



County of Marin Community Service Fund Program Application Form

Application Date September 29, 2016

Fiscal Year July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

Organization Information

Full Legal Name: The Beat Within

Organization URL: www.thebeatwithin.org

Mission/purpose of your organization:

Since 1996, The Beat Within has been steadfast in our mission to provide writing and conversation workshops for incarcerated youth. TBW encourages our region’s highest-risk youth to reflect on their behavior, explore how they have lost connection with their values and consider the ways in which they can reconnect to positive situations through the power of the written word and visual art. Our weekly workshops provide a safe space to share ideas while promoting literacy, expression, critical thinking skills and supportive relationships with adults from the community. Workshops empower incarcerated youth to use the artistry of the written word—through poetry, prose, and storytelling—to connect to their inner voice. This process not only enables the most at/in/high-risk youth to process and reflect upon the actions or situations that led to their incarceration, but acts as a catalyst for youth to make different and more positive decisions in the future.

Grant Request Information

Program/Project Name: THE BEAT WITHIN

Amount Requested Dollar: \$10,000.00

Total Project Cost: \$30,000.00

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.

Each week, TBW volunteers arrive at the Marin Juvenile Justice Center with pencils, paper, a set of topics crafted to invite and encourage incarcerated youth to offer their perspectives on personal, civic or ethical issues and the latest Beat magazine. The workshop begins with group discussion around the topics. Youth spend the remainder of the workshop writing about their chosen topic, always with supportive coaching from TBW workshop facilitators. After each writing workshop, facilitators, staff and youth interns transcribe all handwritten pieces, edit content, respond to each individual piece and submit selected writing to the editors of The Beat Within magazine. The Beat Within magazine rewards incarcerated youth with a powerful validation of their efforts, and offers an invaluable platform from which they can share their experiences, regrets, frustrations and aspirations with a readership comprised of more than 7,000 participating youth, concerned community members, juvenile hall staff, judges and other court officials and magazines subscribers. Every 2 weeks TBW provides each workshop participant with their own copy of the magazine to take back to their cells to keep and read. In 2015, TBW began monthly workshops in San Quentin State Prison to work with a group of Juvenile Lifers (men who were convicted to life sentences in their youth). This diverse, thoughtful and dedicated assembly relishes the opportunity to engage in critical discussion, write and share their writing with the community, via The Beat Within magazine. They take incredibly seriously their opportunity to urge incarcerated youth to follow a different path and to be the voices of encouragement and support that they never had. With 10K from the Community Service Fund, TBW will pay a stipend to lead facilitator, Pulitzer-prize winning author Katherine Ellison, purchase classroom supplies and cover our significant publishing costs. TBW will continue monthly San Quentin writing workshops.

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

The price of juvenile incarceration encompasses much more than the money spent by taxpayers to imprison children. The real cost is the damage done to incarcerated youth, their families and their communities. Through our work with the youth at the Marin County Juvenile Detention Center, The Beat Within strives to mitigate this cost, to facilitate the healing that must transpire if these young people are to return home with the belief that they can make positive impact on the lives of their friends, family and community at large. We know of no better tool toward achieving this end than the arts. TBW’s Marin County facilitators seek to change outcomes by creating safe spaces in which kids can share their stories with sympathetic ears, benefit from the experience and wisdom of their peers

and instructors, and see their hard wrought work validated via publication in The Beat Within magazine. This plays a crucial role in transforming identities and informing the public about the root causes of juvenile delinquency. We know of no other program that facilitates connections between concerned community members and incarcerated youth, offers recently released youth a bridge to the outside world via writing workshops at partnering community-based organizations, and provides the one-of-a-kind opportunity and platform that is The Beat Within magazine. While weekly writing and conversation workshops create safe spaces in which incarcerated youth can process trauma, overcome shame and transform their self-image, the publication of their work serves as a powerful validation of their efforts, the likes of which many of them have never before experienced. If we desire to truly welcome these kids back into our communities with the hope that they will turn their lives around and make meaningful contributions, it is imperative that we help them eradicate the shame and stigma of incarceration, process trauma and transform the ways in which they see themselves.

The total amount received for the past three fiscal years:

Year	Amount	Project
2015 - 2016	\$3,000.00	The Beat Within a program of Intersection for the Arts
2014 - 2015		
2013 - 2014		

List of County funding received for this project or others.

Marin County Probation Department \$7500.

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	Marin Probation	\$10,000	\$7,500	<i>contract for services</i>
Federal Grant				
State Grant				
Individual Contributions				
Other Local Agencies	Marin Supervisors	\$10,000	\$3,000	
In kind services				
Other	Kalliopeia Foundation	\$12,000	\$5,000	
Total Sources		\$32,000	\$15,500	
Project Expenses		Budgeted	Spent to Date	Notes
Personnel Costs		\$19,000	\$14,250	<i>publishing, layout and workshops</i>
Services and Supplies		\$6,500	\$4,875	
Capital		\$0	\$0	
Other		\$4,500	\$3,375	
Total Expenses		\$30,000	\$22,500	