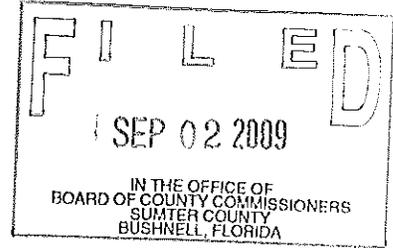


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Young Performing Artists (YPAs)

Not for Profit
501 (c) (3) Corporation
9060 County Road 231
Wildwood, FL 34785



September 1, 2009

Sumter Board of County Commissioners
Via: County Courier

Executive Summary- Florida Art License Plate program

We are seeking Florida Art License Plate program funding in the amount of \$3500.00 to help sustain and continue to provide our local programs outlined in this proposal.

In this low economy, it is very exciting to state that this organization is realizing benefits from its board of directors' strategic plans over the past the years. Of course, we like many others are feeling the brunt of the low economy while still trying to maintain and sustain our proven projects and programs. Now, in our 10th year, the organization is poised to increase its culture, historic, artistic and enrichment programs in Sumter County, FL via the Royal Project's historical and art programs and our long-standing School Cultural Art & Educational program.

The Royal project is a wonderful 8-year collaborative effort between Young Performing Artists (YPAs), Inc and the Royal Library Association (RLA) to renovate a historic building in the Community of Royal, one of Florida's oldest African American communities. The completely renovated building, which served the Royal community as the former segregated school cafeteria from 1945- 1970, is now dressed up and ready to serve this community again for years to come. The renovation was a collaboration of funding between Carlos Beruff, President, SR44, LLC, Board of Sumter County Commissioners, Terry Yoder, President, T & D Concrete, Inc. and other local businesses. Now, christened the Alonzo A. Young, Sr. Enrichment and Historical Center and is the home of the Royal Historical Enrichment & Art Program (RHEAP).

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Admin Div	_____
Com Svcs Div	_____

PHONE: 352-748-2008
FAX: 352-748-1836

The School Cultural Art & Educational program is a wonderful 7-year collaboration with the Sumter District Schools to provide professional theatrical children productions to Sumter's school age children. This program has allowed us to present 'Bits 'N Pieces Puppet Theatre's classic children stories using large 9-ft tall puppets and the Caribbean Sound Steel Band to children across the county, from The Villages to South Sumter Middle School serving approx. 5- 6000 students. In the past years, we received a Division of Cultural Affairs grant for 2/3 of the puppet and band company's fees. **In the past, this program was supported by a combination of state grant funding and local support including this Board's sponsorships via the Sumter Art Tag funding. This year, this state program was not funded.**

We have hired Ivory Gray, retired Head Start Director and Regional Manager for Sumter and Hernando Counties, as our part-time Royal Project manager via a Department of State- Division of Cultural Affairs Salary Assistance grant. To work with her, we have a Royal Project volunteer clerk on board via the Workforce Central Florida's Experience Works program and are in the process of acquiring another Royal project volunteer clerk through the Workforce Central Florida's Welfare Transition program.

The Florida Art License Plate program funding will able us to move forward and continue our efforts to build and provide enriching art, culture and history opportunities, as outlined herewith. As well as, help us meet the local cash match requirements for some of local grant funding and requests. The outlined programs stimulate our local economy via the cultural and historical value. Asking, we are.

For more information or contact me, you may email at youngartists@aol.com or call at 352-748-2008.

Yours For Children,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Beverly Steele', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Beverly Steele
Founder

Goals:

Help expand our Royal Project signature program entitled Royal Historical, Enrichment & Art Program (RHEAP), a summer and after school program.

Strengthen our annual school based project entitled 'School Cultural Art Education Program' that has addressed approximately 5000 out of the 8000 Sumter school age children since its inception in 2001.

