

**City of Lawrence
2007 Alcohol Tax Funds
Request for Proposals
Calendar Year 2007 (January – December)
Cover Page**

Agency Name: Van Go Mobile Arts Inc

Program Name: JAMS (Jobs in the Arts Make Sense)

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Request is for funding in the following categories and amounts:

<u> X </u>	Prevention	\$ <u> 47,500 </u>
<u> </u>	Treatment	\$ <u> </u>
<u> </u>	Intervention	\$ <u> </u>
<u> </u>	Coordination	\$ <u> </u>

1. Program Description

JAMS (Jobs in the Arts Make Sense) is Van Go's year-round, innovative youth employment program for at-risk teens ages 14 – 21 that was developed to help fill the existing gap in social services for this age group in Lawrence. It is not designed to create artists, but instead uses art as the vehicle to help teens gain protective factors, job and life skills, and economic resources needed to be successful. Van Go gets referrals from community partners who identify teens living in poverty, involved in the juvenile justice system, in foster care and at risk for truancy, teen pregnancy or drug/alcohol use. Van Go interviews and hires teens for three 8-week work sessions during which they work with professional teaching-artists. Teens are paid minimum wage to create art objects that are sold in the student-run gallery, through which \$50,000 worth of student-made artwork is sold annually to the Lawrence community.

In addition to teaching important job skills such as task completion, punctuality, responsibility, and teamwork, JAMS includes life skills training. Essential to this training is building protective factors that help our youth make positive life choices. We have a Social Worker (MSW) on staff that counsels our teens and connects them with other resources in the community, such as DCCCA. Van Go is an agency whose prevention programming fits perfectly into the Communities That Care model, developed by Drs. Hawkins and Catalano, which is the prevention approach adopted by the state of Kansas. Van Go incorporates three steps described in the CTC model that are essential to positive bonding:

- 1) Provide opportunities for involvement – Participating children are involved in the planning and creation of original artwork as they work with professional teaching artists over an 8-week period.
- 2) Enhance the development of cognitive and social skills – All participants learn, practice, and are evaluated on effective and respectful communication with their peers and staff (i.e.: not interrupting others, expressing frustrations appropriately).
- 3) Recognize participants for skillful performance – All Van Go projects culminate with a public show or performance of the work the participants have created.

Additionally, Van Go uses proven effective strategies that were documented in the 1999 nationwide YouthArts study, sponsored in part by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The study shows that arts programs for at-risk kids deter delinquent behavior, reduce court referrals, improve participants' ability to complete tasks, and improve communication skills. Many of the best practices recommended in the study are key components of Van Go programming:

-Collaboration among various agencies: Van Go community partners Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center, Douglas County Youth Services, Lawrence/Douglas County Housing Authority, Chamber of Commerce, USD #497 and others.

-Apprentice relationships: Van Go youth are mentored by on-staff artists who guide them through the process of working with clients and creating professional art projects.

-Active student participation in public performance or exhibition: Van Go youth create art projects that are permanently displayed in the public arena—murals, benches, painted newspaper racks and more.

-Low staff/participant ratio: Van Go youth benefit from a staff/participant ratio of 1:4.

-Programming that meets at least twice a week for at least two hours: Van Go youth meet four days a week, for a total of 10 hours, in the spring and fall; they meet four days a week, for a total of 22 hours, in the summer.

The services provided by Van Go are extremely unique and are not provided by any other agency in Douglas County. Van Go is the only arts-based social service agency in Kansas and is the largest employer of at-risk youth in Lawrence. We serve at-risk youth *only* and specialize in their development. Many of our participants are alienated from their school environment and have no outlets for positive self-expression; these are youth for whom anonymity and failure are routine.

2. Needs Assessment

Local research has shown that substance abuse, for which Van Go youth are at heightened risk, is higher among Douglas County youth than among youth statewide. USD 497 data collected by Drs. Hawkins and Catalano in 2005 indicated substance abuse levels at or above state averages among local 10th graders:

- 35% of respondents reported having used alcohol in the past 30 days
- 16.2% reported using marijuana in the past 30 days (nearly twice the state average of 8.6%).
- 40% reported availability of drugs as a risk factor (the state average was 27%)

Research by Drs. Hawkins and Catalano also has demonstrated that Van Go services lessen the risk that youth will engage in self-destructive behavior. Van Go is the *only* organization in Douglas County that performs these essential tasks:

- 1) Targets high-risk youth for direct social services, using the arts as a vehicle
- 2) Employs high-risk teens year-round, providing them with opportunities for leadership, skill-building and employment
- 3) Engages youth in a teamwork process to solve problems and complete art projects
- 4) Connects alienated teens to their community through visible public arts projects

3. Outcomes

Van Go will serve 90 at-risk youth during this funding cycle and will provide a total of **9,200 hours of direct service.**

Process Outcome: 30 hours of life skills lessons, including drug and alcohol prevention, will be provided to 90 at-risk youth, ages 14-21, during 2008.

Behavioral Outcome: In 2008, 88% of the participants will show an improvement in their overall workplace evaluation scores conducted at weeks 2 and 8.

Impact Outcome: By 2010, 70% of JAMS graduates will have made a successful transition to the workforce, as measured by follow-up interviews.

