



City of Lawrence
Outside Agency Funding
APPLICATION

General Information: Each year, the City Commission considers requests for the allocation of dollars to a number of agencies that provide services benefiting the Lawrence community. The decision on funding a request will be made during the City's annual budgeting process. The decision will be based upon the availability of funds, the need demonstrated through the agency's application, the stated objectives of the applicant's program, past performance by the agency in adhering to funding guidelines (as appropriate), and the ability to measure progress toward the program objectives.

PLEASE NOTE THAT BEGINNING IN 2009, FUNDS WILL BE DISBURSED ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE UNLESS OTHERWISE AGREED TO IN WRITING:

- FIRST HALF OF FUNDS WILL NOT BE DISBURSED BEFORE APRIL 1
- SECOND HALF OF FUNDS WILL NOT BE DISBURSED BEFORE OCTOBER 1

Instructions: Applications for 2009 funding must be complete and submitted electronically to the City Manager's Office at ctoomay@ci.lawrence.ks.us by the deadline of 5:00 pm on Friday, May 2, 2008.

Questions? Contact Casey Toomay, Budget Manager at ctoomay@ci.lawrence.ksu.s or at 785-832-3409.

Section I. Applicant Information

Legal Name of Agency: Van Go Mobile Arts, Inc.
Jobs in the Arts Make Sense (existing) and the
Name of Program for Which Funding is Requested: ArtsTrain (new)
Primary Contact Person: Lynne Green, Executive Director
Address: 715 New Jersey / P.O. Box 153 / Lawrence, KS 66044
Telephone: 785-842-3797 Fax: 785-842-4628
Email: lynne@van-go.org

Section 2. Request Information

- A. Amount of funds requested from the City for this program for calendar year 2009: \$50,000
- B. Will these funds be used for capital outlay (equipment or facilities) in 2009? If so, please describe:
No.
- C. Will these funds be used to leverage other funds in 2009? If so, how: Yes. Van Go will use this City investment to leverage \$195,416 from state and federal sources.
- D. Did you receive City funding for this program in 2008? If so, list the amount and source for funding (i.e. General Fund, Alcohol Fund, etc.): Yes. The Jobs in the Arts Make Sense program received \$35,000 from the general fund and \$47,500 from the alcohol fund in 2008.

- E. If you are requesting an increase in funding over 2008, please explain exactly how the additional funds will be used: **In the last year, Van Go tripled its numbers served from 90 to 285 through new youth leadership activities and career training sessions. In 2009, Van Go will continue these efforts AND add the new ArtsTrain program, which will train older youth for the workforce and successful adulthood. (Additional funds will be used for the salary of the new ArtsTrain program director, to be hired in early 2009.) All this will take place in the newly renovated Van Go facility, which will triple our square footage. Overall, 2009 will be a year of tremendous growth at Van Go.**

Section 3. Agency and Program Budget information

- A. How many paid full time employees work for your agency? 5 Volunteers? 105
- B. What percent of your total 2008 budget goes to employee salaries and benefits? 53%
- C. What percent of your total 2008 budget is used for operating expenses? 28%
- D. What is the total estimated cost to provide the program in 2009? \$659,592 (program)
- E. What percent of 2009 program costs are being requested from the City? 8%
- F. List other anticipated sources of funding and funding amount for this program in 2009:

<u>Anticipated Funding Source</u>	<u>Dollar Amount</u>
United Way	\$ 25,000
Juvenile Justice Authority—7 th District	\$ 16,000
Kansas Department of Commerce (Workforce Investment Act funds)	\$248,415
City of Lawrence Alcohol Tax Fund	\$ 60,000
Kansas Arts Commission and National Endowment for the Arts	\$ 40,500
Art commissions and product sales	\$100,850
Private donations (foundations, corporations and individuals)	\$288,858
TOTAL 2009 ORGANIZATION BUDGET	\$829,623

Section 4. Statement of Problem/Need to Be Addressed By Program

- A. *Provide a brief statement of the problem or need your agency proposes to address with the requested funding and/or the impact of not funding this program. The statement should include characteristics of the client population that will be served by this program. If possible, include statistical data to document this need.*

Youth living in poverty, facing learning disabilities or dealing with other mental impairments drop out of Lawrence high schools at higher rates than others, triggering a lifelong domino effect that may include teenage pregnancy, incarceration, unemployment and long-term reliance on social services. In 2007, 64% of the youth employed by Van Go lived in poverty, compared to the Douglas County poverty rate of 12% for youth under 18.¹ Most face the multiple problems associated with poverty—delinquency, academic failure, truancy. Of the youth served at Van Go in 2007:

¹ 2008 Kids Count Data, Kansas Action for Children.

