



**County of Marin
Community Service Fund Program
Application Form**

Application Date March 20, 2019

Fiscal Year July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

Organization Information

Full Legal Name: ForWords Literacy Lab

Organization URL: www.forwords.org

Mission/purpose of your organization:

ForWords Literacy Lab's mission is to provide low-income, under-served students who are first generation English Language Learners, with programs and opportunities to develop a wide variety of literacy skills including cognitive, linguistic, academic, and technological skills. Our purpose is to enable these students to gain fluency and proficiency in written English; speak in public, think critically, and evaluate information objectively, creating educated participants in our democracy - ready to continue their education beyond high school and/or secure meaningful employment. Our programs take place in and out of English Language Learner classes at San Rafael High School, Davidson Middle School, Terra Linda High School and at our Computer Lab throughout the year. The Lab is within walking distance for most of the 200 students we currently serve, with access to MAC Book Laptops and applicable hardware and applications, digital cameras, a sound system and digital voice recorders.

Grant Request Information

Program/Project Name: Saturdays and Summer Explorations of Life and Culture

Summary of how County funds would be used for project:

To support transportation and other costs for Explorations of Life and Culture, for first generation English language students to visit museums, performances and other art and cultural experiences

Amount Requested Dollar: To support transportation and other costs for Explorations of Life and Culture, for

Total Project Cost: \$117,000.00

Description of the proposed project/program, including the proposed project's goal(s), and the nature of the costs in specific terms, i.e. materials, labor costs, etc. Specifics of how the requested County funds will be used.

Funds will partially support Explorations of Life and Culture, an increasingly important part of our Saturday and Summer Programming. Far more than "field trips" Explorations will provide our growing number of students who have few if any opportunities to experience the world beyond their neighborhoods, with activities that broaden and expand their vision of the world and possibilities for their lives. Over the coming months, students will visit: a local state park; murals in the SF Mission District, Mission Cultural Center; SF Fine Arts Museums; Community Media Center Marin to learn about digital technology; local universities; South of Market Cultural Center for the Day of the Dead Exhibition; attend a production of the opera "Harvey Milk"; attend Bring in the Noise and Youth Speaks events in honoring Dr. Martin Luther King; attend several drama/theatre workshops with Marin Theatre Co., Berkeley Rep, Hip Hop for Change, Marin Shakespeare Co.; and Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland - staying in dorms and touring the college campus. In and out of the classrooms, students will be reading, writing, developing presentations and using our Computer Lab to build on what they bring back from Explorations. All of our participants face deeply personal challenges regarding their country and culture of origin, where they now live and how they navigate these issues. Explorations help them acculturate to their new home and develop literacy skills and a secure sense of identity that embraces both cultures. We will focus on understanding the influences and impact of culture on a person's development by enabling students to connect what they see and hear with their own experience and then apply what they learn to the world they live in and their place, as well as the place of others, in it. County funds will be used toward the increasing cost of bus rentals, gas, admission fees or tickets, and dorm lodging for the Ashland visit.

List of all community interests that will be affected by the proposed project/program and the public benefit to be derived from it:

We do not charge our students or schools for any of our programs. Our students are English language learners, some newly arrived in Marin, whose lives may be compromised by poverty, family separation, gang violence, discriminatory attitudes, and local school systems that are over-whelmed and under-resourced. Evaluation of our

work shows that it has opened new worlds and opportunities for them, including opportunities for employment and higher education. They Find positive outlets for their energy and transform personal experiences into academically and creatively rich expressions. To quote one student “If it were not for ForWords I would be on the streets” In addition to the students themselves, schools and classroom teachers, parents and families, and the community at large all benefit when we have an educated, literate and participatory electorate – the heart of an effective democracy. By engaging students who are part of the demographics described above, allowing and encouraging them to learn about their community, about governance and social issues, and about themselves, we are developing participants in Marin’s future, empowering them to become a positive part of it. Both our newest students and those who have been in Marin longer are deeply concerned and reflective about their individual place in their new home as well as their role in our community. We are staffed and advised by an exceptional team of educators, artists, and digital media experts. We include and involve classroom teachers and families. Our intergenerational and bi-lingual team creates a safe inviting environment so students can develop their skills, pride and resiliency. Having worked with many students from middle school through high school for over 10 years, we are now able to boast that 2 of our key staff members are college graduates who experienced FWLL first hand as students.

The total amount received for the past three fiscal years:

Year	Amount	Project
2017 - 2018	\$2,000.00	Saturdays At ForWords Film and Poetry Project
2016 - 2017		
2015 - 2016		

No County funding was received for this project or others.

Project/program can be completed if amount received is less than requested amount of Community Service funds.

Applicants are encouraged to leverage funding from other non-County sources, and priority will be given to requests that represent no more than 50% of total project cost. To demonstrate all sources of project funding, including other County sources, please provide a project/program budget below. Please fill in as applicable, and round to the nearest dollar.

Project Funding Sources	Funding Agency	Funding Requested	Received	Notes
County CSF		\$5,000	\$0	<i>Explorations of Life & Culture</i>
Federal Grant				
State Grant				
Individual Contributions	ForWords	\$40,000	\$30,000	<i>Individual donors to FW Saturday & Summer Programs</i>
Other Local Agencies			\$0	
In kind services	Professional pro-bono	\$5,000	\$5,000	<i>education, legal & tech consultants</i>
Other	Foundation Grants	\$57,000	\$35,000	<i>McBurney, Wells Fargo, Amini, Marin Charitable,</i>
Total Sources		\$107,000	\$70,000	
Project Expenses		Budgeted	Spent to Date	Notes
Personnel Costs		\$77,000	\$30,000	<i>Program Staff</i>
Services and Supplies		\$15,000	\$5,000	<i>printing, publishing, showcasing student work</i>
Capital				
Other		\$15,000	\$0	<i>Explorations of Life & Culture</i>
Total Expenses		\$107,000	\$35,000	

