existence, and has successfully managed a large number of grants, including two USDOE Charter/District Collaboration and Dissemination Grants ($353K), and ACPA’s 21st Century ($500K) and Race to the Top grants. Mr. Gatto has also created and managed several innovative ACPA student programs, including ACPA Mentions, The Trailblazer Project, and Wednesday Workshops, and currently serves on the Columbus High Performing Schools Working Group Committee. ACPA Vice Principal, Richard Albeit, created ACPA’s Service Learning Program, Wednesday Volunteer Experience, the implementation of OTEB and the formalizing of data driven instruction practices. Mr. Howard, founder, has been an educator for 45 years, including thirty years as a teacher in the Columbus City Schools. Three years ago, this team oversaw the successful transition from renting expensive and ineffective learning space to the purchase of their own building. ACPA is one of the very few non-profit, independently operated (no management company) charter schools in Ohio that has been able to accomplish this, possible only through careful budgeting and responsible spending. ACPA receives $8.3 million from the state, which is an average of $11,119 for the state. Although an adjusted student population revenue has increased from 101.4 to 107.6 to 108.3 in the past three years. Participants. ACPA Parent Group: organizes frequent school/family events, including regular family dinners, parent/teacher nights, college nights, and multiple other supports and enrichment for teachers, staff and students. Role: promote, use, and help maintain the new space. The Ohio Alliance for Public Charter Schools: Role: alumni study and sharing of knowledge to strengthen multiple schools’ college and career readiness programming. You Will Rise Project showcases creative work from people that have been bullied. ACPA has partnered with YRP and the Columbus Museum of Art to provide ACPA students leadership opportunities on this topic. YRP will use the new Performance and Gallery space for events. COSI: Provides educational experiences and internships and will use the space for educational events.

B) PROJECT DESCRIPTION - Overall description of project and alignment with Outcomes

9. Which of the stated Straight A Fund goals does the proposal aim to achieve? - (Check all that apply)
   - Student achievement
   - Spending reductions in the five-year fiscal forecast
   - Utilization of a greater share of resources in the classroom

10. Which of the following best describes the proposed project? - (Select one)
   - New - never before implemented
   - Existing and research-based - never implemented in your district or community school but proven successful in other educational environments
   - Mixed Concept - incorporates new and existing elements
   - Enhancing/Scale Up - elevating or expanding an effective program that is already implemented in your district, school, or consortia partnership
ACPA is one of Ohio's finest examples of how students, especially those faced with economic disadvantage and other challenges, can achieve extraordinary academic outcomes if given a vibrant, innovative, safe and respectful learning environment. ACPA is the highest rated non-selective high school in Columbus, five-time ODE School of Promise, rated 10 out of 10 in GreatSchools, 2013 DPSACS Charter School of the Year, and two time USDOE Competitive Grant winner for sharing best practices. Yet, while 47% or 30,000 Columbus area students attend a school rated "D" or "F", ACPA cannot enroll as many students that apply each year due to lack of space. Currently, ACPA's 33 students have access to 24,000 sq ft of finished space in the entire building. There is NO library, chemistry lab, kitchen or gymnasium, or space large enough to accommodate a full-school assembly. ACPA classrooms are approximately 625 sq ft for 25 students, for 25 sq ft per student. The Ohio School Facilities Commission sets a classroom standard of 36-46 sq ft per student. OSFC recommends 180 sq ft per student in the school as a whole. This compares to the 73 sq ft available per student at ACPA - less than half the minimum standard. However, students are thriving at ACPA and the reputation of the school is becoming known throughout the state and nation (last year, both State Impact Ohio and MSNBC profiled the school in "How Ohio's schools by engaging in Merit, "through involvement in the work of the Columbus High Performing Schools in Merit, Working Group Committee. ACPA is aware of the call for the addition and expansion of high performing schools in Columbus. As an rated school, ACPA has been asked to expand and provide additional seats to students in Columbus. Our innovative project is to construct and develop space to further expand ACPA's progressive programming, which builds upon what has proven to work - the creative, safe and inclusive learning environment that results in high performance student outcomes and success for all students. Ultimately, students who attend ACPA are more likely to stay in school, earn a high school diploma, and be prepared for college and career opportunities.

Goal #1: Advanced Student Achievement: ACPA will maintain an A-rated performance index, even while expanding the student body, and will increase access to a high quality education for a greater number of students - a shared goal among the business and civic leaders in Columbus (please see the attached Letter of Support from Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman), as well as for parents and for students. ACPA students will be able to gain mastery of standards, and be able to document these competencies and skills, making them more competitive for colleges and career opportunities.

