



# 2015

## Capacity Building Grantees

In October 2015, Youthpraise awarded grants to 41 organizations. Grant requests totaled more than \$1.1 million and \$535,000 was awarded in grants. The goal of our 2015 capacity building grantmaking is to increase the ability of organizations to participate in expanded learning systems and authentically engage youth. Using a peer panel review process, we prioritized funding to small and mid-size nonprofit youth-serving organizations with operating budgets of less than \$2 million.

A racial equity lens was used to

- 1) Identify organizations with board and staff that are representative of its community;
- 2) Evaluate organizations' efforts to ensure inclusion and diversity; and
- 3) Align distribution of grants with concentrations of underserved youth.

We also prioritized strategies for participating in citywide expanded learning systems such as Sprockets, the Minneapolis Afterschool Network, and Brooklyn Bridge Alliance for Youth. Our deepest investment is in culturally specific organizations.

### ACES (Athletes Committed to Educating Students)

Minneapolis

ACES is an after-school tutor/mentor program that seeks to improve academic outcomes and reduce the opportunity gap for Twin Cities middle school students most at risk of falling behind and failing out of school. ACES will use funding to hire a new Director of Education position that will help build ACES' capacity by planning, organizing, staffing and growing the program with a focus on program quality.

\$20,000

### African Immigrants Community Services

Minneapolis

African Immigrant Community Services (AICS) helps East African refugees settle and integrate in the Twin Cities. AICS

\$10,000

### Asian Media Access

Minneapolis

Asian Media Access (AMA) is an organization dedicated to using multimedia arts & technology for social betterment. Funding will be used to develop a Youth InCharged Lab featuring rap, hip-hop dance, multimedia production and animation training, developing youth produced syndicated TV/Radio/Stage shows.

\$15,000

## **Banyan Community**

**Minneapolis**

Banyan Community provides high quality programs using a three-tiered approach to revitalize the Phillips neighborhood by developing youth, strengthening families, and creating community. Funding will be used to enhance the capacity of Banyan's innovative youth programs by focusing on college readiness that prepares first generation urban middle and high school youth, with the support of their parents, to succeed in getting youth to and through college.

\$15,000

## **Center School, Inc.**

**Minneapolis**

Center School Inc. is an alternative school in the Phillips neighborhood that serves 90 American Indian youth annually with integrated curriculum including hands-on academics, Indigenous cultural activities, physical and mental health support and interventions, and youth development opportunities. Funding will be used to implement its Brighter Future Project, which is a comprehensive OST work-readiness and post-secondary preparation program that increases the odds of post-secondary success for our students.

\$15,000

## **Community Mediation & Restorative Services, Inc**

**New Hope**

Community Mediation & Restorative Justice Services (CMRS) provides mediation and restorative services grounded in self-determination, believing conflicts are best resolved/decisions are best made by those most directly involved. Committed to dismantling the school to prison pipeline, and leveraging our AmeriCorps partnership, CMRS will expand school-based restorative measures to five elementary schools, one alternative high school, and at least one diversity-focused circle of support.

\$10,000

## **Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES)**

**Saint Paul**

CLUES is the largest provider of health, education, economic, and civic engagement services focused on the Latino community. It promotes a thriving, multicultural community in Minnesota. Funding will be used to strengthen CLUES Youth in Action (YA!) Program by engaging Latino youth to serve as leaders and encouraging them to have a voice and an impact on achieving solutions to issues that are relevant to their lives.

\$15,000

## **Connections to Independence**

**Minneapolis**

Connection to Independence's (C2i) capacity building project works to leverage resources for youth exiting the foster care systems. Through partner collaboration and improvement of existing services, C2i will work to increase youth leadership and advocacy of teens and young adults affected by foster care within coordinated out-of-school time systems.

\$15,000

## Cookie Cart

Minneapolis

Cookie Cart empowers low-income teens from communities of color with the tools and assets to overcome barriers to success in education and careers. Cookie Cart will build its capacity to serve more youth and actively participate in the Northside Achievement Zone.

\$20,000

## courageous heARTS

Minneapolis

courageous heARTS is an arts organization designed in partnership with and for young people. Funding will hire a .5FTE Youth Engagement Specialist to support the growth and development of its Youth Advisory Board, a standing committee of the Board of Directors and integral part of our commitment to authentic youth leadership.

\$10,000

## Cycles for Change

Saint Paul

Cycles for Change (C4C) uses bicycles to support young people in gaining the competence, confidence and community they need to be successful learners and engaged citizens. Funding will be used to employ 20 youth in its youth apprenticeship program, develop a Youth Leadership Council which formalizes the role of youth voice in the organization, and implement the 2016 Youth Bike Summit for 400-450 people to build youth leadership in the bicycling movement.

\$15,000

## Dream of Wild Health (Formerly Pita Wakan Tipi)

Minneapolis

Dream of Wild Health fosters social entrepreneurship through youth-adult partnerships developing and operating food-related enterprises beginning with growing specialty agricultural crops and indigenous foods. Funding will be used to hire interns to grow and distribute these foods through farmers markets, mobile markets, Indigenous Food Share (CSA) program, food donation programs, feasts, and healthy food demonstrations at community events developed within the urban Native community.

