



CFMC Grant Application

COMPLETE THIS APPLICATION FOR FUNDING REQUESTS FOR THE Community Foundation of Middlesex County Competitive Cycle.

Instructions: Complete the application on the website. You may "Save and Continue Later" - the site will email you a link which is active for 30 days. Review instructions document for full details before completing. Complete all questions.

Section V requires certain documents to be uploaded to the form - see the Application Instructions Document for a list of the required items. All items must be uploaded as PDF Files. The required Project Budget form is available on the website in Word. This document must be submitted as PDF file as well.

I. Application Information

Legal Name of Organization

Connecticut Storytelling Center, Inc.

Division or Department Name (if applicable)

Are you a 501(c)3 Organization

Yes

Other Tax Exempt Entity?

EIN #

06-1467199

If your organization is not a 501(c) 3 tax exempt entity or division/department of a 170(c)1 government agency or religious organization, please contact Thayer Talbott, 860.347.0025, for further information before completing the application.

Dollar Amount Requested \$

\$4,000

Total Cost associated with request \$

\$8,500

Summary Statement

Six Middletown preschools will receive between three and six visits from professional storytellers, who will promote emergent literacy skills through their stories and follow-up activities. Students and teachers will hear multicultural stories and folktales, and participate and learn together.

II. Funding Request Information

1. Proposal / Purpose

“Littlest Listeners” is a storytelling residency where teaching artists spark interest in oral and written literature, while focusing on other school goals like multicultural knowledge and respect. During multiple classroom visits, professional storytellers will deliver lively, arts-based literacy instruction, improving listening, speaking, and visualizing skills, the first three components of literacy. The performing arts of storytelling, music, and theatre all come into play during a Littlest Listeners story time, bringing literature and folklore to life, and inspiring participation and learning. The teachers see activities they can use on a daily basis performed by teaching artists, and observe how well storytelling arts help the students focus and remember.

While too much computer time isn't the same issue for preschoolers as it has been for school-age children during the pandemic, the reliance on screens of all varieties continues to take a toll on our children. These students will truly benefit from being immersed in the fun and interactive, literacy-driven environment that is storytelling! They need face-to-face interaction, which naturally improves listening and comprehension, and helps develop the social skills that are key to healthy relationships. Imaginative play, an important part of our program, is also a critical part of a child's development, teaching them empathy and self-control. Early language arts experiences are instrumental to literacy development and help children achieve school success in the long run.

Children will make gains in the following areas:

- * Increased attention span
- * Improved comprehension skills
- * Improved ability to follow directions
- * Increased vocabulary
- * Improved ability to remember and predict events in a story
- * Improved book awareness

Most importantly, the children will find that learning through stories is FUN!

Teachers will also learn storytelling skills that they can use in their classrooms and find new ways to meet curricular needs through storytelling.

Our biggest challenge will be planning around the ongoing pandemic, with its attendant health concerns and the subsequent need to be flexible with scheduling. It will also affect whether we can visit the schools in person. We have learned to be patient and tenacious when it comes to scheduling and re-scheduling, and we have developed virtual and outside programming that can be used where we cannot physically be in the classroom. While this past year was incredibly challenging due to the necessity of dealing with these issues, it was also very fruitful, in that we have an effective contingency plan in place moving forward.

2. Sustainability and Assessing Impact

As stated earlier, the pandemic forced us to develop a contingency plan which we've found to be effective. While we would always prefer to be in the classroom with the children, we have developed virtual, interactive programming to which the children respond very well. The teachers have also stepped up their involvement, helping the children make connections and modeling participation in the storytelling activities. Our teaching artists are prepared to tell their stories in whatever way works best for the school and classroom involved. Storytellers and teachers will continue to communicate about the best approach with the children, and will vary the program, as necessary, to best connect with the students. Post-residency evaluations will be given to teachers, and they will be asked to assess both the students' growth, and their own in using storytelling arts in the classroom.

Our updated evaluation tools will enable us to report on our successes and challenges more comprehensively, allowing us to measure our outcomes in a more succinct, objective fashion. Teachers will be asked to score students' skill levels in listening, comprehension, visualizing, vocabulary, etc., on a scale of 1 (skill is not evident) to 5 (skill is improving). Subjective questions will address student response to storyteller, difficulties, and general comments. We are confident that this more detailed evaluation will allow the teachers to be more specific in their reporting on the program, and will enable us to better understand and report on our impact in the classroom. Storyteller evaluations will also be used to assess the program's efficacy.