ACPA completed an expansion project this past summer that added 10,000 square feet to the school, the same design and building cost ratios above the project was completed within time and within budget. Equipment costs include gallery track lighting/spots ($2,000), digital video camera ($2,000), digital projectors and document camera ($5,000) and Smartboards ($16,000) in Capital outlay; and an artwork installation system ($1,200) and 4 Whiteboards ($2,000) for the new classrooms in Supplies. Furniture costs are 250 portable, stackable chairs with rack ($20,000); classroom tables ($5,040); teacher desks ($2,000); and classroom chairs ($2,500) for $29,540 in Supplies. Research on alumni outcomes, using a recent Harvard Graduate School of Education Strategic Data Project trained analyst will be possible by the $425 Naviance/National Student Clearinghouse data (Supplies), $2,390 for Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (capital outlay), $5,000 for consulting, design of data collection system, data storage, research Analytics) and $6700 for a Columbus Foundation Fellow to create an interview guide, interview alumni, and record data (Purchased Services). Other funds to support this project include state foundation funds, Race to the Top ($13,000 for ISTE System tracking student mastery of standards), Columbus Foundation's Big Give ($5,000), 21st Century funds (after school activities), and two USDOE Dissemination grants (charter and district partners collaborating on school climate projects). ACPA is also pursuing funding from the Ingram White Castle, McCracken-Dressess, and the True Colors Foundations to further support programs.

Additional, we have been fortunate in the support of arts advocates across the state, and in Columbus, arts leaders such as the Columbus Foundation, Friends of the Arts, ACMP, and others. Our Advisory Board has worked tirelessly alongside the school administration to get the project moving, and they have offered their leadership, time and resources to support the project.

13. Financial Documentation - All applicants must enter or upload the following supporting information. Responses should refer to specific information in the financial documents when applicable:

a. Enter a project budget
b. Upload the Straight A Financial Impact Template forecasting the expected changes to the five-year forecast resulting from implementation of this project. If applying as a consortia or partnership, please include the five-year forecasts of each school district, community school or STEM school member for review.

c. If subsection b is not applicable, please explain why, in addition to the budget this project will demonstrate sustainability and impact.

14. What is the total cost for implementing the innovative project?

$591,880.00 * Total project cost

* Provide a brief narrative explanation of the overall budget. The narrative should include the source and amount of other funds that may be used to support this concept (e.g., Title I funding, RIT money, local funding, foundation support etc.), and provide details on the cost of items included in the budget (i.e. staff counts and salary/benefits, equipment to be purchased and cost, etc). The budget includes costs to 1) re-purpose existing space into four academic classrooms/studios so more students can be served, 2) transform the Student Life Space at the far east side of the building into a modern student learning, performance and gallery space so students have increased opportunities to showcase their talents and learn and practice skills necessary for arts professions, and 3) collect and analyze alumni data to further develop and strengthen college and career transitions. Building costs are $75 per sq ft times 56,650. This covers all materials, electrical, lighting, paint, and flooring, for a total of $487,900. The 2012 Annual School Construction Reports from the National Clearinghouse for Education Facilities report that the median school construction cost for small High Schools was $181 per sq ft. The Design fee is 7%, or $34,125 (Page 19; OSIF2013 Assessment Cost Guidelines lists 7.5% as the rate for Design Professionals Compensation, thus our cost of 7% is defensible). These costs are included as Capital Outlay.

The new/recurring costs of Creating our Future include an increase in custodial costs. The new custodial contract for the 10,000 additional square feet in the recent addition went from $26,000 to $35,000, or $9,000 more for the year. Therefore, adding 6,500 more square feet will result in an increase of approximately $5,850 annually in custodial costs. Our trash and water costs stayed the same with the recent expansion. There will be no additional costs incurred for the re-purposing of space (APCA already owns a potter's wheel, kiln, design software, Mac Airs, art supplies, etc. - the issue is that there isn't enough space to accommodate these materials). Additionally, with these grant funds, ACPA will not have to pay rent for facilities or pay rent for the additional space. These new/recurring costs are reflected in the Five-Year Forecast: Over $20,000 each year is currently spent on capital outlay associated with providing ACPA students with performance opportunities. ACPA currently rents the Lincoln Theater and other local theaters to use for seven annual theater, dance and music performances, as well as graduation. Technical equipment, musical instruments and other supplies used for performances frequently need to be replaced due to wear and tear caused by frequent transport. These costs are included in the budget as $24,000. This would have required a significant, but not insurmountable increase in custodial costs. The school district currently uses state foundation dollars intended for instruction on capital improvement costs. Goal #3: Utilization of a greater share of resources in the classroom. Roughly 75% of ACPA's annual $2.1M budget is dedicated to salaries and benefits. The remaining funds must cover all other costs, including mortgages payments, sponsor sources, school teachers, liability and other insurance, utilities and energy, maintenance, and supplies. With these reduced costs, there may be additional funds set aside for $20,000 each year toward support staff. The additional $9,000 of expected savings will be as a result of no longer having to pay rent facilities or transport students and equipment, and from no longer having to set aside funds for facility renovation, will result in a much greater share of resources spent directly in the classroom. With Straight A Funding for this project, ACPA will be able to double the amount of resources currently available in the classroom.

