



RECEIVED
TIME

JUL - 6 2018

CITY OF FT. PIERCE
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

Mr. Nick Mimms,

The Bridge Effect Foundation (**TBEF**) seeks to bridge the gap between services offered to the community, and the services actually needed to reduce societal tension, stress, and anxiety. TBEF would like the opportunity to take over financial responsibility of the Old St. Anastasia school building which would include bringing the building up to code, renovating, occupying, all while maintaining historical integrity. The Bridge Effect Foundation has been receiving tremendous support from Lincoln Park and community leaders. We would like to see the building remain city owned but in return we'd like to negotiate a long term lease. Our goal is to offer a full performing arts center at no cost to families. The Bridge Effect Foundation consists of a board of directors, a community advisory board, a financial advisor, a legal team, a brand manager, and mental health professionals.

The Dream: By eliminating the cost of performing arts classes, TBEF will open doors to opportunities currently closed to children that come from little to no means. We dream for every child to have the chance to experience the arts despite where they come from, and regardless of any negative past experiences. This dream becomes reality if we can provide a performing arts center to the Fort Pierce, Florida community.

Benefits: The benefits that come from giving every child in the community a chance to experience the arts would be boundless. Children could transform into college-bound, scholarship-earning community leaders, returning to the community trained, with career-paths and dreams of their own. They'll build characteristics like self-esteem, courage, ambition, and determination. The areas of study, skill development, and experience gained from this school would be life changing.

The Vision: To offer a great performing arts center, at no cost to students from all walks of life. Gather great instructors to construct, offer weekly classes, master classes, and workshops. Put together performing arts shows that present art, dance, music, theater, poetry/spoken word, and more. Offer a professional recording studio. "Heathy kids create healthy communities" -Emily Whitehouse.

This center would double as a local children's art gallery, showcasing work from students and instructors alike. Students would train to produce entire shows – from lights, music, costumes, and make-up, stage etiquette, performing, engaging an audience, and creating student lead performances. Students will also be exposed to the set design, production technology, and broadcasting. We will always continue to grow and learn as a center to offer as much experience as possible.

Advantages: We'd keep kids out of trouble and give them a safe place to come and release tensions, and show safe ways to express themselves. We would guide students to interact appropriately and comfortably in society. We would give children a way to become leaders again! A break from constant technology and tools for reality, this center is a conduit providing our community's children not only a platform, but self-affirming power.

The Bridge Effect Foundation, Inc.

A 501(c)3, Non-profit organization.

2740 SW Martin Downs Blvd. , Suite 171, Palm City, FL 34957

(772) 232-8688 | www.BridgeEffect.org



How: Be able to sustain long term, through an endowment fund as well as become self-sufficient by hosting student events, fundraisers, and performances. Continue to build excellent relationships in the community. To reach out and help other foundations before ourselves. It take a whole lot more than a village to help a child.

Curriculum: Students will have a shared vision and will feel they belong to something more. They will learn effortlessly how to be a part of something great! Pull out the talent these youth did not even realize they had.

Art students will be taught basic (traditional), and advanced (contemporary) techniques, with instructors and students having their art displayed in school's art gallery, and in art shows.

Drama students will learn about acting, stage etiquette, and live performances technicalities such as lighting, sound, props, and their own stories alive on stage,

Dance students will have the opportunity to learn and study many styles of dance and prepare for performances.

Spoken word students will take workshops and classes to become performance, and competition, ready.

Music students will take classes in vocal and/or instruments, and have the opportunity to perform. Students will gain respect for classical art, culture, themselves, and others.

Responsibility will be a huge piece of performing arts education. They will also encounter real world opportunities such as being invited to perform in annual and semi annual shows.

The End Goal: Make an impact in our community through helping the ones who will eventually be in charge. Give each student a shot at something they may have never thought possible, given their situations. Grow every year, adding more classes. At the end of the day no matter if child comes from all the money in the world, sickness, health, diseases, disorders, broken homes, poverty, foster care systems, suicide attempts, drug abuse, physical abuse, human trafficking, two loving parents that just don't make enough, or no home at all I want to supply them with something real, that they never saw coming to them.