Objectives:

- 1) Increase the awareness of the appreciated value of culture, history and the 'Arts'.
- 2) Generate understanding of how the 'Arts' added value reflects upon Sumter's economy.
- 3) Provide creative opportunities to youth development via the arts, culture and history.
- 4) Increase and continue to stimulate community and countywide participation and support for art, culture and history programs.
- 5) Address the limited exposure to the 'Arts' within Sumter County's schools, economy and way of life.
- 6) Offer free and affordable programs for all ages, especially children.
- 7) Offer public programs/ events that involve an underserved arts county in supporting history, culture, enriching lives, the arts and children.

Methods/ Activities:

1. Implement the "Royal Past Through Today's Lens" project, the key history component of the RHEAP program, which captures the rich history of the Community of Royal, formed in 1865 by former slaves from the old Green Plantation near the Withlacoochee River. The 'Royal Past Through Today's Lens' final product will be a DVD consisting of oral histories, 'Negro' songs/ hymns, historic maps, old photos/prints, historic artifacts, farm tools/buildings, costumes and a model of "40 acres and a mule plot".

2. Facilitate showcases of the 'Royal Past Through Today's Lens' DVD at the Alonzo A. Young, Sr. Enrichment and Historical Center, Wildwood (Royal), Fl on a community-wide and countywide basis, as well as, statewide via Sumter's Chamber and the State Historic Marker program.

3. Integrate professional historians and artists into the development and implementation of YPAs, Inc.'s programs/ projects.

Evaluation Outline:

1. Young Performing Artists (YPAs), Inc agrees to adhere to the grantor's evaluation process for this funding.
2. Number of youth and parent participants involved with programming.
3. Willingness of professionals to continue and participate with programming.
4. Level of interest from government agencies, i.e. schools, county/city/state administration, economic development, chambers, etc.
5. Number of teachers and staff involved with, commenting on and/or referring to programming.
6. Number of requests for program materials or site visits via Internet, website, telecommunications, written, etc.
7. Public and press interest shown.

History:

Celebrating its 10th year anniversary, Young Performing Artists (YPAs), Inc. continues to assist and serve Florida's young (up to 22) people and/or artists, who will make the 'Arts' their life's worth and work. As well as, provide creative solutions to youth development. Since its inception in 1998, YPAs, Inc. has awarded approx. \$20,500.00 in artistic scholarships and awards, have identified approx. 400 of Florida's most talented young artists and have provided approx \$200,000 in cultural art educational local and statewide programming. In 2000, this statewide focused organization, which is headquartered in Wildwood, Sumter County, FL, became aware of the tremendous lack of arts studies in the local countywide school system, especially Wildwood High School (WHS) that had not offered art classes since the 1994 retirement of its art teacher. YPAs, Inc. identified & referred a local artist who was hired at WHS thus reinstating art classes that continues today. After this discovery, YPAs, Inc. increased its efforts to ensure that local children, located in its headquarters' surrounding area, would receive cultural and arts education and awareness. YPAs, Inc. revised its mission statement to include providing creative solutions to youth development. One of our first collaborations towards this mission was with the Royal Library Association (RLA) a Community of Royal citizen based group. The RLA were renewing its interest of renovating a community historic building, which served as the cafeteria to the community's segregated school, into a library. Through this collaboration, YPAs, Inc. received several grants to ensure that all the RLA programs include art, culture & historical activities, that all programs are opened to the public; that programs addresses community needs and are available to all residents. The

YPAs, Inc. & RLA collaboration has resulted in YPAs, Inc. accepting the donation of a historic Royal building which is renovated and offering the RHEAP programming of history, culture, art & enrichment. Thus, establishing this project as the first Sumter County building with a focus of history, cultural & art activities. Named in honor of Mr. Alonzo A. Young, Sr., the last principal who served for 22 years, the Alonzo A. Young, Sr. Enrichment and Historical Center is a Governor Crist's 2007 Point of Light Project.