\$15,000

## El Colegio High School

Minneapolis

El Colegio develops in youth the skills and personal qualities needed to be successful in college and employment, to be comfortable and excel in a bilingual/bicultural environment, and to be leaders in their communities and the world. Funding will continue to make leadership development opportunities available to El Colegio students through Student Council, and broaden their options for youth inside and outside El Colegio to create change in the systems that are affecting their lives.

\$15,000

## ImpactLives

Saint Louis Park

ImpactLives' mission is to transform individuals into leaders while performing acts of service and social justice. Funding will be used for its leadership development program and innovation lab to provide underserved youth opportunities to work in collaboration with others, learn what motivates them, and how to effectively lead change.

\$10,000

## In Progress

Saint Paul

In Progress provides opportunities for young people to develop their skills as storytellers, artists, and leaders through the use of photography, video, and music. Funding will be used for the Youth Arts & Leadership component of Studio 213 is focused specifically on building the professional skills of youth leaders within the north end neighborhood of Saint Paul and documenting the model for public use.

\$15,000

## Juxtaposition Arts

Minneapolis

Juxtaposition Arts (JXTA) is a locally-rooted, youth-powered art and design social enterprise in North Minneapolis. Funding will be used for the JXTALab's Pathways to College and Careers (PaCC) program, which is a capacity and field building initiative that systematizes opportunities for youth to leverage the skills and connections made at JXTA, as they move into adulthood, so they not only thrive while they are participants in our programs, but have what they need to accomplish their life goals after they leave JXTA.

\$20,000

## La Oportunidad

Minneapolis

La Oportunidad offers six inter-connected programs for all members of low-income Twin Cities Latino families including early literacy, after school and special activities for K-12 students, career path/preparation and parental involvement in kids' education. Funding will be used to target middle-high school students to empower and support them to achieve their potential (education/career goals) with the ultimate goal to close the achievement gap and develop community leaders.

\$15,000

## Mentoring Young Adults

Saint Paul

Mentoring Young Adults is focused on disrupting poverty and inequality in the communities it serves within the population of Ramsey, Washington, Dakota and Hennepin counties. Funding will be used to increase staff capacity to serve youth.

\$10,000

## Mid-Continent Oceanographic Institute

Saint Paul

Mid-Continent Oceanographic Institute goal is to increase our school- and center-based partnerships. Funding will be used to create a new Program Coordinator staff position.

\$10,000

## New American Academy

Edina

New American Academy is a community-based organization that works with East African youth and families, which provides vital culturally relevant programs and services. Funding will be used to provide activities for immigrant youth such as academic enhancement, mentoring, leadership, entrepreneurial, and work readiness skills for Somali and immigrant youth that within four school districts.

\$15,000

## One2One

Minneapolis

One2One builds partnerships with community institutions to help youth succeed. Funding is for mentoring activities that supports youth in building sustained relationships with adult mentors and develop academic and social-emotional strengths needed to succeed in school and life.

\$10,000

## Past Athletes Concerned About Education

Minneapolis

Past Athletes Concerned About Education provides comprehensive mentoring programs for at-risk youth utilizing empowering methods that result in social, emotional and academic success. In partnership with Hennepin County Juvenile Corrections, funding will be used for its Life Skills Mentors/Coaches that will provide one-on-one and small group mentoring, community engagement, and physical activities to at-risk youth who are struggling with behavior issues.

\$10,000

## Phyllis Wheatley Community Center

Minneapolis

Phyllis Wheatley Community Center (PWCC) provides quality programs in lifelong learning, child development, youth and family services for the diverse greater Minneapolis community. Funding will be used for activities that contribute to sustainable community change around healthy living and food access through education and awareness, to meaningful engagement and advocacy with strategies that include cooking classes, gardening, community service, entrepreneurship and marketing, food science, and family engagement opportunities.

\$15,000

## Power of People Leadership Institute/Girls in Action

Robbinsdale

The Power of People Leadership Institute is committed to engaging, empowering, educating and advocating for youth and adults through an innovative interactive approach that challenges, inspires and informs them to overcome life.

\$15,000

## Shades of Yellow (SOY)

Saint Paul

Shades of Yellow (SOY) is a Hmong, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) organizations that works to cultivate a community of empowered Hmong Asian Pacific Islanders (HAPI) LGBTQ. Funding will be used to implement its REAL Training Program to build power in emerging young leaders, community members, and organizational partners.

\$5,000

## Shanta Link

Saint Paul

Shanta Link strives to break down barriers for young Somali immigrants by providing tutoring, mentoring, financial support for postsecondary education, and other support services to ensure Somali youth have the tools they need to be successful and assimilate in American society. Funding will be used to hire a part-time Program Coordinator in order to build our capacity to increase and enhance our programs throughout the Twin Cities.

5,000

## Somali American Parent Association

Minneapolis

Somali American Parent Association (SAPA) engages, serves and empowers Somali youth, their parents and their community to achieve a quality educational experience. Funding will be used to strengthen its program evaluation, expand OST structure, and provide training staff.