Please help this dream become a community service.

Genuinely,

Cindy Bridges.

Director, Child and Family Initiatives

The Bridge Effect Foundation

Director, Children & Family Initiatives

Phone: 772-342-8651

Email: cindy@bridgeeffect.org

The Bridge Effect Foundation Inc.

Registration# CH49898

Expiration Date: 11/2018

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Florida House of Representatives
Representative Larry Lee, Jr.
District 84

July 5, 2018

RE: RENOVATION OF THE OLD ANASTASIA SCHOOL
BY THE BRIDGE EFFECT FOUNDATION, INC.

To Whom It May Concern:

It is indeed an honor and privilege to support The Bridges Effect Foundation (TBEF) in its efforts to restore the Old St Anastasia school building by making it come alive again with a Performing Arts Center. This Center will offer art services in our community at no cost to children and their families. It is extremely important to note that TBEF is willing to assume financial responsibility of the Old St. Anastasia building which includes bringing the building up to code, renovating the building while maintaining its historical integrity, and restoring it without the city having to find the funding.

As a State Representative and long-term member of this community, I can readily envision the positive effects of providing the occasion for all our children, regardless of their station in life, to experience the benefits of the performing arts. TBEF, by eliminating the cost of performing arts classes, will open doors previously closed to these opportunities and experiences within our community. It is also pleasing to note that they have a plan for long-term continuation and sustainability.

It is my pleasure to support the goals of The Bridges Effect Foundation. I respectfully request your consideration and support of their mission. I look forward to speaking with you personally about the prospective benefits it will bring to our community.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Lee, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line.

Larry Lee, Jr.
State Representative, District 84

DISTRICT OFFICE:
100 North US Highway 1
Fort Pierce, FL 34950
Phone: (772) 595-1391
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COMMITTEES:

Higher Education
Appropriations
Subcommittee,
Democratic Ranking Member

PreK-12 Appropriations
Subcommittee,
Democratic Ranking Member

Select Committee on
Hurricane Response and
Preparedness
Democratic Ranking Member

Education Committee

PreK-12 Innovation
Subcommittee

STAFF:
Mary Alice Bennett
Legislative Aide

Tangie Jennings
District Aide



Hibiscus Children's Center
Saving Children Since 1985

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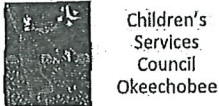
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Agencies that help support our programs ...



Children's Services Council
Okeechobee



Devereux Community Based Care
of Okeechobee and the Treasure Coast



October 31, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great pleasure that I highly support the mission of The Lindsay School of the Arts. For the past ten years, I have served as the Activities & Volunteer Coordinator at Hibiscus Children's Center, a home for abused and neglected children and teens, here in Vero Beach. Due to the nature of our children's backgrounds, their potential behaviors, along with their various lengths of stay in our group home facility, it can be difficult to acquire scholarships for enrichment programs. We have found that enrolling the children in dance, music, or any other arts program is extremely therapeutic, and we are grateful to those organizations who have opened their doors and allowed our children to participate thus far. Our dream would be an organization with plenty of room for our clients, and well-trained staff who would be familiar with the dynamic of the children we serve and how to best meet their needs in a productive, fulfilling environment.

This ideal setting seems to be completely summed up in the vision of The Lindsay School of the Arts. We look forward to collaborating with them in the future, and we truly appreciate their initiative to take on such a wonderful project in our community!

