

LUNDSTRUM CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

PROPOSAL TO THE MINNEAPOLIS EMPOWERMENT ZONE

Brief description of the funding request and the requested amount:

Lundstrum Center for the Performing Arts is a community-based, non-profit performing arts school and theatre located in North Minneapolis, one block off West Broadway. Lundstrum's high standards and cutting edge brand makes a **major impact on the lives of at-risk youth by offering new possibilities for their future through participation in arts programs and performances.**

Children and youth living in North Minneapolis urgently need creative, skill-building after-school and summer activities led by caring adult mentors. Lundstrum Center makes a major impact on the lives of these high-need youth. They understand that Lundstrum Center is a safe place to imagine new possibilities for their future through the mentorship of caring adults who are also professional performing artists.

Three years ago, Lundstrum Center lost the home it had been in for 80 years. We relocated to a temporary space in the warehouse district of North Minneapolis. The displacement has severely impacted our organizational growth and services. As we have attempted to re-group in our leased space, we have been forced to cut programs and hold classes and performances off-site. Without adequate space to house our programs, we are increasingly challenged to deliver our goal of bringing the best in performing arts education and production to the community of North Minneapolis and beyond. Renting theater space for our performances and concerts has been a costly venture and we have cut our performance schedule down to only a third of its capacity.

In order to be able to fully meet our mission of providing access to high quality performing arts education and performances in North Minneapolis, we have initiated a \$2.75M capital campaign to support the growth of our programs as we purchase and transform a property into a new "state of the art" performance and training facility. LCPA requests **\$100,000 in capital funds** from the Minneapolis Empowerment Zone to assist with the renovation and build-out of a 10,500 square foot facility at 1617 North Second Street that will support the growth of our programs in North Minneapolis while attracting performing artists from "Broadway to West Broadway."

Brief description of the organization's history and mission statement:

For more than seven decades, Dorothy Lundstrum mentored thousands of students in North Minneapolis teaching positive behavior, self-esteem, and good citizenship as well as dance and movement through the Ascension School of Dance at 1704 Dupont Ave North. When she passed away in 1998, she willed her studio and teaching philosophy to the Casserly sisters--Susan, Kerry, Amy and Janie. Two years later, Lundstrum Center for the Performing Arts opened as a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization, dedicated to fulfilling Dorothy's mission. Today, a full performing arts curriculum capitalizes on the Casserly sisters' professional expertise in music, dance, acting, and stage performance, and:

- Provides high quality musical theater education and opportunities for children and adults
- Helps underserved youth in the North Minneapolis community improve their lives by discovering their own unique, creative and expressive potential
- Provides subsidies and scholarships to approximately 60% of students enrolled in programs
- Teaches performance skills in music, theater and dance, and life skills in teamwork, self-discipline and setting high, yet attainable goals.

Our mission is to **help youth ages 6-21 improve their lives by providing access to high quality performing arts education and performance opportunities**, through which they discover their own unique, creative and expressive potential. Lundstrum Center for the Performing Arts:

- Believes that all youth, regardless of social and economic conditions, should have the **opportunity to discover their unique gifts in the performing arts** and be given the opportunity to develop those gifts.
- Is committed to providing a **safe, secure and nurturing environment** for the free expression of students' abilities.
- Is committed to providing the **highest quality learning experiences** for our students by seeking out and recruiting only the best performing arts instructors in support of our curriculum offerings.
- Is committed to providing an atmosphere in which the **dignity and uniqueness of each person is valued** and where all students, parents, faculty, employees and volunteers are treated with respect, care and concern for their well-being.

Since receiving 501 (c) 3 non-profit status in 2000, **LCPA has served 3,066 students in 64 on-site programs**, and many more in outreach programs. Classes led by Broadway theater professionals offer a systematic and integrated curriculum of voice, dance and drama at beginning, intermediate and advanced levels. Classes in music, acting, ballet, jazz dance, Broadway tap and hip-hop, address the interests and needs of underserved children and youth. All classes provide dynamic skill-building techniques in performance, and positively impact students' overall confidence and self-esteem, as well as academic and relationship skills. Classes are offered through the **Performing Arts Program, the Performing Arts Conservatory, educational outreach programs** including **Dancemania** - a class for kids with special needs, and a unique program for adolescents, **Self-Development through the Arts**.

Seventy-five percent of the students enrolled in Lundstrum Center programs are residents of North Minneapolis, an area with a population of approximately 60,000 and a **poverty index of 45%**. 60% of students enrolled are of **African, Asian, Latino and American Indian origin**. 25% of the students enrolled are residents of the broader community. Over 60% of students currently receive tuition assistance in the form of grants, scholarships and waivers.

Our \$2.75M capital campaign will continue through December of 2009. Campaign goals are designed to help us continue to deliver challenging and affirming arts programs and performances to high need students in North Minneapolis and beyond. The Lundstrum Center for the Performing Arts facility will serve as a major arts center in the heart of North Minneapolis, and contribute to its economic and cultural renaissance. With expanded classroom, rehearsal space, and a theater, Lundstrum Center will be able to meet demonstrated community demands for higher levels of student participation in each class and be able to increase our performance events for the community. In addition, the availability of the art gallery, the sunlit reception area and stunning conference rooms will contribute to the civic appeal and vitality of this up and coming arts community.

We know that the Minneapolis Empowerment Zone shares our desire to provide a life-changing opportunity for high need, high risk children and youth who don't get enough chances to imagine their lives as a success. We hope you'll join us in bringing the best of performing arts opportunities to the young people of North Minneapolis, with a contribution of **\$100,000** to our capital campaign.