

# ANC 1C Grant Application

Applicants can download, print, or view a full-text version of the grant application at the following link:

<http://bit.ly/ANC1C-grants-full-text>

This form will be reviewed by ANC 1C to determine:

- a. whether the grant funds would be used primarily to aid residents or organizations in the Adams Morgan ANC's geographic area;
- b. whether funding is available to the applicant from other sources or if the grant seeks to duplicate existing public or private services in the neighborhood or the District of Columbia;
- c. whether the applicant has sought funding from private sources;
- d. whether the persons served by the grant have limited income or opportunity to obtain the services or goods provided for in the grant as individuals;
- e. the number of persons and the diversity of groups to be served by the grant;
- f. whether the grant will serve the population as a whole or a limited number of persons;
- g. whether the grant funds will be used to purchase items that will have a greater frequency of use and/or longevity of use;
- h. whether the applicant will use Adams Morgan and/or District of Columbia vendors and or services to implement the purpose of the grant, unless those resources are unavailable in the neighborhood or District of Columbia;
- i. whether or not the grant funds will be used to purchase green products and services;
- j. whether the grant will serve to better human well-being.

Email address \*

ewesslund@yptdc.org

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## About the Organization

Organization Name \*

Young Playwrights' Theater

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**Organization Address \***

6925 Willow St. NW Suite LL-230

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**Website \***

www.yptdc.org

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**Contact Name \***

Emma Wesslund

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**Contact Title \***

Development Manager

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**Contact Phone \***

2023879173

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**Grant Request**

Amount Requested \*

1,000

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Name of project \*

After School Playwriting Program at Sitar Arts Center

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Date funds will be used by: \*

MM DD YYYY

09 / 01 / 2019

Does your organization currently receive funding from the DC government?

\*

Yes

No

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## DC Government Funding

How much funding does your organization receive annually from the DC government? \*

\$238,364

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From what agency or office? \*

DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs, Mayor's Office on LGBTQ Affairs

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What is your organization's annual budget? \*

\$869,504

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Is the organization located in the Adams Morgan area as defined by the boundaries of ANC 1C? The map can be viewed here: <http://bit.ly/ANC1C-map> \*

Yes

No

Please upload proof of non-profit status (e.g., attach a copy of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) or DC Office of Tax & Revenue tax exemption letter or similar disclosure documentation to the application). \*

IRS 501c3 Determi...

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# Grant Application

Please provide a detailed description of what the grant will be used for. \*

Founded in 1995 by award-winning playwright Karen Zacarías, Young Playwrights' Theater (YPT) inspires young people to realize the power of their own voices. YPT believes that creative expression and theater are valuable tools for the education, enrichment and self-actualization of young people. Through our programs and productions, we fulfill their creative vision by hiring professional artists to guide and performing original youth-generated work for their peers and the public. We believe it is important that youth, especially through whose voices are often minimized, have access to high-quality arts education that centers their experience and is culturally competent and affirming for all young people involved. In order to do this work, YPT acknowledges oppression and reduces its harm through our internal and external structures and practices. YPT believes that our students are inherently brilliant, and we exist to share that brilliance with the world.

YPT is proud to be the only theater in Washington, DC dedicated entirely to arts education. Our model uses playwriting and theater arts as tools to enhance student literacy, creative expression and communication, while empowering students to realize the power of their stories. We integrate directly into public schools and community-based organizations with our award-winning arts programming to increase equitable access to arts education. YPT's After-School Playwriting Program adapts our model to further develop students' creative expression and collaboration in nurturing, academically challenging after-school environments. Students participate in artist-led workshops exploring playwriting and performance, culminating in a final showcase where they present their original work individually and as an ensemble for friends, families and community members.

Since 1995, YPT has impacted the lives of nearly 20,000 DC-area students and presented student-written plays to more than 90,000 audience members. By teaching students to express themselves through playwriting, we develop their language and literacy skills and equip them with the creativity, confidence and critical thinking skills needed to succeed. In recognition of our success uplifting our students' voices, YPT was awarded the 2010 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award from the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities. In 2014, YPT received the Washington Post Award for Excellence in Nonprofit Management, a prestigious local award recognizing YPT's exceptional business practices and transformative impact in neighborhoods across Washington, DC. In September 2018, we were honored for the second time in our history with the Mayor's Arts Award for Outstanding Contribution to Arts Education. YPT has worked in Ward 1 for nearly twenty-five years, and we have established strong ties with schools and organizations serving ANC-1C students. The Kalorama neighborhood remains a priority for programmatic growth, and in 2013 we were delighted to expand our organizational partnerships to include Sitar Arts Center. Sitar provides an important service in the community through offering after-school arts programming for

youth in their Kalorama-based state-of-the-art venue in a variety of disciplines, including visual arts, dance, performing arts, music and digital arts. However, before 2013, they lacked a dedicated creative writing program. They identified YPT as an ideal partner to fill this need due to our proximity, expertise and work with similar populations. In Fall 2013, we piloted our first after-school program at Sitar Arts Center, integrating playwriting into their offerings to complement their other creative disciplines. The partnership was so successful that we sought support from other funders, including ANC-1C, to help us expand our programming. We now serve students through programming in the fall, spring and summer.

We were honored to receive support from ANC-1C for this partnership last year, and we hope the committee will consider awarding us a grant to support our upcoming summer program at Sitar Arts Center, as well as our 2019-20 After School Playwriting Program.