15. What are the new/recurring costs of your innovative program will continue once the grant has expired? If there are no new/recurring costs, please explain why.

$11,700.00 * Specific amount of new/recurring cost (annual cost after project is implemented)

* Narrative explanation/rationale: Provide details on the cost of items included in the budget (i.e. staff counts and salary/benefits, equipment to be purchased and cost, etc.). If there are no new/recurring costs, please explain why.

The new/recurring costs of Creating our Future include an increase in custodial costs. The custodial contract for the 10,000 additional square feet in the recent addition went from $25,000 to $35,000, for an increase of $9,000. Therefore, adding 6,500 more square feet will result in an increase of approximately $5,850 annually in custodial costs. Our utility costs increased from $34,000/year to $39,400/year with the expansion, or $9,000 more for the year. Therefore, adding 6,500 more square feet will result in an increase of approximately $5,850 annually. Our trash and water costs stayed the same with the recent expansion. There will be no additional costs incurred for the re-purposing of space (APCA already owns a potter's wheel, kiln, design software, Mac Airs, art supplies, etc. - the issue is that there isn't enough space to accommodate these materials). Additionally, with these grant funds, ACPA will not have to pay rent for facilities or pay rent for the additional space. These new/recurring costs are reflected in the Purchased Services in the Financial Impact Template.

16. Are there expected savings that may result from the implementation of the innovative project?

Yes

* Specific amount of expected savings (annual)

$20,000.00 * Specific amount of expected savings (annual)

* Narrative explanation/rationale: Provide details on the anticipated savings (i.e. staff counts and salary/benefits, equipment to be purchased and cost, etc.).

The award of this grant funds 2000 square feet of space at a cost of $9.88 per square foot. The additional $9,000,000 that would be spent on the new construction will fund state foundation funds budgeted over several years. Additionally, ACPA will save approximately $20,000 annually due to no longer having to pay rent fees for offsite facilities for performances and state testing, costs to transport students and equipment to those offsite locations, and costs needed to replace equipment that has been damaged in transport. These costs savings are reflected in the Purchased Services line item of the Financial Impact template.

17. Provide a brief explanation of how the project is self-sustaining. If there are ongoing costs associated with the project after the term of the grant, this explanation should provide details on the cost reductions that
The National Endowment of the Arts (NEA) recently provided evidence from four separate longitudinal studies that students with high levels of arts exposure had better academic outcomes, higher career potential, and stronger self-efficacy and self-concept; all-arts infused education is closely linked to almost everything that youth#sthash.ZViSKYA8.dpuf). "Critical Links: Learning in the Arts and Student Achievement and Social Development," provides a compendium of the most rigorous research on this topic. The authors explain the evidence that connects arts-infused instruction with academic, social, and emotional development.

E) SUBSTANTIAL IMPACT AND LASTING VALUE - Impact, evaluation and replication

20. Describe the rationale, past or present success that supports the innovative project and its impact on student achievement, spending reduction in the five-year fiscal forecast or utilization of a greater share of resources in its target audience.

The ongoing additional custodial and utilities costs of $11,700 a year will be offset by the $20,000 in annual savings ACAP will realize by no longer needing to rent space or transport students and equipment for after-school programs, or by using the space for on-site student programs. With additional square footage, ACAP will be able to provide more comprehensive services at a lower per-capita cost. The proposed new space will enable ACAP to achieve a substantially greater degree of fiscal stability, and enable more time, effort, and resources to be directly spent on students. The high need students at our school must have access to cultural experiences and exposure to colleges and careers, ACT prep courses, opportunities for more rigorous courses, including AP courses and postsecondary options, resources that all can be expanded as a long term result of this grant. A greater share of resources available in the classroom will empower teachers, by...
By virtue of applying for the Straight A Fund, all applicants agree to participate in the overall evaluation of the Straight A Fund for the duration of the evaluation timeframe. The Governing Board of the Straight A Fund reserves the right to conduct evaluation of the plan and request additional information in the form of data, surveys, interviews, focus groups, and any other related data to the legislature, governor, and other interested parties for an overall evaluation of the Straight A Fund.

PROGRAM ASSURANCES: I agree, on behalf of this applicant agency and/or all identified partners to abide by all assurances outlined in the Assurance section of the CCIP. In the box below, enter “I Accept” and indicate your name, title, agency/organization and today’s date.

Accept, Anthony J. Gatto Principal, The Arts & College Preparatory Academy October 25, 2013