



Examples of Organization Histories and Backgrounds

[Examples and full proposals are made available through **4Good**, a collaborative online resource for non-profits and are intended for *reference purposes only*.
Visit them: <https://4good.org/>]

Contents

Examples #2 and #3 provide examples of how the same organization must tailor the description of their organizational history to meet the requirements of the funder and/or validate through their history that they have the right experience and knowledge for the project for which they seek funding.

Example #1: **Funder:** Unnamed Foundation funding senior health
Submitted by: Little Tokyo Service Center (LTCS), Community Development Corporation

Example #2: **Funder:** Build a Bear Foundation
Submitted by: The Ink People Center for the Arts

Example #3: **Funder:** National Endowment for the Arts, Access to Artistic Excellence Program
Submitted by: The Ink People Center for the Arts



Example #1

Funder: Unnamed Foundation funding senior health.

Submitted by: Little Tokyo Service Center (LTCS), Community Development Corporation

Grant request: \$50,000

Project summary: To support the Senior Services Program and its endeavors to serve Japanese and API seniors living in Los Angeles. Three areas of particular need in this senior population are bilingual case management, care giving to delay nursing home care and alleviate isolation, and transportation services. ()

ORGANIZATION HISTORY

Little Tokyo Service Center, a Community Development Corporation (LTSC) is an independent 501(c)(3) organization first established in 1979 to provide linguistically appropriate and culturally sensitive social services for the Little Tokyo neighborhood and the broader Japanese American community in Los Angeles especially those facing language or cultural gaps, financial need, or physical disabilities. Responding to the various changes and challenges facing Little Tokyo and the broader community in the past twenty-seven years, LTSC has grown significantly in size, scope, and breadth, including the establishment of the community development arm of the organization. Today, LTSC continues to provide the bicultural and bilingual social services that originally motivated its establishment along with programs focusing on holistic community growth, economic development, and revitalization of Little Tokyo.

Our Real Estate Development Program has a solid track record in affordable housing development. We have developed over 500 units of affordable housing for low-income families, children and individuals including the first affordable family-housing complex built in Little Tokyo in 50 years. In addition we have developed over 120,000 square feet of community facilities and commercial space.

Our social service programs include counseling and case management for seniors, adults and children, child abuse prevention programs, transitional housing for survivors of domestic violence, emergency services, consumer education, small business assistance, early childhood education including infant/toddler childcare, tenant services, after-school and Saturday programs.



Example #2

Funder: Build a Bear Foundation

Submitted by: The Ink People Center for the Arts

Grant request: \$4,960

Project summary: For the Old Growth Redwoods Are Alive! Project, an education project that engages fourth and fifth grade students in science field classrooms and also encourages them to express the aesthetic value of their knowledge of old growth redwood ecology. Students will discover salmon habitat, our local amphibians and reptiles, the pollination and purposes of ground cover, details about how to measure the size of old growth coastal redwoods, how they get water, use water and create weather and what creatures live in these majestic old growth coastal redwood trees. ()

The history / background statement is in response to the following request from the grantmaker: “All of the following must be addressed for your proposal to be considered. We do appreciate brevity & clarity! *Background of Organization:* What are the goals, objectives, and accomplishments of your organization? List principal personnel along with relevant background, experience, and qualifications for undertaking the project.”

Background of the organization

The Ink People Center for the Arts is dedicated to nurturing culture through the education and involvement of artists and arts lovers. Programs and services are offered to create vibrant and visionary tools for community cultural development, and to weave the arts into the fabric of community. Founded in 1979, The Ink People is a community-based arts and culture organization with over 400 members and over 50 programs. Each year, over 20,000 local residents and visitors participate in our programs.

The Ink People has a long time presence in Humboldt County and northern California as a community-based, grassroots, artist-run arts and culture organization. We are organized on community access principles and the belief that art, in all its forms, is essential to the human spirit and well-being. We base our activities in a philosophy of sharing and community building. Even though we operate primarily in Humboldt County, we have been a strong presence in northern California. Over the years, we found that our sensibilities resonated with many people. We believe in communal values - sharing equipment, experience, and support. We think it is important to listen to people’s hopes and dreams, and to help realize them, but not do it for them. We feel that arts and culture should be an integral and conscious part of everyone’s life, so we set about weaving the arts back into the fabric of our community.



We know that kids are the future and are incredibly challenged by today's world, so we try to give them tools to build successful and fulfilling lives. In doing these things, we found ourselves acting as a hub and facilitator for many different kinds of projects. As a means of allowing people to try out their ideas before committing to the corporate structure, we started "incubating" DreamMaker programs over 15 years ago. We give them peer support, advice, technical assistance, a sound administrative structure, and lots of compassionate handholding.

Located in the old Winship School behind the Municipal Auditorium in Eureka, the facility provides a home for our main galleries; shared artist's studios in photography, printmaking, drawing & painting, fiber arts & weaving, digital arts, and performance; a computer center with free public Internet access; administrative offices; and a lending library. The facility is also home to our "core" and DreamMaker programs. Core programs include our Gallery Exhibitions, Arts School, Artist Residencies, monthly Newsletter, ArtsOnline, Fresh Arts Youth Project, Rural Burl Mural Bureau, DMZ (Digital Media Zone), MARZ (Magic Action Reface Zone), and Alternative Gallery Program. DreamMaker programs include the Hmong Community of the Northcoast, Institute of Native Knowledge, Redwood Coast Writers' Center, Old Women's Theatre, Whimsy Garden, North Coast Storytellers, Fire Arts Center Educational Programs, Life Drawing Group, Humboldt County Youth Arts/Placebo, Original Voices, Viols, Recorders, Krumhorns & All, We Pan, ASK ME, Ban Longya Project, Brazilian Cultural Arts Center, Horai Center for Study of Pacific Culture, Elemental, Synapsis, Vagabond Players, KKDS-Blue Ox Humboldt Bay Youth Radio, Grella Productions, and Steelhead Special Publications. Programs that have successfully outgrown the incubator: Redwood Curtain Theater, Plays-In-Progress, North Redwoods Book Arts Guild, The Studio for Disabled Artists, Copia Group, Astrum Dance Theater, Intertribal Coalition for Cultural Continuity, and the Redwood Discovery Museum.

