



The Prana Fund Request for Proposals

The Prana Fund at the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation is seeking innovative proposals from Charlottesville area nonprofit agencies or schools. Partnerships between organizations that engage in equitable practices to expand access for all children and those that promote the visual and performing arts are particularly encouraged.

Emphasis:

Nonprofit organizations eligible for this award will be those:

- working in Charlottesville and/or Albemarle County;
- primarily engaging children who have traditionally experienced limited access to the arts and outdoors; and
- integrating the visual or performing arts and the environment.

Many children have not had the opportunity to understand the fragility and experience the wonder of the natural world. Through this exposure, children can learn to value the environment and be good stewards. The visual arts provide an outlet for expression and learning. The combination of both can promote an important sense of self-worth and connection to the world. For these reasons, the Prana Fund seeks to provide this type of opportunity for children in the area.

Special consideration will be given to projects that incorporate hands-on learning and a multi-disciplinary approach in a joyful, creative way that builds memory through alternative learning methods.

Examples:

The Prana Fund supports programs serving children that successfully integrate the arts and the environment. Following are descriptions of projects that have received funding along with an example of *an additional enhancing idea* that would build upon the project and represent a deeper study into visual art. These additional ideas illustrate ways to incorporate a left brain/right brain approach that enhances learning while integrating the study of artists, art styles, and art history.

1. Boys and Girls Club of Charlottesville/Albemarle for their *Forest Discoveries* program. This program provided Boys and Girls Club members the opportunity to discover the “urban



wilderness” forest located right behind the Cherry Avenue Unit of the Club, and it expanded the program to include a Scientist-in-Residence and an Artist-in-Residence. A public art exhibit was also held at the McGuffey Art Center.

**Additional Idea:* Children create murals, make paper mâché, and are introduced to J. J. Audubon, an illustrator of birds and other wildlife, as a way to study images and make drawings and constructions.

2. Youth Learning Academy for the *Design & Challenge Green Initiative*, a hands-on program that linked students (ages 6-18) with local architects and builders who provided skills training, active learning and mentorship opportunities in the design and construction fields. The program integrated environmental education, green design, and sustainable building practices into the Design & Challenge Initiative. The students were praised by the ASPCA for their “Barkitecture” project in which they constructed 125 dog houses for pets that lost their homes in Hurricane Katrina.

**Additional Idea:* Students choose an architectural style or architect, such as Frank Lloyd Wright, and use the style as inspiration for the design of their doghouse.

3. The City Schoolyard Garden at Buford to expand their outdoor organic garden classroom. In addition to teaching the benefits of growing one’s own food, the garden provides an opportunity for classroom-to-garden instruction for ESL, English, Math, Science and Art classes.

**Additional Idea:* Students study examples of Matisse' "cut-outs" and then create their own designs or compositions using cut and torn colored paper made into shapes of vegetables and fruit. These designs could also be inspirations for printmaking. Additionally, students learn about Monet, the Impressionist painter who loved his garden so much he spent hours designing the garden and then painting the garden during different times of the day to show the effects of light on color.

Eligibility:

The agency must be a 501(c) (3) public charity or government agency (such as a school) working in Charlottesville and/or Albemarle County. A majority of children served by the proposed program must be from households who qualify for free/reduced priced lunch. The Prana Fund will not support endowment campaigns, annual appeals, or awards to individuals.

Amount of Grant:

Funding requests up to \$15,000 will be considered, though smaller proposals are welcome.

Proposal Requirements:



- One Page project request summary

- evidence of 501(c)(3) public charity status
- agency's most recent financial statement
- one-page project budget
- list of project leaders, artists and other professionals
- list of board of directors and key staff members' roles in the project

The recipient(s) will be announced by December 31st

What is the Reporting Process?

A grant recipient is expected to use the funds for the purpose approved in the grant award, and funds are to be expended within the specified period. Grant recipients will engage in an interim check-in in June or July, either with a phone call or site visit. This will be a time to share successes and challenges, as well as any modifications that may be needed to complete the grant work. If, at the interim stage, you have completed your grant work, we encourage you to complete the **Prana Grant Reporting Form**. The **Prana Grant Reporting Form** will be mailed to recipient organizations along with grant award materials.

Please call Daniel Fairley II, Donor Relations Manager, at (434) 234-4349 or email dfairley@cacfonline.org for more information or with questions regarding your proposal idea.