- *24% suffered from mental health issues
- *43% were deficient in reading
- *57% were deficient in math
- *41% had IEPs (Individualized Education Plans) at their schools
- *15% were criminal offenders in the juvenile justice system
- * 6% were in foster care or state custody

Year-to-date assessments of 2008 Van Go participants indicate a similar demographic pattern. Van Go youth are those who normally “slip through the cracks” in adolescence, as few programs serve them, and most agencies consider them too difficult to reach. Those same youth continue to struggle after adolescence, their risk factors translating into unemployment, poverty and reliance on social services in adulthood.

B. How was the need for this program determined?

From the organization’s inception, Van Go has anticipated the needs of the community we serve. We began after-school programs at targeted elementary schools in 1997, long before the need was addressed with the arrival of 21st century funds. Van Go has since adapted programming to meet identified needs among Lawrence’s teenage and young adult populations.

In 1999, Van Go created the JAMS program (Jobs in the Arts Make Sense) for at-risk youth in response to needs cited in the 7th Judicial District’s Community Comprehensive Plan, which called for “additional opportunities for youth to participate in community service work as a deterrent to negative behavior.” JAMS fills that hole by providing constructive experiences for youth during the high-risk after-school and summer hours, deterring negative behavior such as substance abuse—which in 2007 remained higher among Douglas County youth than among youth statewide, according to data collected among local 10th graders by the Kansas Communities That Care initiative:

- *44% 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

The 7th Judicial District’s Community Comprehensive Plan also called for “the development of more culturally specific and vocationally oriented mentoring programs,” *another* hole JAMS has filled through job training, crisis counseling and life skills lessons for its diverse participants.

In 2003, Van Go anticipated local trends by developing its Life JAMS program for older youth, age 18-21. Life JAMS targets these young adults with a comprehensive approach including social services, paid worksite placements, on-site tutoring and community mentoring. Two years after the inception of Life JAMS, the Kansas Action for Children’s 2005 Kids Count Data Book revealed the following:

- *From 1996 – 2001, the percent of high school dropouts increased 33% in Kansas, while the national average showed a *decrease* of 10%

*From 1996 – 2001, the percent of youth not attending school and not working increased 17% in Kansas, while nationally that figure *decreased* 11%

*The percent of 18-24 year olds living in poverty in Kansas in 2002 was 26%, while the national average was 20%

In 2009, in order to most effectively serve this population of young adults who need help transitioning to adulthood, Van Go will phase out the current Life JAMS program and create the ArtsTrain. The ArtsTrain will deter unemployment and poverty among young adults by offering practical job skills and career exploration, which proved lacking among local youth in a 2005 study conducted by the University of Kansas Policy Research Institute for the USD 497 Administrative Task Force on Technical Education. Former USD 497 students who received GEDs rather than high school diplomas—members of the same socioeconomic, racial and health demographic that Van Go serves—reported a lack of preparedness for acquiring jobs. “They did not believe they were well prepared for employment and desired more help with soft skills, such as resumes, applications, interviews, w-2 forms, body language, how to ask questions about a job, as well as on the job etiquette, including the unspoken rules... They would welcome increased involvement from the business community in career development and exploration programs.”²

C. *Why should this problem/need be addressed by the City?*

Van Go is the only area organization meeting the City’s identified needs for work opportunities, mentoring and job training for the area’s neediest youth. The resulting prevention of costly behaviors, development of the local economy and improvement of overall community health save the city enormous resources in time and money.

Van Go training: Readyng the workforce

- The new ArtsTrain will provide vocational training in the high-demand fields of digital arts, carpentry, and painting through a curriculum informed by focus groups of local employers.
- For JAMS youth, “soft skills” like communication are honed as apprentice-artists partner with local business to design and create commissioned art bench through an interview process with clients (a firm handshake and good eye contact are stressed and practiced).
- For ArtsTrain and JAMS youth, attendance, punctuality, time management, goal-setting, teamwork and task completion are charted, measured, evaluated and rewarded.
- For ArtsTrain and JAMS youth, “life skills” are honed in weekly sessions on topics such as fiscal responsibility, transition planning, health and employment issues.
- By facilitating the Best Employability Skills Training for 75 junior high students from USD 497, Van Go increased knowledge and preparedness of future members of our workforce.