Description of what the grant will be used for:

Through our partnership at Sitar Arts Center, based in the Kalorama neighborhood of ANC-1C, YPT will provide a six-week arts camp for middle and high school aged students from the surrounding neighborhoods as part of Sitar's summer offerings. A professional YPT teaching artist will lead two-hour workshops once a week for six weeks beginning in late June, engaging students in an exploration of playwriting, acting and improvisation. Students will create and share original dramatic writing on issues of personal significance, and collaborate as an ensemble to develop cohesive creative works. The program will culminate in a final free performance as part of Sitar's annual summer showcase, open to other students, families and ANC-1C residents. Youth will present their work on a professional stage and realize how they can use playwriting and theater arts to share what is important to them and transform their communities. We would love to invite ANC commissioners to this performance. A \$1,000 grant will fund the stipends for professional teaching artists and supplies for our program at Sitar, allowing us to sustain this partnership and engage an estimated 10-20 youth, the majority of whom reside in ANC-1C's neighborhoods, during the critical summer months.

Community Needs Addressed

Every year, DC Public Schools (DCPS) PARCC exam results reflect pervasive racial and socio-economic achievement gaps and chronically low achievement levels. In 2017-18, only 35.1% of DC Public School students met or exceeded expectations for English Language Arts, with an average of 11.8% proficiency in Wards 7 and 8, DC's highest poverty wards. Test scores also display a stark achievement gap across racial lines, with a proficiency gap between White (83.3%) and Black (22.9%) students.

These results indicate that traditional learning methods are not working, and underscore the importance of finding alternative ways to reach students. The National Endowment for the Arts report *The Arts and Achievement in At-Risk Youth* found that 74% of low-income students who

had arts experiences by 8th grade were more likely to plan to go to college, compared with 43% of students without access to the arts. The study also noted, "low-income students who are highly engaged in the arts are more than twice as likely to graduate college as their peers with no arts education." Despite evidence of its benefits, opportunities to participate in the arts during school are vanishing as under-performing schools struggle to meet testing benchmarks with limited resources. This troubling trend disproportionately affects students of color living in low-income communities. The 2014 DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities' Arts Education Census found that "more than 60% of schools spend less than \$10 per pupil per year for arts instructional materials. At the elementary level, the per-pupil arts spending is only 2.5 cents per day."

Our city's achievement gap is YPT's call to action. By offering academically rigorous arts education programs to students in low-income and marginalized communities, YPT works to build social justice and foster equitable access to arts education. All programs are provided at no cost to our students or their families and are tailored to meet the unique needs of each school. In keeping with this strategy, most of our partnerships are located in under-resourced communities in Washington, DC, with a specific focus on Wards 1, 5, 7 and 8, for which 2017-18 PARCC exam results indicated an average of 18% proficiency in English Language Arts.

YPT has nearly twenty-five years of experience providing young people with their first exposure to an interactive, standards-based creative writing process, free of charge. Sitar Arts Center serves a diverse range of students, including ANC-1C youth, on a sliding-fee scale to ensure accessibility, and has never turned away a student because of an inability to pay. YPT's after-school arts education curriculum is directly tied to Common Core Standards, supporting what students learn in their classrooms and bolstering writing, literacy and communication skills. Our seasoned teaching artists work closely with each student to engage youth at all levels, helping them explore their creativity in a fun and challenging learning environment. Students rehearse and perform their own writing in a sharing with the full camp, allowing students to develop valuable public speaking skills, and developing their self-confidence as young writers and artists. By presenting their final work onstage, students realize the power of their words in their communities. With the support of ANC 1C, we hope to have this impact on even more students in the summer of 2019.

YPT has been working in schools and organizations in Ward 1 for nearly twenty-five years, and we see the immediate and long-term impact of our programming. Alumni tell us that their experience with YPT inspired them to apply to college, many as first-generation applicants, or pursue careers in the arts, education and even neuroscience. We also see former students seek out careers or volunteer opportunities that involve working with youth or giving back to their communities. Our partnership with Sitar allows us to combine resources towards the goal of inspiring local students to explore their creativity and enhance their academic and social

development in a nurturing environment, engaging middle and high school students who are most likely to disengage from their learning or engage in risky behavior during the summer months. A grant from ANC-1C will allow YPT to lead our program this summer and nurture the foundation to deepen our partnership and program offerings at Sitar. With your support, we look forward to inspiring ANC-1C youth to realize the power and potential of their voices and stories, while providing local community members with a window into young people's lives.

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Please upload relevant supporting documentation, which should include an itemized budget, written estimates, bids, or pre-invoices. \*

ANC 1C Project Bu...

YPT Mid-Year Repo...

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## Agreement and Signature

The undersigned affirms under penalties of perjury that the responses to this Grant Application are true and correct to the best of their knowledge. On behalf of the Applicant (organization name), the undersigned acknowledges that this Grant Application may not be approved or that the Commission's grant budget may be insufficient to fund this Application even if approved. The Applicant's sole recourse to such non-approval or failure to fund is to submit another Application to the Commission.

The undersigned acknowledges familiarity with ANC 1C's Grant Guidelines and Policy Statement (<http://bit.ly/ANC1C-grant-guidelines>) and specifically agrees to comply with the provisions concerning Grantee Compliance/Accountability.

Contact Name \*

Emma Wesslund

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Contact Title \*

Development Manager

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Signature (please write your full name below to indicate compliance with the above statement) \*

Emma Wesslund

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Date \*

MM DD YYYY

06 / 10 / 2019

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