Libby Maynard is the Executive Director of The Ink People Center for the Arts and co-founder of the organization. As well as being a professional artist, she has over 30 years of nonprofit administrative experience. She received her BA and MA in art from Humboldt State University. Her artwork has been exhibited throughout California, and is in collections across the nation. Maynard is a consultant in nonprofit management and program development. Presently, she serves on the Boards of Directors of the California Assembly of Local Arts Agencies, Alliance for California Traditional Arts, Humboldt County Workforce Investment Board, Access Humboldt, and Humboldt County Arts & Culture Industry Cluster. Previous Board service includes the Humboldt Arts Council, California Association of Nonprofits, Cooperative Community Fund, Eureka Main Street, North Coast Cooperatives, Inc. (a consumer food co-op), California Confederation of the Arts, Redwood Discovery Museum, Plays-In-Progress, Arcata Community Access Television, and chair of the Rural and Small Communities Interest Area of Americans for the Arts.

In past years, she worked as a Program Administrator for the California State University Summer Arts Program, Executive Director of the Humboldt Arts Council, as well as teaching printmaking at Humboldt State University, College of the Redwoods, and Pelican Bay State Prison. She previously served as President of Rural Arts Services, Founding President and Secretary of the



California Assembly of Local Arts Agencies, grant review panelist for the California Arts Council's Artists in Residence, Folk Arts, and Organizational Support Programs, and as a site visitor for the CAC and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Redwoods Education Project Director is Barbara A. Domanchuk, a professional digital media producer. She produces and edits commercial, documentary and educational movies. Her productions are seen locally and abroad. She also teaches digital video production and editing to youth and teens through her program The Young Media Makers and her Ink People program ASK ME: Art and Science for Kids interested in Media and Education. She is the director of an annual digital media festival that she created in 2000, entitled Big Screen.



Example #3

Funder: National Endowment for the Arts, Access to Artistic Excellence Program.

Submitted by: The Ink People Center for the Arts

Grant request: \$35,000

Project summary: Project to continue our work to improve and enhance local arts and cultural groups' ability to realize their artistic and public benefit goals through training and individualized technical assistance and to enrich the cultural fabric of the community by helping visionary artists create solutions for community challenges.

Organizational Background

Incorporated in 1979, our mission is that The Ink People Center for the Arts changes lives by connecting the community with resources for cultural development. We empower people to exercise their humanity, build civic discourse, and engage their creative potential. The Ink People has a long time presence in Humboldt County and northern California as a community-based, grassroots, artist-run arts and culture organization. We are organized on community-access principles and the belief that art, in all its forms, is essential to the human spirit and well-being. Basing our activities in a philosophy of sharing and community building, we believe in communal values - sharing equipment, experience, and support. We think it is important to listen to people's hopes and dreams, and to offer tools with which to realize them, but not do it for them. The arts and culture should be an integral and conscious part of everyone's life, so we set about weaving the arts back into the fabric of our community. We know that kids are the future and are incredibly challenged by today's world, so we try to give them tools to build successful and fulfilling lives.

The Ink People has over 400 members and is dedicated to nurturing culture through the education and involvement of artists and arts audiences. The Eureka City Council has designated us as the City's local arts agency and we staff the Eureka Arts & Culture Commission. Along with the DreamMaker program, the Center is home to on-going programs, including a busy schedule of exhibitions, performances, and educational opportunities for youth and adults; a monthly newsletter; Rural Burl Mural Bureau public art project, Digital Media Zone, MARZ youth digital storytelling and music project, an annual Open Studio Tour, and artist residencies.

We have been growing DreamMaker projects for 20 years and the roster presently includes the Eureka Art & Culture Council, Institute of Native Knowledge, Redwood Coast Writers' Center, Dia de los Muertos Community Committee, Fire Arts Center, Original Voices, Mosaic Productions, Comite de Madres, Steelhead Special, Hmong Community of the North Coast, Brazilian Cultural Arts Center, Ban Longya Project, The Placebo youth arts, Hit & Run Productions and Vagabond Players youth theaters, Life Drawing Group, Bandemonium, Horai Center for the Study of Pacific Culture, Sculpture Studio@Blue Ox, Arts into Action Network, Origin Design Lab, United Future,



WildRivers 101 Film Festival, and a host of other artist- and community-initiated ventures employing the visual, performing, literary, and media arts and culture to serve community's cultural and capacity building needs.

Our facility houses the galleries, shared artist studios including facilities for photography, printmaking, drawing and painting, fiber arts and weaving, and digital arts, small performance space, free public computer center, arts library, and administrative offices.

Humboldt County is on California's far north coast, 300 miles north of San Francisco and 110 miles south of the Oregon border. A population of 130,000 is geographically isolated between ocean, rugged mountains and redwood forests. The Center's membership is 36% non-Euro due to effective and longstanding outreach, while the county's population is 77% Euro, 10% Native American, 10% Latino, and 3% other. The county is faced with an abnormally high unemployment rate, low median household incomes and home ownership figures, high drug abuse and mental illness rates, and a large year-round transient population.