Our Littlest Listeners Literacy Program has been thriving in preschools across the state of Connecticut for over twenty years. Enhancing literacy development in the classroom has always been and will continue to be central to what we do as an organization. That said, the size and length of our program does fluctuate with foundational funding. We will continue to seek funding for this program in Middletown to ensure its ongoing success.

III. Grant Program / Project Information

Organization Area of Impact (choose ONE)

Education (Community Wide/Schools)

Grant Type (choose ONE)

Program Development/Implementation

Target Demographics (Select all that apply):

- Adults
- Birth to 5 years old

Geographic Area(s) Served By This Application:

- Middletown

Total Number of People in Middlesex County Personally Impacted

535

IV. Organization Information

Board of Directors / Trustees Information

Total Number of Directors/Trustees:

9

Percent (%) of Directors/Trustees who contribute annually to Operations

75% or more

Average number attending in person:

8

Total Number of Board meetings held last year:

10

Date most recent IRS Form 990 was filed:

11/20

Year of Return:

2020

Organization's Fiscal Year

July 1 - June 30

Organization's Total Operating Budget

294091

Division Operating Budget Information

National Organization Chapter Information

Have you APPLIED for funding from CFMC previously?

Yes

Did you RECEIVE a competitive process grant in the:

- 2018-2019 cycle
- 2019-2020 cycle

Brief Background Statement of the Organization:

The mission of the Connecticut Storytelling Center is to promote the living art and use of storytelling in the many environments of our diverse society. It has been in existence since 1981.

Providing performances, workshops, and educational programming in an ever-widening circle of venues, we seek to preserve and perpetuate the ancient art of storytelling.

Our programs include:

- * Annual festival/conference for adults on the last weekend of April,
- * "Tellabration!" - we partner with community organizations to produce a series of storytelling concerts throughout the state in the fall,
- * Schools program, which places teaching artists in residence in schools, enhancing literacy and multicultural awareness.

V. Additional Information To Be Included with the Application

Please Note: Additional information requested below MUST be uploaded in PDF files. Other document formats will not be accepted by the application form. Attempts to upload other file formats could result in a loss of all application data entered.

A. CFMC Application Budget Summary Form:

- 2021_Summary-Budget5.pdf

B. Current Organization Operations Budget

- BudgetFY22short.pdf

C. Board of Directors and Officers List Board-

- Members-21-22.pdf

D. IRS Tax Exempt Determination Letter

- CSC_IRS-2.pdf

E. PPP / EIDL / Other Loan Information

Loan/Grant Type (ie. PPP, EIDL)	Amount Received	Forgiveable or Repayment
PPP	26,000	Forgivable
Small Business Association Loan	55,000	Repayment

F. America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

No

Additional financial documentation, including the organization's most recent audit, annual report, and IRS Form 990 may also be required. Only provide this information if requested.

For programs or projects which are collaborations among two or more organizations or where an organization provides in-school or after-school programming for schools, the Community Foundation requires a list of organizations or schools partnering with your organization as well as Letters of Support.

For the purposes of this application, collaborations are defined as partnerships where two or more agencies are committed through staffing, funding, and resource allocation to the goals and objectives of the program described. Because the nature of the collaboration requires two or more entities to work together, for the purposes of funding, only one organization may complete the application, and in doing so, accepts responsibility for all evaluative and fiduciary reporting.

For all collaborations, the Community Foundation requires letters of support from the non-applicant organization(s) and/or from the school(s) and school district(s) at which the applicant organization is the program.

Is this application a collaboration of two or more nonprofit organizations (NOT schools)?

No

Is this application in collaboration with a School(s) or School Districts?

Yes (Letter(s) of Support REQUIRED)

If Yes, is this a New or On-Going Collaboration?

On-going

If this is an On-Going Collaboration, how long has the collaboration existed?

18 years

List of Collaborators

Middletown School Readiness Council - Dawn Dubay, Director

Middletown Preschools

Snow Preschool - Dawn Abrahamson, Coordinator

South Farms Nursery School - Annette Dimauro, Director

Bright & Early Learning Center - Kaitlynn Amadio, Director

Town & Country Early Learning Center - Judi Kenney, Director

YMCA Phelps Ingersoll Center for Children - Amber Creighton-Pandey, Director

Letters of Support (if a collaboration with schools or other nonprofits))

- Middletown-Preschool-LOS.pdf

VI. Organization Contact Information

Are you a new nonprofit applicant to the Community Foundation?

