

Bean Micro-Grant Handout
Margaret Shipman, Exhibitions Manager
Brattleboro Museum & Art Center
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Sample winning proposal

Art in the Neighborhood



Brief description of your project: For the past four years, ART IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD has been providing tuition-free art classes to children in two under-served neighborhoods in Brattleboro. We recognize the many benefits of Brattleboro's rich artistic and cultural milieu, and at-

tempt to make those benefits available to children in challenging economic and social circumstances. We provide year-round classes at Westgate and work with the Clark/Canal Community Association free lunch and activities program during the summers. Because of the Clark/Canal neighborhood's location on the edge of Brattleboro's downtown district, we particularly attempt to enhance the visibility and positive aspects of this neighborhood through art. Our goal is also to connect the kids more directly to the wider community. Last year the Clark/Canal kids painted a mural on the walls of a meeting room in the Municipal Center. This summer we won a Town Arts Committee juried competition to produce a mural for the Transportation Center. The result is a lively and whimsical mural titled "WAYS TO GO." It was featured in the September Gallery Walk.

We are currently consulting with several community organizations to expand our program to another community in Brattleboro. We are applying for a BEAN grant to help this process.

If your project is funded, how, exactly, will you spend your BEAN micro-grant (which is not likely to exceed \$300)? We have been hoping to expand our program to the Ledgewood Heights neighborhood, a low-income housing complex off Canal Street that is run by the Brattleboro Housing Authority. We will be consulting with community members there to develop an art program that would incorporate landscape design. The outdoor environment there could benefit from plantings of bushes, trees, and flowers. Money from a BEAN grant will be used to purchase items to enhance the built environment there. We would engage the children in the planting process as a prelude to creating other forms of art.

If funded, what will you present at the next BEAN dinner? In other words, will your grant have helped you accomplish?: Our hope is to start a process of community engagement that includes beautification of the environment and excitement about creating art. A BEAN micro grant will help us purchase the flowers, shrubs, and trees to start this process. It will be a visual reminder that the larger community cares about Ledgewood. We will publicize the project in the newspapers as a way to build community pride. This aligns with the larger goals of ART IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD: making the artistic, aesthetic, and cultural qualities of Brattleboro available to all, and enhancing community visibility for low-income communities.

Applicant: Mollie Burke

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Sample winning proposal

Maasai Weaving Project

Brief description of your project:

The cattle of the Maasai as well as the wildlife of the Maasai Mara Reserve in Kenya are dying from ingesting discarded plastic bags littering the environment. This summer, I will travel to Kenya with James Nampushi, a Maasai leader, to teach women and children his village to collect



and clean the bags and weave them into rugs and other products that can be sold to visiting tourists. Nampushi was quoted in a recent newspaper article, "When this finds its way to Kenya, it will not only save wildlife from plastic but it will transform communities, improving the quality of life so that people can buy food, send their kids to school. The goal is to get people making a long-lasting product." Our hope is that this project will bring awareness to the government and the local community about a need to limit the use of plastic bags. We will also be providing training in a skill that would allow women of the village to gain independence and income. The process of turning the collected bags into "plarn" may be adapted to t-shirts allowing for weaving and knitting of other recycled materials.



If your project is funded, how, exactly, will you spend your BEAN micro-grant (which is not likely to exceed \$300)?: Your support of this proposal will go toward the purchase of two looms, knitting needles and other necessary supplies.

If funded, what will you present at the next BEAN dinner? In other words, will your grant have helped you accomplish?: I have samples of items that we have made from recycled plastic bags and would be happy to share them along with photos and video of James and me learning how to weave. When I return from Kenya I will bring more images of the women in the community collecting and crafting the bags into beautiful products.

Applicant: Linda Whelihan

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B.E.A.N. MICRO-GRANT APPLICATION

Dinner: Sunday, January 13 at 6 p.m. **Funding Requests Due:** Wednesday, January 9 at 5 p.m.

Applicants are asked to attend the January 13, 2013 B.E.A.N. Dinner at which their proposal will be considered . If you can't make it you may send a representative. We encourage you to bring as many friends and supporters as you like!

We may choose to post your proposal at the Elliot Street Café and/or online at www.brattleboromuseum.org.

If you have previously submitted an application, you are more than welcome to re-submit or ask us to reuse your previous application.

Your answers may continue onto the back of this form.

Questions? Contact Margaret Shipman at 802.257.0124 x103 or margaret@brattleboromuseum.org

Name	Email
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Last	
Address	Address Line 2
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Project Title:

Brief description of your project:

If your project is funded, how, exactly, will you spend your BEAN micro-grant (which is not likely to exceed \$300)?:

One condition of accepting a B.E.A.N. micro-grant is that you agree to come to the next B.E.A.N. dinner (schedule permitting) and share your results with us. What do you expect to show us at this time? In other words, what outcome will you have accomplished?

Have you received a B.E.A.N. Micro-Grant before? If so, when and how much?

If your project is not funded, would you like it to be automatically considered at the next B.E.A.N. Micro-Grant Dinner?

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Starting Your Own Micro-Grant Dinner is Easy Space • Food • Publicity • Grant

- **Find a space for people to gather.** Establishing a consistent time and place makes it easier to build an engaged and committed community.
- **Find food.** You could start a group that rotates food responsibilities, you could make the event a pot-luck, or you could find a local café willing to partner with you.
- **Put out a call for proposals** for your micro-grant dinner. Use Facebook, Twitter, create a blog or website, hang posters around town. Make it clear what your group does.
- **Sell the dinner** for a modest profit.
- **Distribute** the grant according to the vote.
- **Document** your activities and share your experiences with others.

Useful Resources:

Chicago inCUBATE project lays out a detailed plan for starting up a dinner available at sundaysoup.com

Read the details of a successful project called FEAST in Brooklyn at feastinbklyn.org



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