\$10,000

## Tennis & Education, Inc

Saint Paul

Tennis & Education Center is an innovative tennis and community center providing accessible tennis and education opportunities in the Twin Cities metro area, especially for opportunity youth. Funding will be used to support the deeper integration of our Youth Advisory Board into both the organization's decision making systems and our Racial Equity Learning Communities (RELC). RELC is the organization's professional development program for all staff, board members and key stakeholders.

\$15,000

## The BrandLab

Minneapolis

The BrandLab provides opportunity and access for young people of diverse ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds to pursue careers in marketing. Funding will be used for activities to build a supportive bridge between our internship program and our participant

\$15,000

## Tyrone Guzman Centro, Inc.

Minneapolis

Centro Tyrone Guzman is the oldest multi-service Latino organization in Minneapolis that addresses the root causes of poverty that can interfere with Latino families.

\$15,000

## Urban Arts Academy

Minneapolis

Urban Arts Academy invests in South Minneapolis youth through culturally-inclusive arts-infused education that arises from community need and involvement. Funding will be used for Project Footsteps to pilot an innovative model of youth engagement that provides 15-20 youth leaders with 5 months of arts-infused leadership training, while simultaneously engaging these leaders in the real-time design of their own year-round program model, including planning for sustainability and growth.

\$10,000

## Urban Boatbuilders

Saint Paul

Urban Boatbuilders is a youth development organization that utilizes the building and use of wooden boats as a vehicle to develop the 21st century skills of opportunity youth and provides them with opportunities to experience success. Funding will expand the current partnership with Sprockets to increase program quality improvement using the Youth Program Quality Assessment.

\$10,000

## Urban Roots

Saint Paul

Urban Roots (formerly Community Design Center of Minnesota) provides long-term internships and education opportunities for 60 diverse teens from low income households in food, health, conservation and entrepreneurship. Funding will be used for its three main programs.

\$10,000

## Walker West Music Academy

Saint Paul

Walker West Music Academy creates a space for people of all ages and backgrounds to gather, explore, and grow, through OST music education and enrichment programs. Funding will be used to expand the use of the YPQA framework and a goal tracking system. This two-pronged evaluation approach will allow Walker West to more comprehensively deliver and track its high quality music programs.

\$20,000

## WellShare International

Minneapolis

WellShare International improves the health of communities through community-based programs built on best practices and rigorous monitoring/evaluation. The Young Achievers Capacity Building project increases access to quality OST programs for immigrant/refugee youth in Minneapolis by helping build a coordinated OST system. Funding will be used to continue its partnership with the Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board, enact an YPQA quality improvement plan and implement the Charities Review Standards.

\$10,000

## **Women's Initiative for Self Empowerment (WISE), Inc.**

**Saint Paul**

WISE's community-based programs build skills and promote self-sufficiency of immigrant and refugee women and girls while raising public awareness of issues related to the success of immigrants and refugees in their new home. Funding will enable participation in the Sprockets database, YPQA and SAYO evaluation tools to enhance capacity of the GGAL after school program that works to assist low-income, immigrant/refugee girls in grades 7-12 to build academic, English language, college readiness and leadership skills.

\$15,000

## **Youth Farm**

**Minneapolis**

Youth Farm is a youth development organization that uses food to engage youth ages 9-24 in neighborhood based social change work. The primary activities will focus on our ongoing Youth Participatory Evaluation, which utilizes our core program model throughout the year to engage our Project LEAD & Youth Evaluation Team to engage in research based evaluation (YPQA) so that youth can be decision makers and program planners in every element of our program.

\$15,000

## **Youth Performance Company**

**Minneapolis**

Youth Performance Company uses theatre as a powerful tool to educate, raise awareness, and produce youth leaders trained in addressing important issues in our community including discrimination, racism and bullying. Funding will be used to enable young artists to partner with equity leaders to research, investigate and gather stories to develop a theatrical script and workshop that explores racism with the goal to influence community members and policy makers to impact racial disparities in our community.

\$10,000

## **YouthCARE**

**Minneapolis**

YouthCARE is dedicated to providing high-quality education, employment, and leadership development opportunities to diverse youth, 7-18 years old, during the critical out-of-school time hours. Funding enable YouthCARE.

\$10,000

## **YouthLink**

**Minneapolis**

YouthLink helps young people at the age of transition between adolescence and adulthood overcome homelessness and other barriers in order to achieve adult lives of safety, independence, and self-reliance. Funding will be used to implement a new Community Connector program, which helps establish relationships between young people and trusted adults in the community that will last long after a young person has left the umbrella of YouthLink's supportive services.

\$10,000

youthrive

Minneapolis

youthrive will continue to offer 5 key parts of our Being the Change (BTC) OST program. The BTC network serves over 4,400 youth at 164 sites; 1,025 youth participate in opportunities at 40 OST sites. Funding will provide youth grades 6-12 work with adult partners to prepare new BTC learning resources, train college scholars to mentor 40 OST sites using BTC; and engage youth to administer an on-line BTC outcomes assessment tool.

\$15,000



**youthprise**

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Beyond the Classroom*