



## 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 CFMC Budget Summary 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**

Goodspeed Opera House Foundation, Inc.

**Division or Department Name (if applicable)**

**Other Tax Exempt Entity?**

**Are you a 501(c)3 Organization**

Yes

**EIN #**

13-1969314

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.

**Total Cost associated with request \$**

\$203,840

**Dollar Amount Requested \$**

\$5,000

**Summary Statement**

Goodspeed Musicals' Ats Education Collaboration (AEC) is an immersive, multi-day program that serves children across the state of Connecticut, including approximately 100 youth in Middlesex County. AEC activities – including transportation, lunch, tickets to a Goodspeed performance, and a series of workshops – are provided completely free of charge to every participant.

## II. Funding Request Information

### 1. Proposal / Purpose

**COMMUNITY NEED:** A study titled *Investigating the Causal Effects of Arts Education* (2022, Bowen and Kisida) demonstrated that art education can boost students' writing skills, build social and emotional skills, and increase school engagement; but the same study warns that arts learning has been deprioritized in K-12 education since the 1980s, as schools – including those in Connecticut – have shifted tight budgets to align instruction with standardized testing.

This study is our nation's first large-scale, randomized, controlled trial of a city's collective efforts to restore arts education in schools through community partnerships and investments. The results of this Houston study showed that, compared with a control group, students who had access to arts experiences showed improved behavior, better standardized writing achievement scores, greater compassion for others, higher engagement in school, and stronger college aspirations.

As Connecticut school districts continue to face difficult choices that reduce or even eliminate spending on arts-based activities, Goodspeed works to ensure that all children – regardless of what school they attend or their family's income – can experience theatre. In today's environment, the education programs offered by Goodspeed are increasingly vital to preserving an artistic presence in the state's public schools.

**SERVICES PROVIDED:** Goodspeed Musicals' Arts Education Collaboration (AEC) is an immersive, multi-day program for children across the state of Connecticut. AEC activities – including transportation, lunch, tickets to a Goodspeed performance, and a series of workshops – are provided completely free of charge to every participant.

- **Day 1:** A Goodspeed teaching artist visits students in their classroom for a preparatory in-school workshop. Youth are introduced to the show they'll see when they visit our campus and learn the basic components of a musical theatre production.
- **Day 2:** Young patrons are our guests for a full day on the Goodspeed campus. The day begins with morning workshops led by professional teaching artists (often cast members of the show students will see later in the day) that build upon the themes and concepts introduced the day before. On-their-feet activities allow students to try their hands at acting, improvisation, dance, and character development. After lunch, students join the audience for a matinee performance.
- **Day 3:** In a final in-school workshop, a Goodspeed teaching artist leads students in activities that allow them to reflect on and ask questions about their experience at our theatre.

**PROGRAM GOALS:** Through the AEC, students deepen their drama and language arts skills while cultivating their identities as scholars, critics, and fans of live theatre. We expect to serve at least 1,100 youth in 2024, including at least 100 students from schools in East Haddam, Middletown, and other Middlesex County cities.

Our goal is to make outstanding musical theatre experiences accessible to under-served youth across the state of Connecticut. By participating in AEC activities students will...

- Participate in educational, theatre-based workshops and practice theatre etiquette.
- Learn about the core elements of a musical theatre production, including the one they'll see at Goodspeed.
- Explore occupations in the theatre industry.

The following productions are featured in the 2024 AEC program:

- *South Pacific* (6/14/24-8/11/24) takes place on a lush tropical island during World War II. A lovestruck nurse and a young lieutenant are pulled into the tides of separate romances, but prejudice clouds their potential paradise.
- *Maggie* (8/23/24-10/20/24) shares an inspirational, centuries-spanning tale about a single, working-class mother's love for her three sons.
- *A Christmas Story, The Musical* (11/1/24-12/29/24) invites audiences to celebrate Christmas with Ralphie in this glittering stage adaptation of the indelible classic movie.

A fourth production (*The Mystery of Ewin Drood*, onstage 4/5/24-6/2/24) is included in this year's AEC program lineup but takes place outside of CFMC's eligible funding period. No CFMC grant funds will be spent on programs related to this production.

**ADDRESSING CHALLENGES:** Like regional theatres nationwide, Goodspeed is navigating its recovery from the pandemic that stopped performances for more than 15 months and which continues to impact ticket buying patterns. Covid also affected youth education programming. Today, the AEC program is rebuilding its participation numbers in collaboration with schools and teachers amidst a host of challenges ranging from tight financial resources to illness surges to bus driver shortages. Goodspeed is meeting these challenges through robust fundraising efforts and a renewed dedication to reaching new schools and communities through AEC programs.

