

A. Children's Musical Theatre of Bartlesville, Inc.

B. Our mission statement is: "Enriching the lives of youth by providing quality musical theatre performance and education opportunities". Children's Musical Theatre of Bartlesville (CMT) began in 2000, formed in response to an increasing demand from children and parents to provide high quality arts education and performance opportunities - specifically in musical theatre. We currently provide these year-round programs: the summer Main-stage (ages 7-17 – approx. 80), Kids Summer Camp (grades 2-5 – approx.32), Junior Summer Camp (grades 5-8 – approx. 20), Acting Workshops / Acting Classes / Audition Workshops (ages 7-17 – approx. 84), Vocal Master Classes (ages 7-17 – approx. 25), Musical Theatre Dance Class (ages 7-17 – approx. 38), STAGE SCHOOL (ages 4-17 – approx. 21), Missoula Children's Theatre (ages 6 – 14 – approx. 965), and the SPOTLITE program (taught to all 4th grade students in Bartlesville – approx. 600).

Our target audience is children, ages 6-17, living within a 40 mile radius of Bartlesville.

For the past 16 years, the capstone of CMT's programming has been the Main-stage program (a full-scale Broadway style musical, with elaborate sets, period specific costumes, lighting design and a live orchestra) and held each summer for 5 weeks, with 4 community performances (held at the Bartlesville Community Center). The main-stage production is cast entirely with young people, ages 7-17 and offered tuition-free to participants, while the remaining programs are mostly fee-based, with scholarships available to those in need. In 2015, CMT provided 1,900 arts encounters to children and youth, teaching musical theatre at varying levels.

Many CMT participants desire a higher degree of training to prepare them to compete with young people from larger markets where arts education opportunities are more prolific. Other participants are excited about the musical theatre experience as enthusiasts – or as an arts

enrichment activity. Our programs meet different levels of interest and need. Currently, 43 alumni are working professionally as performers in the musical industry field,

The goals of our programs include greater understanding of musical theatre by emphasizing character studies, script analysis, choreography, and dialect studies. Students learn complex dance routines, and learn proper singing and acting techniques. CMT's workshops / classes provide more specific musical theatre training with technical outcomes. As an added benefit students develop soft-skills, e.g., public speaking, collaboration, team-building, listening skills, and problem solving. Participating in script readings helps children gain confidence reading in front of peers and helps boost their self-esteem.

CMT hires professional artistic staff, creating a teaching roster that exposes students to a wide field of training and knowledge. CMT operates with limited paid staff (1 full-time executive director and 3 part-time employees). A large number (between 100-150) of community volunteers support the programs by serving as rehearsal assistants, costumers, hair and makeup artists, set and construction crews, security, publicity and marketing and producers (to name a few). CMT has been recognized throughout the state, receiving these awards: 2014 OK Center for Nonprofits Arts & Humanities ONE Award Recipient; 2015 Oklahoma Arts Council Governor's Arts Award for Education in the Community Recipient; and 2016 *Beacon Award Honoree* for Philanthropy in a Small Organization - *Oklahoma Journal Record*.

In 2010, after developing a comprehensive strategic plan, an 8-year \$3.8 million capital campaign (encompassing building renovations, program and personnel expansion) was launched and to date we have raised funds necessary to allow us to purchase our building, complete Phase 1, and begin Phase 2 renovations. Completed building renovations include a scene shop (where we build stage sets), a prop shop (where we store our re-usable props for performance

programs), a costume shop (where we create and store costumes sized for young people and children), administrative offices (for staff), a dance studio (for small dance ensemble rehearsals and dance classes), a vocal classroom (for rehearsing vocals and holding classes and workshops), a break area (where summer camp kids have lunch and snacks), and restrooms. The unfinished Blackbox (BB) space is currently being used for summer camps – but performances are held off-site. Once the BB is finished, camp performances can be held on-site. Phases remaining include a parking lot extension north of our building, an additional parking lot across the street from our building, and a Blackbox theatre (large rehearsal space the same size and the performance stage at the Bartlesville Community Center). In 2015, 5 of our 8 programs were held in our own building, while the other 3 were held in schools, and at the Community Center.

Completing the parking lots will increase safety for our participants entering and exiting our facility, as well as increase our capacity to accommodate parking for participants, families, and audiences. Once the parking lots are completed, we can complete the Blackbox theatre and begin to hold more programs on-site.

C. The grant is requested for 2016-2017.

D. Parking Lot 1 is a critical need. The City has agreed to close a short section of the street just north of our building, and will allow us to use it as an extended parking lot if we underwrite the cost for an extension of the 2 streets impacted by the closure. Completing this project will close a dangerous thoroughfare adjacent to our building, and provide an entry/egress traffic flow for drop off and pick up of students. This will improve safety for our participants, as well as double the amount of parking spaces next to our building. Parking Lot 2 includes purchasing 2 structures and a vacant across the street from our building, tearing down the structures and creating an additional parking lot. Once PL 2 is complete, the total parking will double. Completing the

Blackbox will allow us to hold rehearsals, performances and showcase events in our own building, as well as make the space available to other community organizations when we are not using it.

E. Specific to this request, CMT has already applied to 1 other foundation and local corporations, and will apply for grants from the 2 other major foundations - at their next grant cycle (both foundations granted us significant grants for the Phase 1 building renovations, toured our building in May 2015, and encouraged us to apply again. They indicated they would like to be the finishing gift). A local corporation has offered in-kind technical support and labor for the Blackbox project and will begin fall 2016. Architect drawings have been completed and the architect has donated his services for this project. The City is providing demo grant assistance for PL 2. CMT has identified foundations, corporations and individuals which we are actively approaching for funding of this project.