

PARENT & FAMILY ASSOCIATION  
Grant Request

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Billy Joe Varney Foundation Account 02-11010-1190

Seeking funding for:  
Moving Voices, the Social Justice Program's Theatre Troupe

**Program Overview:**

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Moving Voices is a unique performance troupe whose mission is to use art as a medium for social change. Founded in Augusto Boal’s Theatre of the Oppressed technique, Moving Voices works to challenge systems of oppression, injustice and inequity on The University of Arizona campus. The premise guiding Boal’s work is that theatre must be used to give a voice to the voiceless; through theatre, individuals are allowed a safe space to practice their role in creating revolution. At The University of Arizona, Moving Voices is a group of fourteen students who use Boal’s technique to create thoughtful performances and workshops that address systems of oppression, injustice, and inequity on their campus. Their mission is to use theatre to educate and empower the campus community for positive social change.

The 2008-2009 academic year was the first year for the theatre troupe. Housed in the Center for Student Involvement & Leadership’s Social Justice Programs, Moving Voices is the first group of its kind at The University of Arizona. The Center for Student Involvement and Leadership’s Social Justice Programs supports, advocates, and educates the University of Arizona and greater community in the areas of inequality and social injustices found in our society. We look at what we can learn from the distribution of power, privilege, and oppression. Our mission is to create a socially conscious campus. We serve as a source of information and programmatic support for students who wish to change the current cultural climate of campus.

In their inaugural year, Moving Voices created an educational Invisible Theatre (Guerilla Theatre) performance on binge-drinking during Homecoming, hosted a Forum Theatre workshop at the NCLC Student Leadership Conference, performed at Foto.Synthesis (a student-led film festival), and have been invited to present on their successes at the Pedagogy of the Oppressed Annual Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota on May 21, 2009. This theatre troupe has had a profound impact on the lives of students at The University of Arizona. Because their message is based in art, social change becomes an accessible and empowering idea to both the audience and performer.

**Brief Summary of Grant Request :**

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Moving Voices Social Justice Theatre Troupe is requesting a grant of \$8100.00 in order to cover the cost of their expenses for the 2009-2010 academic year. This funding will allow the group to hire a student director, reserve rehearsal space, hire a consultant to facilitate four workshops at the beginning of the year and support the troupe in attending the annual Pedagogy of the Oppressed Conference (May 2010) where students will have the opportunity to train with Augusto Boal.

**Detailed Statement: *How will the proposal benefit a majority of students and meet immediate student needs?***

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While the funding will directly reach the 14-20 students participating in the troupe, they will be supported in an effort to reach the campus and Tucson community with a message about social change. Through focused training, rehearsals and conference presentations, the students who participate in Moving Voices gain facilitation skills, education on social justice and change, and will be empowered to serve as community leaders that will stay with them for a lifetime.

**Itemized Budget: *Including additional funding sources, university support, excluding personnel costs.***

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DESCRIPTION OF ITEM AND/OR SERVICE	\$ AMOUNT
Student Director Stipend	1000.00
Rehearsal Space	1000.00
Marketing	100.00
Consultant Fees	800.00
Catering/Food	200.00
Pedagogy of the Oppressed Annual Conference	5000.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>8100.00</b>

**Outcomes, Measures, and Assessment:**

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It is through interactions with students, faculty and staff members who have attended the Moving Voices performances and workshops that we have ascertained the impact of the troupe on campus. An evaluation tool has been available to assess our workshops, but is not offered at our performances. Performance assessment is qualitative, measured by audience responses and participation.

As a department, student development is an important outcome of our programming. Moving Voices members are provided with an annual evaluation tool to provide feedback/recommendations, reflect on their individual development and contribution and strategize ways to better reach the campus community. Because the troupe is so new, we do not have concrete data to provide at this time. Participation is an important indicator of program success on campus- this theatre troupe has maintained a core group of 14 committed students for the entire academic year.