

SFY 2024 White Bear Center for Arts – Direct Appropriation

Progress Report

2/3/2025

Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development  
Employment and Training Programs Division

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## Introduction

The purpose of the direct appropriation for White Bear Center for the Arts was to establish a paid internship program for high school students to learn professional development skills through an arts perspective.

Funds for this project were appropriated in [Minnesota Session Laws – 2023, Chapter 53, S.F. 3035, Article 20, Section 2, Subdivision 3 (x)](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/2023/0/Session+Law/Chapter/53/). The amount available to White Bear Center for the Arts for SFY 2024 was **$237,500.00**. (DEED is permitted to retain up to 5% of the $250,000.00 appropriation for administration and monitoring of the grant.)

## Program Overview

White Bear Center for the Arts Studio Repose Internship Program is an artist-centered, paid internship program for high school students. Through this internship, students learn the importance of leadership, teamwork, and critical thinking while obtaining critical and marketable job skills in a creative and supportive arts environment. The program addresses barriers such as cost, equipment, and transportation that often prevent youth from low-income and underrepresented communities across Minnesota from pursuing careers in nonprofits and the arts. By involving interns in significant roles rather than routine tasks, the program aims to foster long-term support networks and create a replicable curriculum for other arts organizations.

## Program Activities and Performance Metrics

#### Program Activities

**Curriculum Development -** The first cohort (January-June 2024) focused on getting the program “off the ground,” helping WBCA realize potential issues and ensuring successful future iterations of the internship. The Program Administrator and Artist Professional helped create a curriculum and evaluation plan for the internship program.

**Studio Repose Projects -** Youth interns had opportunities to learn marketable skills like graphic design, photo editing, interviewing and writing, as well as artistic practices like curation, exhibition design and execution through “Studio Repose” projects: High School Visual Arts Contest, WriteNow! writing contest, and Repose literary magazine.

**Studio Repose Education -** Participating youth learned directly from a variety of other arts professionals through weekly speakers and field trips to museum, art centers and other artistic institutions.

**Administration Shadowing & Subject-based Learning -** Participating youth developed a foundation of knowledge in a variety of administrative areas such as customer service, fundraising, programming, communications, outreach and retail.

#### Participation plan and Performance Summary

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Participant Plan** | **Planned Performance**  **11/06/23 – 6/30/25** | **Reported Actual Achieved through 12/31/24** | **% Achieved Total** |
| Total Participants Enrolled | 20 | 13 | 65% |
| Received Work Experience Activities | 20 | 13 | 65% |
| Received Community Involvement Activities | 20 | 13 | 65% |
| Received Leadership Development Activities | 20 | 13 | 65% |
| Completed Program Cohort 1 | 20 | 7 | 35% |

As of December 30, 2024, the grantee’s program had achieved 65% of its overall enrollment and program objectives, with 13 participants enrolled out of a planned total of 20 for the entire grant term. These participants had received work experience, community involvement, and leadership development activities, meeting the goals set for Cohort 1, which has now completed the program. A second cohort of participants began in November 2024. A recent contract modification granted a one-year extension to the grant period, which the grantee anticipates will enable them to reach their full enrollment target and program goals. This extension may also allow for the addition of a third cohort, potentially overlapping with the State Fiscal Year 2025 grant period.

## Program Data

The participant demographic, activity, and outcome data included in this report reflects the total from the start of the grant contract on November 6, 2023, through December 31, 2024.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Demographic Data** | | **Total** | **Percentage** |
| Total Participants Served | | **13** | |
| **Gender** | Female | 10 | 77% |
| Male | 3 | 23% |
| Other | 0 | 0% |
| Prefer not to answer | 0 | 0% |
| **Age** | 14 – 15 | 0 | 0% |
| 16 – 17 | 7 | 54% |
| 18 | 6 | 46% |
| 19 – 21 | 0 | 0% |
| **Ethnicity /Race** | Hispanic/Latino | 1 | 1% |
| American Indian or Alaska Native | 0 | 0% |
| Asian/Pacific Islander | 3 | 23% |
| Black or African American | 1 | 1% |
| White | 5 | 38% |
| Multi-race | 3 | 23% |
| Other or Not Available | 0 | 0% |
| **Education Level** | 8th Grade and Under | 0 | 0% |
| 9th to 12th Grade | 13 | 100% |
| High School graduate or equivalent | 0 | 0% |
| Post-Secondary Education | 0 | 0% |
| **Other Demographics** | Limited English Proficient | 0 | 0% |
| Receiving Public Assistance | 0 | 0% |
| Foster Youth (or aged out of foster care) | 0 | 0% |
| With a Disability | 0 | 0% |
| HS Dropout | 0 | 0% |
| Offender (previous criminal/juvenile justice involvement) | 0 | 0% |
| Pregnant or Parenting | 0 | 0% |
| Basic Skills Deficient | 0 | 0% |
| Homeless or Runaway | 0 | 0% |
| Not Employed at Program Enrollment | 7 | 54% |
| Veteran | 0 | 0% |
| **Program Services and Activities Data** | | **Total** | **Percentage** |
| Received Education or Job Training Activities | | 0 | 0% |
| Received Work Experience Activities | | 13 | 100% |
| Received Community Involvement and Leadership Development Activities | | 13 | 100% |
| Received Post-Secondary Exploration, Career Guidance and Planning Activities | | 13 | 100% |
| Received Mentoring Activities | | 0 | 0% |
| Received Support Services | | 7 | 54% |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **General Performance and Outcome Data** | **Total** | **Percentage** |
| Attained Work Readiness Goals or Educational Goals | 7 | 54% |
| Received Academic Credit or Service-Learning Credit | 0 | 0% |
| Obtained High School Diploma, GED, Remained in School, Obtained a Certificate or Degree, or Dropout - Returned to School | 0 | 0% |
| Entered Post-Secondary Education, Vocational/Occupational Skills Training, Apprenticeship, Military, Job Search or Employment | 0 | 0% |
| Completed Program Objective | 7 | 54% |
| **Participant Satisfaction Data** | **Total** | **Percentage  (of responses)** |
| Number of participants rating experience as “Excellent” | 5 | 83% |
| Number of participants rating experience as “Very Good” | 1 | 17% |
| Number of participants rating experience as “Average” | 0 | 0% |
| Number of participants rating experience as “Below Average” | 0 | 0% |
| Number of participants rating experience as “Poor” | 0 | 0% |
| Total Number of Surveys Completed | 6 | 100% |

## Expenditure Data

The SFY 24 grant contract started on November 6, 2023. SFY 24 grant funds were extended to June 30, 2025. The cost category breakdown of expenditures reported below reflects expenditures as of December 31, 2024.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Budget Category | Approved Budget | Expenditures |
| Administration (up to 10% allowed) | $23,750.00 | $23,750.00 |
| Youth Participant Wages and Fringe Benefits | $91,021.64 | $35,896.64 |
| Direct Services to Youth | $82,103.36 | $82,103.36 |
| Youth Support Services | $40,625.00 | $33,613.80 |
| **Total** | **$237,500.00** | **$175,363.80** |