In 2001 via our creative solutions component, YPAs, Inc. implemented its school age children artistic, cultural & historical based component via State Touring grant funding and local sponsorships/ collaborations. This program entitled 'School Cultural Art and Educational Program' has traveled across the county, from north end schools to south end schools, serving approximately 5- 6000 out of the 8000 Sumter district student populations. The YPAs, Inc. Board of Directors made a strong statement in 2001 when it revised the organization's mission statement to include providing creative solutions to youth development. This revision was solely for the purpose of ensuring this statewide organization's cultural art educational activities; programs, services and events are available to all youth and the public in general. Also, ensure that those who live within its headquarters' office vicinity would be exposed to art and culture, whether they are or are not young artists. We seek Sumter County Art Tag funding to help us expand, continue, strengthen and stabilize our local Sumter County programs/ projects.

Multi- Project Description and funding amounts:

1) \$2000.00- Royal Historical, Enrichment & Art Program (RHEAP), is our summer and after school history, culture, art and educational support program whose mission is to enhance self-worth, build character & self – esteem, develop interest, increase awareness and introduce exploration. This program helps develops the attitudes, characteristics, intellect and advocacy skills required to participate effectively in today's world. The Sumter Art Tag funding will be used to expand the historical and art components of RHEAP.

- a) **\$500.00-** RHEAP's historical project is entitled The 'Royal Past Through Today's Lens' producing a DVD consisting of oral histories, 'Negro' songs/ hymns, historic maps, old photos/prints, historic artifacts, farm tools/buildings, costumes and a model of "40 acres and a mule plot". Engage local middle and high school students to research, collect, preserve and showcase Royal's history via the use of

modern technologies, i.e. website, youtube, facebook, e-bulletins and exhibits in the Alonzo A. Young, Sr. Enrichment & Historical Center, located at the Community's major historic site. Students will place gathered information into a meaningful context using today's technology. Our partners are retired teachers and the Sumter County Historical Society. Other objectives are to enable students to form intergenerational friendships, discover the importance of preserving heritage and cultural history and learn the power of community activism/ volunteerism. Beyond the academic benefits, the students will gain an appreciation of the community elders, a sense of civic pride, volunteerism and the importance of accurate recording in local government.

- b) **\$1500.00-** The RHEAP's art project entitled the 'Wholesome Royal Art Program (WRAP) is the key art component within the Royal project's Royal Historical Enrichment & Art Program (RHEAP). The WRAP program will share the same mission and goals as RHEAP. The WRAP program activities will allow participants to explore the aesthetic and technical qualities of various arts and develop critical thinking skills, learn the processes and essential elements of the discipline needed to produce work in each medium, produce completed projects, develop motor and language skills, expand individual creativity, enhance critical thinking skills and improve school performance and learn the process of working collaboratively to bring a project to fruition. The program is designed to hire professional artists in each of the following disciplines: music, visual arts/ photography and dance to come to the Royal Center to conduct one and a half hour workshops at least twice weekly.

2) **\$1500.00** -'School Cultural Art Education Program' is our school-based program whose mission is to provide quality performances, entertainment, exhibitions, etc. to Sumter County's school age children. This program is our contribution to ensuring that Sumter's youth receive a well-rounded education, which includes the ability to understand, respond to, and talk about images. It is the program's intent to bring understanding that an art education stimulates language—spoken and written, have the power to entice students into the learning process, engage all the senses, involve creative discovery and self-expression and promotes enthusiasm for learning in children of all ages.

Sustainability

The board of Young Performing Artists (YPAs), Inc is fully aware of the long-term commitment made once they accepted the donation of the Royal building. We have plans to raise funds for the organization's future programs, which includes the Royal Project. The board is fully ready to encourage and motivate the fund raising efforts of the Royal Library Association (RLA), other community organizations, and others to sustain the requested funding for the Royal project.

Recently, the Royal Homecoming Weekend Festival Committee agreed to place this committee under the auspices of the RLA as a fundraising committee to support the Royal project. For the past 30 yrs., this is an annual community festival with approximately 5 – 6000 visitors.

Plus, YPAs, Inc. has two grants pending funding, which include the above projects: Culture Builds Florida and the Winn Dixie Foundation.

