

To Whom It May Concern:

TheaterWorks is a nonprofit performing arts organization in Peoria, Arizona, currently celebrating its 40th anniversary season. As a cornerstone of cultural life in Phoenix's West Valley, TheaterWorks is dedicated to enriching the lives of our community members through accessible, high-quality performing arts experiences. Each year, we welcome more than 17,000 patrons through our doors and serve thousands more through our education and community partnership programs. As public funding for the arts continues to decline, support from private foundations and donors is more essential than ever to sustain our mission and expand our impact.

We are respectfully requesting support for our Youth Education Programs in the amount of \$15,000. This funding will provide essential support for TheaterWorks' Youth Education programming and infrastructure, ensuring that we can continue delivering transformative arts experiences to youth throughout the West Valley and Greater Phoenix. As outlined in the budget, the requested funds will cover a portion of the expenses for both TheaterAlive, After School Residency Programs, and YouthWorks productions.

One of TheaterWorks' most impactful and long-standing initiatives is TheaterAlive, a youth education program that has been at the heart of our mission since our founding in 1986. TheaterAlive provides high-quality theatrical training in acting, voice, movement, and stage presence for students of all levels. Weekly rehearsals over 12 weeks build not only theatrical skill but also confidence, teamwork, communication, and creative expression.

The program culminates in a full-scale production presented on the MainStage of the Peoria Center for the Performing Arts, complete with professional lighting, costumes, and set design. These performances offer students a rare opportunity to experience the full spectrum of theatrical production while showcasing their growth to family and peers.

Tuition fees for TheaterAlive cover only about 50% of the program's actual cost. Many families require tuition assistance, and it is our organizational commitment to never turn away a student due to financial limitations. Support from grants and foundations makes it possible to keep this vital program accessible to all. A grant from Tohono O'odham Nation will help us cover production costs and expand scholarship availability, ensuring that cost is never a barrier to participation.

Many students begin with TheaterAlive and go on to participate in our YouthWorks productions, which offer larger-scale youth theater productions that foster deeper

engagement and lifelong passion for the arts. Through this pipeline, we are cultivating the next generation of artists, audiences, and creative thinkers.

In partnership with the Peoria Unified School Districts, TheaterWorks also provides after-school residencies at no cost to participating students. These programs are currently supported with Title I funds that many fear will not be available next year. Students rehearse at their school with a team of teaching artists for 14 weeks. The program culminates with them performing their show at TheaterWorks with the assistance of the professional design team. Students are able to perform on a real stage with microphones, professional lighting, scenery, and costumes. For many students, this is their first time being in a real theater. They are able to share the experience with their families and learning communities with a free-to-the-public evening performance.

The allocated budget for these programs has been summarized below:

- Production Contract Personnel
 - Choreographers: \$3,600
 - Costume Designers: \$2,200
 - Hair and Makeup Designers: \$500
 - Instructors: \$64,880
 - Interns: \$400
 - Musical Directors: \$3,600
 - Prop Design/Property Master: \$3,000
 - Scenic Painter: \$1,500
 - Set Designer: \$2,300
 - Stage Crew: \$800
 - Stage Manager: \$4,600
 - TOTAL COST: \$87,380
- Production Expenses
 - Costume Cleaning: \$1,900
 - Costumes: \$4,900
 - Makeup: \$300
 - Materials/Scripts: \$1,200
 - Media Expenses: \$630
 - Props: \$700
 - Royalties and Rights: \$5,048
 - Set Materials: \$1,800
 - Sound Expenses: \$500
 - TOTAL COST: \$16,978
- Advertising Expenses

- TOTAL COST: \$4,200

Funds for our Youth Education Programs have been requested from the City of Peoria in the amount of \$7,500, and the application is pending approval. TheaterWorks has also requested \$7,500 from the M3F fund specifically for Youth Education Programs. Should all grants be approved, the amounts would still not completely cover the cost of our programming.

TheaterWorks has not previously received a 12% distribution from the Tohono O'odham Nation or other Arizona Tribes.

The designated contact person for this application is as follows:

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TheaterWorks has a great working relationship with the City of Peoria, as we occupy the Peoria Center for the Performing Arts. We would work with the City of Peoria should funds be approved.

TheaterWorks has served Greater Phoenix for four decades, and our commitment to community-driven, inclusive, and high-quality performing arts remains as strong as ever. Our proposal aligns with three priority areas: Education, Child Advocacy, and Cultural & Environmental Development and Protection. We continue to grow artistically and organizationally, with a record-breaking year behind us and strong momentum ahead. But sustaining and expanding our impact requires the support of partners who believe in the power of the arts to transform lives.

A \$15,000 grant will directly support our youth theater productions, education programs, and community partnerships that will strengthen our infrastructure, deepen our impact, and ensure our long-term sustainability. With your help, TheaterWorks can continue to bring transformative arts experiences to thousands of youth and families across Arizona.

We are deeply grateful for your consideration and for your commitment to keeping the arts alive and accessible in our communities.

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