## 2. Sustainability and Assessing Impact

Goodspeed Musicals benefits from the co-leadership of Artistic Director Donna Lynn Hilton and Managing Director David Byrd, oversight from a board of directors comprising 28 business and community leaders, and the dedicated work of more than 80 full-time staff members. Our current strategic plan (2023-2025) guides our work to sustain Goodspeed's preeminence as a statewide and national leader in music theatre; cultivate an organizational culture of accountability, community, and equity; and secure the Goodspeed's future by developing a financially sustainable operating model through revenue growth and expense assessment.

The expenses necessary to sustain Goodspeed's AEC program are accounted for in the organization's annual \$14.5M budget. Charitable funding from foundations, corporations, and individual donors across the state ensure that AEC activities remain completely free of charge to every student. Education and Engagement Manager Nick Palazzo is charged with growing the pool of Connecticut schools whose students participate in AEC activities and ensuring that program curriculum remains relevant and responsive to classroom curriculum and students' lives.

Nick is also responsible for evaluating AEC activities. Evaluations are performed using pre- and post-program student surveys, feedback from students and educators, and observations from our teaching artists. We use written and anecdotal feedback to make improvements to the program, as needed.

## III. Grant Program / Project Information

### Organization Area of Impact (choose ONE)

Community Enrichment (Arts/Culture/History)

### Grant Type (choose ONE)

Program Development/Implementation

### Target Demographics (Select all that apply):

- Students

### Geographic Area(s) Served By This Application:

- East Haddam
- Middlefield

### Total Number of People in Middlesex County Personally Impacted

100

## IV. Organization Information

Board of Directors / Trustees Information

Percent (%) of Directors/Trustees who contribute

Total Number of Directors/Trustees:

**annually to Operations**

28

75% or more

**Average number attending in person:**

**Total Number of Board meetings held last year:**

24

4

**Year of Return:**

**Date most recent IRS Form 990 was filed:**

2022

11/13/2023

**Organization's Total Operating Budget**

**Organization's Fiscal Year**

14513000

Jan 1 - Dec 31

### **Division Operating Budget Information**

### **National Organization Chapter Information**

**Did you RECEIVE a competitive process grant in the:**

- 2020-2021 process
- 2021-2022 process
- 2022-2023 process (fall 2022 or spring 2023)

### **Brief Background Statement of the Organization:**

Goodspeed Musicals was established in 1963 as a professional musical theatre company producing shows in the historic Goodspeed Opera House building in the town of East Haddam on the banks of the Connecticut River. In the 60+ years since our founding, Goodspeed has grown from a scrappy summer stock troupe to an internationally recognized destination for musical theatre. Of the more than 830 musicals produced on our stages, 21 have moved to Broadway and garnered more than a dozen Tony Awards. Goodspeed originated three of Broadway's longest running musicals — *Annie*, *Man of La Mancha*, and *Shenandoah* — for which we have been recognized with two Special Tony Awards.

## 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. Current Organization Operations Budget (Required)

- Operating-Budget-Goodspeed.pdf

### B. Board of Directors and Officers List (Required)

- Board-List-Goodspeed.pdf

### C. IRS Tax Exempt Determination Letter

- IRS-Letter-Goodspeed.pdf

### D. For Program/Project Requests only - CFMC Budget Summary Form:

- Project-Budget-Goodspeed.pdf

### E. Organizations serving a region greater than Middlesex County - county-based budget summary:

### F. America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Yes

#### ARPA Funding detail

Designate Will Apply or Have Been Approved/Received	Amount Requested / Approved
Have Been Approved/Received	\$80,730

**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 in collaboration with a School(s) or School District(s)?**

No

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

No

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

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

**List of Collaborators**

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

## VI. Organization Contact Information

### Are you a new nonprofit applicant to the Community Foundation?

No

#### Title

Managing Director

#### Executive Officer's Name

David Byrd

#### Executive Officer Email

[dbyrd@goodspeed.org](mailto:dbyrd@goodspeed.org)

#### Phone

(860) 873-8664

#### Title

Director of Development

#### Contact Person

Frank Stilwagner

#### Application Contact Email

[fstilwagner@goodspeed.org](mailto:fstilwagner@goodspeed.org)

#### Phone

(860) 615-0367

#### Mailing Address

PO Box A  
East Haddam, Connecticut 06423  
United States

#### Street Address

6 Main St.  
East Haddam, Connecticut 06423  
United States

#### Website

[www.goodspeed.org](http://www.goodspeed.org)

#### Social Media Channels

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GoodspeedMusicals>

Twitter (X): <https://twitter.com/goodspeedmusicl>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/goodspeedmusicals/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/livefromthemainstage>

## VII. Non-Funding Needs

N/A. Thank you for considering this request for support from Goodspeed Musicals!

## **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/](http://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.

**Title**

Managing Director

**Printed Name**

David Byrd

**Date**

03/07/2024