The Florida Art License Plate program funding will serve as part of the cash match for these and any future grants.

Marketing & promotion

Local Print Media- Young Performing Artists (YPAs), Inc. has been successful in garnering a strong local print media relationship. Our local media that includes the Sumter Times, The Daily Commercial, The Daily Sun, the Sumter Express and the Lake Sentinel edition of the Orlando Sentinel covers all of our events, sometimes simultaneously. We enjoy coverage in local magazine print media, i.e. Lake & Sumter Style Magazine.

Collaborative coverage- as a member of the Sumter County Chamber of Commerce, we post our events on their Website.

Internet coverage- we post all our events on our website; recently established an organization facebook; is an Ebay Mission Fish Organization; soon to be established as an Ebay Mission Fish Seller and soon to establish a youtube & MySpace accounts.

Mailings- we have a mailing listing with approximately 600 local and statewide individuals, businesses, supporters and contributors for post card, poster and invitation mailings.

Accessibility

It is our standing policy that all the facilities where our programs are offered must be in compliance with ADA standards and open to all to enjoy

regardless of race, creed, color or gender. Most of our programs are free or donations accepted or priced very affordable. We pull a large portion of our volunteers via senior programs as the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), Workforce Central Florida's Experience Works program and Workforce Central Florida's Welfare Transition Program. Also, we do not charge a membership fee to join the organization nor participate in any of our programs and we keep our school based programs, free to all students. It is our board policy to provide our services, programs, and events to a diverse population without an extra financial burden.

Administrative and Artistic Promise:

Beverly Steele, the YPAs, Inc. Founder and Gwennette Gant, YPAs, Inc. BOD, serves on the Royal Library Association (RLA) board and helped to lead this eight-year effort and are working with the RLA to continue and increase the offering of appropriate programs that address the community and county needs. The building houses the Royal Historical, Enrichment & Art Program. RHEAP is a historical and educational support program to enhance self-worth, develop interest in history & culture, increase awareness of opportunities and explore the arts. Over the eight-year period, there were numerous discussions between YPAs, Inc. and the RLA with community residents, interested county residents, county staff, county departments, county commissioners and developers/ contractors to determine the proper use for this building. Thus the building, which features an open activity area, a historical room, an administrative office, unisex/handicapped restroom and storage room, is an ideal space for the planned program's historical and art activities, tutoring classes, book discussion groups, quilting bees, art classes, gatherings, recording and storing historical artifacts/ items, viewing educational movies, teen club meetings, senior meetings, community meetings, workshops and events. The boards of YPAs, Inc. and RLA spearheaded the Royal Building Renovation Fund and collected funds from each community household to offset expenses over & above the donated renovation expenses i.e. electric service, liability insurance, telephone, fire extinguishers, etc. Also, YPAs, Inc. have received several grants to fund cultural, art, historical & enrichment projects as well as the RLA has held many fundraisers to provide local grant match funds and/or purchase program supplies.

YPAs, Inc. via the Workforce Central Florida's Experience Works program has acquired two clerks. One clerk as the Royal Project Clerk to handle some of the office and program clerical duties and one as the YPAs, Inc. clerk to handle clerical duties for YPAs, Inc. other programs. Plus, YPAs,

Inc. applied to be an Employer with the Workforce Central Florida's Summer Youth Program to acquire four (4) summer interns. We are in the process of acquiring another volunteer Royal project clerk through the Workforce Central Florida's Welfare Transition program. YPAs, Inc. has a vast resource directory of professional, retired and working artists, citizens and teachers who have expressed an interest in volunteering with this organization's programs.

We hired Ms. Ivory Gray, retired Head State Director and Regional Manager for Sumter & Hernando Counties, as the part-time Royal Project Manager. She will oversee the development of programs, summer interns, volunteers, collaboration of activities with county departments such as Library Services; plan workshops and classes and other events; manage and maintain the cultural, artistic, historical & enrichment quality of all programs; develop and implement marketing campaigns; manage purchasing of necessary supplies and overseeing staff and volunteers.