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Donna Clements

Volunteer & Activities Coordinator

Hibiscus Children's Center

1145 12th Street

Vero Beach, FL 32960

772-299-6011 Ext 334

dclements@hcc4kids.org

www.hibiscuschildrenscenter.org

Sheltering Children, Strengthening Families, and Nurturing Futures

2920 S 25th Street | Fort Pierce, FL 34981

Phone (772) 340-5720 | Fax (772) 323-2404

HibiscusChildrensCenter.org

Daniela Dreizehnter - hdtd@att.net - 772.626.2624

November 21, 2017

Re.: Letter of Support

To whom it may concern,

My name is Dani Dreizehnter. I've been a police officer with the City of Fort Pierce since 2001. Since 2004 I have worked exclusively with youth in the low-income Lincoln Park area of our city. Over the years, I've seen many non-profit programs for youth come and go. Many vanished into oblivion because they either did not have a good business plan, did not address the needs of the youth, did not have true youth-centered leadership, did not understand the culture of our city, or did not provide services that touched the youth's lives on a relevant level.

Cindy Bridges recently approached me with her business plan for the Lindsey School of the Arts. I can tell you that listening to her presentation was a breath of fresh air. Miss Bridges has innovative ideas, well thought out plans, and is addressing the needs of our youth – after school programs based on something other than sports – the fine arts. Our youth are looking for safe places to develop and nurture often untapped talents such as dance, poetry, rap, and other performing arts genres. She is very familiar with the dynamics of our citizenry, understands the needs of our youth, and brings her own performing arts experience to the table.

It is for these reasons that I support Miss Bridges and her drive to start her after school program, the Lindsey School of the Arts. I wish her all the best for her future endeavors.

Sincerely,


Daniela Dreizehnter

January 5, 2018

Re: Letter of Support

To whom it may concern,

My name is Christopher English and I am the Unit Director of a Children's Crisis Stabilization Unit in our community. I have been working with high risk children and adolescents in this setting for the last 2 years and have observed the dire need for stability and opportunity for the clients with whom I come into contact. During my time here, I have had the pleasure of working with Cindy Bridges. Her dedication and enthusiasm for the population we work with is unparalleled.

Cindy Bridges recently informed me of her plan for the Lindsey School of the Arts and her ideas are both inventive and attainable. Her plan has the potential to address a long unmet need in our community. The children who will be served through Ms. Bridges program will be afforded an opportunity to express themselves in a way they had not previously been aware of.

It is with high confidence that I recommend Ms. Bridges be given the opportunity to make a difference in our community and the lives of these children through the Lindsey School of the Arts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christopher English', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Christopher English

To whom it may concern:

I am a soon to be licensed mental health counselor with six years of experience working in community based mental health services with a focus on children, adolescents, and their families. Performing arts provides children and adolescents a means to express themselves, build confidence, and enhance their social support. Unfortunately, many children and families I work with lack the resources or access to performing arts programs. I have worked closely with Cindy Bridges for a number of months and feel confident in expressing my full support for her pursuit of The Lindsay School of the Arts. I believe Ms. Bridges' proposed project will greatly benefit the community of Fort Pierce, Florida.

The Lindsay School of the Arts will provide a haven for children within the community to express themselves and build broader connections within their community. Several families I work with in Fort Pierce express concerns of safety for their children and adolescents. In turn, many children feel isolated from the community. At the Lindsay School of the Arts, children will experience a sense of safety and belonging. They will no longer feel isolated, but hopeful due to the possibilities that will unfold for them such as scholarships, job offers, and careers. The arts encourage characteristics such as courage, self-expression, and ambition. Research also indicates that performing arts improves academic performance. The Lindsay School of the Arts will create job opportunities for teachers and creators within the community. This school will also become a cultural hub in Fort Pierce. Ms. Bridges envisions that the Lindsay School of the Arts will double as an art gallery for students and local artists to showcase their work. Music, dance, and theater productions will also be open to the community.

The Lindsay School of the Arts will empower students to grow as they gain valuable skills such as respect, responsibility, and creative problem solving. Children will be given a voice through music, dance, theater, and written word. When children are given a voice...when a community is given a voice...the possibilities are endless.

Sincerely,

Emily Whitehouse, MSED, Registered Mental Health Counseling Intern

Emilylouise.whitehouse@gmail.com

(757) 749-3761