² Krider, Charles E. “Assessment of the Technical Training Needs of the Lawrence Community,” KU Policy Research Institute, May 2005.

Van Go employment: Economic development

- Over \$212,000 will be paid in wages to at-risk youth employees and Van Go staff members in 2008. Nearly all of that money stays in Lawrence, much of it keeping the poverty-stricken families of our youth participants afloat.
- Current building renovations at the Van Go facility in East Lawrence are pumping hundreds of thousands of dollars into the local construction industry. The completed building, designed by renowned architect Dan Rockhill, will be a local attraction available for event space rental and shopping in the new art gallery, keeping local dollars in Lawrence and bringing in outside money.
- Van Go brings revenue into Lawrence from sources outside the community. In 2008, Van Go will bring \$196,442 (37% of the agency budget) into Lawrence from state and federal sources (Kansas Department of Commerce/Workforce Investment Act funds and the Kansas Arts Commission). Van Go's 2008 operating expenses will be covered in part by \$42,925 from foundations outside our community, and current building renovations will be covered in part by a \$170,000 grant from a private Oklahoma foundation. Thus, Van Go leverages the City's financial support by generating additional dollars that directly benefit our at-risk youth and community.
- Van Go creates at least 90 positions annually for youth who would have difficulty find employment elsewhere, and will create even more jobs with the inception of the ArtsTrain in the near future.
- Van Go youth attending Lawrence public high schools receive one hour of credit toward graduation through their participation in Van Go programs, encouraging graduation and the long-term economic impact of a workforce with high school diplomas or equivalents.
- Van Go generated \$72,800 in commissioned/product sales in 2008, keeping local spending money in the community.
- The RIMS II economic impact model, which calculates the extended economic effects of the nonprofit sector, states that nonprofits such as Van Go generate *indirect* effects (the result of purchases by the nonprofit sector from other sectors—for example, transportation, communications and utilities—that generate income and employment in these other sectors) and *induced* effects (the result of nonprofit employees spending their income on goods and services provided by businesses other than their employer, such as grocery stores). The model states that, based on these indirect and induced effects, 30.4 jobs are created for each \$1 million in nonprofit expenditures. Thus, based on Van Go's 2008 budget of \$575,000, Van Go fuels the need and demand for approximately 17 jobs beyond the organization itself.³

³ *Economic Contribution of Florida Nonprofits: A Resource for the Public Good*, The Philanthropy Center, 2002.

Van Go prevention: Healthy communities

- Van Go’s new monthly leadership activities provide 120 at-risk youth annually with valuable knowledge and preparedness in areas such as managing personal finances, applying for college or employment and socioethnic diversity.
- For every \$1 spent on prevention programming, \$4.48 is saved in community spending on the health and well-being of dependent citizens.⁴
- JAMS keeps at-risk youth occupied and productive during the risk-prone hours of 3-6 p.m., a priority in cities across the country. The U.S. Conference of Mayors’ ten-point plan, “Strong Cities, Strong Families, for a Strong America” (January 2007), calls for increased funding commitments directly allocated to quality after-school programs, along with new summer youth employment initiatives to offer work experience, skills training and education strategies to young people as part of a local workforce development system. Van Go already does all of the above!
- Douglas County Assistant Prosecutor Shelley Diehl said of Van Go’s JAMS program, “As a member of the Community Comprehensive Planning Team, I can tell you that the Team felt strongly that youth who have employment opportunities available to them are less likely to engage in anti-social, criminal and dangerous activities.”
- Van Go youth share the same risk factors and demographics as incarcerated youth⁵, until Van Go programs intervene with art therapy, counseling, employment and other support. These services cost an estimated annual \$5,000 per child, 6% of the \$82,939 average cost per incarcerated child in Kansas in 2006.
- Van Go youth stay out of jail, delay parenthood, subsist with fewer social services and eventually raise their own families with less hardship than did their parents. This means generations of more self-supporting, tax-contributing citizens of Lawrence.⁶