No

Executive Officer's Name

Ann Shapiro

Title

Executive Director

Phone

(860) 934-8165

Executive Officer Email

ctstorytelling234@gmail.com

Contact Person

Susie Scheyder

Title

Administrative Assistant

Phone

(860) 934-8165

Application Contact Email

ctstorytelling234@gmail.com

Mailing Address

290 State Street
New London, Connecticut 06320
United States

Street Address

Connecticut
United States

Website

www.connstorycenter.org

Social Media Channels

<https://www.facebook.com/ConnecticutStorytellingCenter/>; Youtube/Connecticut Storytelling Festival

VII. Non-Funding Needs

We always appreciate it when people spread the word about the literacy work we do in schools across Connecticut. Thank you for supporting our work!

VIII. Marketing and Public Relations

Organizations receiving grants from the Community Foundation of Middlesex County must promote their funding awards according to the marketing and public relations guidelines established by the Community Foundation. By signing the application below, the CEO/Executive Director understands the Community Foundation's marketing and public relations requirements if awarded a grant. The Community Foundation will host a seminar on marketing guidelines and tips for grantees annually. The Community Foundation's Grantee Communications Kit may be downloaded on our website in the Nonprofit Resources section, middlesexcountycf.org/nonprofits/resources/forms-pr-guidelines/.

IX. Tax Exempt Standing and Use of Grant Funding Certification

By signing this application, the CEO/Executive Director/Board President is certifying that your organization is a qualified 501c3 organization or other charitable organization recognized and currently in good standing with the IRS, or 170(c)(1) governmental agencies. Should a grant be approved by the Community Foundation of Middlesex County, these funds may only be used for the purpose outlined in your original application; you must notify us if you are unable to do so. If grant funding is provided, you may only use these funds for charitable purpose as described in Section 170(c)2 of the IRS code, and funds may not be used for any political or lobbying activity. In addition, no tangible benefits, goods or services may be received by our donors or by staff members of the Community Foundation of Middlesex County in exchange for grant funding.

Signature Certification

I certify that my printed name as stated and assigned below constitutes my signature and may be accepted as such.

Printed Name

Ann Shapiro

Title

Executive Director

Date

09/23/2021

CONNECTICUT STORYTELLING CENTER
290 State Street, New London, CT 06320
 PHONE: 860-934-8165, E-MAIL: ctstorytelling234@gmail.com

<u>BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021-2022</u>	<u>AFFILIATION</u>	<u>Years Served</u>
President: Bina Williams 30 Grantham Rd. Wallingford, CT 06492 203-269-3968 Cell: 203-671-0302 binawill@aol.com	Librarian, Bridgeport, CT	4
Vice President: Amanda Stern 24 Brandegee Lane Berlin, CT 06037 203-379-8709 amjastern@gmail.com	Events & Special Projects Manager, CT Library Consortium	1
Treasurer: Cherie Poirier 36 Bailey Woods Road Brooklyn, CT 06234 860-208-6562 Cheriepoirier@yahoo.com	Development Coordinator Health Education Center, Inc.	2
Secretary: James Enderle 465 Mohegan Ave. Parkway Quaker Hill, CT 06375 860-961-5982 enderlejim@hotmail.com	Instructional Systems Design (contractor for General Dynamics Electric Boat)	2
Kymberlee Powe 141 Main St. B3 West Haven, CT 06516 860-912-4619 Kymberlee.Powe@ct.gov KymPowe1@gmail.com	State Library Consultant	1
Denise Page 1209 B Durham Rd. Madison, CT 06443 860-680-2852 denisekpage@gmail.com	Racial Justice and Empathy Facilitator; Ubuntu Storytellers	1

Arnie Pritchard 19 Colony Road New Haven, CT 06511 203-624-2520 cell: 203-804-4814 apritchard01@snet.net	retired civil servant; planning specialist	1
Lauren Mendoza 7 Bauer Rd. New Fairfield, CT 06812 cell: 203-219-7697 lmccmendoza@yahoo.com	Library Children's Programmer, Storyteller	1
Alyssa McClain P.O. Box 3404 Mashantucket, CT 06338 860-235-1639 alyssam.mcclain@gmail.com	Director of Programs & Special Projects Health Education Center	new
Ann Shapiro, Executive Director, ex-officio 55 East Town Street Norwich, CT 06360 860-889-6581 cell: 860-669-6581 csc@conncoll.edu		