Outcome Evaluation: The evaluation tool used by Van Go to measure the extent to which its constituents are learning clear standards is the Participant Work Evaluation. This form measures the elements of the program most essential for successful completion of JAMS and in life. The JAMS Program Director evaluates the teens at the end of weeks 2, 4, and 8. The results are shared with each individual; cash bonuses are given to those who have shown improvement, and strategies for improvement are provided for those who have not yet met the program's objectives. A copy of this evaluation form is available for your review.

4. Coordination

Van Go works with community agencies to ensure coordination of prevention services and to avoid duplication. To minimize fragmentation, local partnerships have been formed and include collaboration with these agencies:

Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center - WRAP social workers refer students to Van Go.

Douglas County Youth Services – DCYS staff and juvenile court personnel refer teens to the JAMS program.

The Lawrence/Douglas County Housing Authority – Because many of our low-income teens live in public housing, the Housing Authority sponsors Summer JAMS apprentice-artists' salaries for their residents.

Chamber of Commerce - Lynne Green, Van Go Executive Director, has been working with the Chamber's Director of Economic Development and was appointed to a task force charged with creating vocational programming in Lawrence.

USD #497 - School counselors and social workers refer and recruit students, and relay grades, attendance and discipline problems so a coordinated effort can be made on behalf of each child. JAMS participants can earn high school credit for their participation.

Other agencies - Van Go has also been involved with the Arts Roundtable and the After-School Alliance to look for ways to expand options for at-risk youth.

5. Organizational Capacity

Van Go has a Board of Directors that includes highly respected community leaders who help with program development, evaluation, and fundraising. Staff members include a full-time JAMS Program Director, a full-time Office Manager, a half-time MSW, a full-time Art Director, part-time Development Director, and a half-time CFO. We have received City of Lawrence Alcohol Tax Funds for the past 8 years and have proven our capacity to effectively use those funds.

6. Budget

Van Go requests **\$47,500** from the alcohol tax fund for 2008. This represents an increase of 18% over last year's allocation.

Personnel: Executive Director (\$12,500) Funding is requested for a portion of the salary and FICA benefits of our founder and full-time executive director, Lynne Green, who oversees all operations.

Personnel: Art Teacher (\$10,000) Funding is requested for a portion of the salary and FICA benefits of full-time art director Cathy Ledeker, who is the lead teacher for all JAMS programs.

Contracted Personnel: Artist Assistants (\$13,500) Funding is requested for a portion of the salary and FICA benefits of one to two artist assistants, who assist Ledeker in guiding youth participants through the artistic and professional process.

Travel: 0

Office Space: 0

Supplies Office & Other: 0

Equipment: Art Supplies (\$11,500) This will cover a portion of the art supplies used by the at-risk youth hired by Van Go. Examples include acrylic and tempera paint, wood, hinges and hardware, polymers, paper, beads, and stains, clay, wire, fabrics, metals, wood and fiberboard, brushes, canvas, scissors, hand tools, and all of the art-related tools needed for the program.

Van Go's 2007 budget is \$495,750, with broad-based funding support described in the following table. Future sources of funding include our continued funding from local, state and federal agencies, private foundations, private and corporate donations, and reimbursements through service provider agreements with WIA (Workforce Investment Act) and NIYEA (Neighborhood Improvement Youth Employment Act). Community support is tremendous—last year, Van Go received over \$7,000 in donated goods and services and over 2,779 volunteer hours were logged, including extensive work by interns from the KU School of Social Welfare.

A summary of Van Go's support:

United Way	7 th Judicial District Juvenile Justice Authority	NIYEA/KDHR	Private Donations	City of Lawrence, Outside Agency	Topeka County Community Fdn.
\$24,500	\$17,000	\$15,000	\$60,000	\$69,246	\$7,500

Kansas Arts Commission	W.I.A.	Annual Fundraiser	Gallery sales & commission work	Building Rent	City of Lawrence, Alcohol tax
\$15,500	\$100,000	\$30,000	\$50,000	\$5,000	\$50,000

ASSESSMENT DATA	GOALS/ OBJECTIVES	TARGET GROUP	STRATEGIES	PROCESS OUTCOMES	BEHAVIORAL OUTCOMES	IMPACT OUTCOMES
<p>Van Go bonds these teens to their community by providing a safe, enriching environment that stresses positive life choices and hope for the future.</p> <p>Protective Factor – Community Bonding: *47.8% of Douglas County 10th graders reported that there are people in their neighborhood, or the area around which they live, that are proud of them when they do something well. *Only 35.9 reported that there are lots of adults in their neighborhood they could talk to about something important.</p>	<p>Van Go's goal is to provide employment opportunities through life-changing arts-based experiences. The objective is to hire 90 at-risk teens for inclusion in all of our programming.</p>	<p>14-21 year old at-risk Lawrence/Douglas County youth</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) life skills training 2) economic opportunity through arts-based employment 3) small youth to adult ratio 4) job training 5) academic mentoring through community volunteers 6) daily goal setting strategy meetings 7) leadership opportunities 8) public recognition of work 9) team of caring adults, including an on-site MSW 10) quality art instruction from professional teaching-artists 	<p>1) 30 hours of life skills lessons, including drug and alcohol prevention, will be provided to 90 at-risk youth, ages 14-21, during 2008</p>	<p>1) 88% of JAMS participants will increase their overall scores on the Participant Workplace Evaluation Form from week 2 to week 8</p>	<p>By 2010, 70% of JAMS graduates will have made a successful transition to the workforce, as measured by follow-up interviews.</p>