Section 4. Description of Program Services

- A. *Provide a brief description of the service you will provide and explain how it will respond to the need you identified in Section 3. The description should include how many clients will be served, and should describe as specifically as possible the interaction that will take place between the provider and the user of the service.*

In the last year, Van Go *tripled* its youth served from 90 JAMS youth to 285 total youth by providing new monthly leadership and learning opportunities to 120 at-risk youth and career exploration to 75 Lawrence junior high youth through the Best Employability Skills Training

⁴ *The Costs and Benefits of After-School Programs*, September 2002

⁵ 2006: Average confinement time for juvenile offenders was 10.6 months, about the same duration most Van Go kids are served. Most incarcerated youth are 16 or 17 years old, our target ages. Incarcerated youth are 63% Caucasian, 33% African-American and 3% American Indian, similar to Van Go demographics.

⁶ Youth wages are taxed for FICA/Social Security but not federal taxes.

coordinated through partnership with USD #497. These new Van Go initiatives will continue in 2009, along with the existing JAMS program and yet another new service, the ArtsTrain.

JAMS is the only arts-based job training program in Kansas and is the largest employer of at-risk youth in Lawrence. Each year, the program improves the lives of 90 area youth, ages 14-18, who are alienated from their school or family environments and are accustomed to anonymity or failure. Participants are referred by social workers, counselors, mental health professionals and court personnel; they work 10 hours per week after school, and 20 hours per week during the summer, creating murals, custom-designed benches or other artwork for public display. Youth earn minimum wage, with merit-based raises, while learning valuable job skills and experiencing a creative outlet. JAMS is not designed to create artists, but instead uses art as the vehicle to help youth gain job skills, life skills and economic resources.

The ArtsTrain, which will phase out the current Life JAMS program for older youth and be in planning phases for much of 2009, will take the JAMS mission to the next step by targeting disconnected young adults, ages 18-21, who need guidance to successfully transition to personal, economic and societal maturity. The ArtsTrain will provide *in-depth* vocational training to approximately 24 youth per year in applied arts fields: woodworking, graphic design and painting. Soft skills and life skills will continue to be addressed as participants work on punctuality, teamwork and communication. ArtsTrain youth will learn through on-site training and off-site employment, where they will be monitored by Van Go staff. The ArtsTrain curriculum to be developed will be based on feedback from focus groups of local business owners who are most aware of skill sets required of successful employees. As with Life JAMS, ArtsTrain youth will have *Individualized Life Plans* that incorporate a variety of goals beyond employment (i.e. obtaining G.E.D., moving out of a parent's home, getting out of debt, etc.), continuing Van Go's comprehensive approach to serving at-risk youth.

B. Describe any efforts your agency has made to explore the community to determine if there are any other agencies providing similar types of services. What efforts have you made to coordination services?

Van Go works with these community agencies to ensure coordination of prevention services and to avoid duplication:

Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center - WRAP social workers refer students to Van Go. WRAP staffers are essential in Van Go's effort to make sure that at-risk children are being identified and that services offered during the school day are continued after school.

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 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 – The partnership between Van Go and the school district continues to strengthen. Local junior high school students have attended career exploration events at the Van Go facility, and JAMS participants earn high school credit for their involvement with Van Go. School counselors and social workers are important partners referring and recruiting students as well as communicating grades, attendance, and discipline problems so that a coordinated effort can be made on behalf of each child.

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.

Section 5. Program Objectives

Please provide three specific program objectives for 2009. Objectives should demonstrate the purpose of the program and measure the amount of service delivered or the effectiveness of the services delivered. A time frame and numerical goal should also be included. Examples include, “75% of clients receiving job training will retain their job one year after being hired,” “increased fundraising efforts will result in a 15% increase in donations in 2009,” “credit counseling services will be provided to 600 clients in 2009,” “new digital arts program will serve 275 students in 2009” etc. **Applicants will be expected to report their progress toward meeting these objectives in their six month and annual reports to the City.**

Program Objectives

1. 90% of JAMS participants will receive an increased score in their Work Evaluations from week 2 to week 8

2. 90% of JAMS participants will complete the program

3. Daily attendance of JAMS participants will average 90%

Please return completed application electronically to ctoomay@ci.lawrence.ks.us by 5:00 pm on Friday, May 2, 2008.

Office Use Only			
six month report received	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	
annual report received:	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	
			audit received: <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
			tax return received: <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no