

**City of Lawrence
2009 Alcohol Tax Funds
Request for Proposals
Calendar Year 2009 (January – December)
Cover Page**

Agency Name: Van Go Mobile Arts, Inc.

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

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Request is for funding in the following categories and amounts:

<u> x </u>	Prevention	\$ <u> 60,000 </u>
<u> </u>	Treatment	\$ <u> </u>
<u> </u>	Intervention	\$ <u> </u>
<u> </u>	Coordination	\$ <u> </u>
<u> </u>	Other	\$ <u> </u>

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) 9,200 hours of direct services, including Life Skills lessons on drug and alcohol prevention, will be provided to 90 at-risk youth, ages 14-21, through JAMS programming</p>	<p>1) 90% 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>

1. Program Description

JAMS (Jobs in the Arts Make Sense) is Van Go's year-round, innovative youth employment program for at-risk youth 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 youth gain protective factors such as job skills, life skills and economic resources needed for success.

Van Go youth are referred by community partners who identify youth 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 youth year-round to create works of art purchased or commissioned by the public; this income supports program sustainability. Many art pieces, such as murals and benches are then displayed publicly to provide affirming recognition to youth.

In addition to teaching important job skills such as task completion, punctuality, responsibility, and teamwork, JAMS includes "life skills" training to increase understanding of drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence and healthy life choices, curbing risk for alcohol abuse or other unhealthy behaviors. These sessions also connect youth with related community resources such as DCCCA, Headquarters, Healthcare Access and the Douglas County Health Department.

JAMS prevention programming mimics the Communities That Care model (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 program success:

- 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 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:

-Programming that meets at least twice a week for at least two hours: Van Go doubles this recommendation, meeting with youth four days a week, for a total of 10 hours a week in the spring and fall and 22 hours a week in the summer.

-Collaboration among various agencies: Van Go community partners include 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.

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. The JAMS program serves at-risk youth *only* and specializes in their development. Many of our participants are alienated from their school environment or families and have no outlets for positive self-expression; these are youth for whom anonymity, failure and low expectations are routine. Van Go helps them by addressing risk factors associated with substance abuse.

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. Kansas Communities That Care 2007 data indicated substance abuse levels above state averages among Douglas County 10th graders:

- 44% of respondents reported using alcohol in the past 30 days (up from 35% in 2005), compared with 40% statewide
- 17% reported using marijuana in the past 30 days, compared with 13% statewide
- 16% reported being drunk or high at school in the last year, compared with 14% statewide
- 9% reported selling illegal drugs in the last year, compared with 7% statewide

Other research by Drs. Hawkins and Catalano 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 youth 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 youth to their community through visible public arts projects

3. Outcomes

Process Outcome: 9,200 hours of direct service, including Life Skills sessions on drug and alcohol prevention, will be provided to 90 at-risk youth, ages 14-21.

Behavioral Outcome: In 2009, 90% 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 Worksite Evaluation form. This tool measures the elements of the program most essential for successful completion of JAMS and in life. The JAMS Program Director evaluates the youth at the end of weeks 2 and 8 and shares results 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.

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 youth to the JAMS program.

The Lawrence/Douglas County Housing Authority – Because many of our low-income youth 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 worked with the Chamber's Director of Economic Development and served on 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 of highly respected community leaders who help with program development, evaluation, and fundraising. Staff members include a full-time Executive Director, JAMS Program Director, Art Director and Development Director; a three-quarters-time Social Worker; and a half-time Financial Director.

6. Budget

Van Go requests **\$60,000** from the alcohol tax fund in 2009. This increase of 20.8% from 2008 funding is a response to planned organization growth in 2009 to serve more youth in Van Go's newly renovated, 12,000-square-foot facility. The facility will *triple* utilized square footage, increasing general operations costs and allowing Van Go to reach 32% more at-risk youth. The organization has received Alcohol Tax funds for the

past 9 years and has proven its capacity to effectively use those funds. Van Go has budgeted support from this fund in its 5-year strategic plan.

Personnel:

Executive Director (**\$15,000**): A portion of the salary and FICA benefits of our founder and full-time executive director, Lynne Green, who oversees all operations. (EXISTING)

Art Teacher (**\$12,500**): A portion of the salary and FICA benefits of full-time art director Cathy Ledeker, who is the lead teacher for all JAMS programs. (EXISTING)

Contracted Personnel:

Assistant Artists (**\$13,500**): 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. (EXISTING)

Travel: 0

Office Space: 0

Supplies—Office & Other: 0

Equipment:

Art Supplies (**\$19,000**): A portion of the art supplies used by the at-risk youth hired by Van Go, including 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 current 2008 budget is \$575,000, with broad-based funding 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. In addition, Van Go annually receives thousands of dollars in goods and services donated in-kind, including 3,000 volunteer hours from a KU School of Social Welfare intern, graduate students from the art departments of Emporia State University and KU, and many other community members.

Summary of 2008 Van Go funding

United Way	\$25,000	KS Arts Commission	\$15,500
Juvenile Justice Authority (7 th Dist.)	\$16,000	Art commissions and product sales	\$72,800
Kansas Department of Commerce	\$185,500	Private foundations	\$46,700
City of Lawrence General Fund	\$35,000	Private corporations	\$31,000
City of Lawrence Alcohol Tax Fund	\$47,500	Individual contributions	\$100,000