

W.L.S. Spencer Foundation

2013 Grants Paid

Organization Name Project/Program Title	Grant Description	Payment Amount
America Scores Bay Area - General Support	Using soccer, creative writing, diet guidance, and service-learning as the core, this WORDS IN ACTION program trains, develops, and supports the coaches who spend 4 to 6 days a week with underserved kids in elementary, middle and sometimes pre-school. This ongoing program will continue to strengthen the curriculum, leadership, and competency in low-income urban communities. This enhanced training has brought America SCORES special mention in the White House Task Force's report to President Obama, highlighting an increased level of student physical activity, self-confidence, self-efficacy, and enjoyment in learning - hard work on the part of the students and crucial strong leadership on the part of the coaches.	\$30,000
Asia Society New York - Iran Modern Exhibition	Support toward the public education programs and symposia complemented the exhibition IRAN MODERN, the first major exhibition mounted with loans from the United States, Europe and the Middle East to focus on the dynamic modern scene prior to the revolution. The conversation between tradition and modernity by 26 artists was illustrated in an academic catalogue with critical essays by leading scholars, and the ongoing diverse program season provided a unique window into Iranian life. The UN ambassador from Teheran visited the show and loved the idea of cultural exchange and broader understanding, which the exhibition highlighted.	\$30,000
BAM/PFA (Berkeley Art Museum/ Pacific Film Archive) - Yang Fudong Educational Programs	Support for the educational programs reflecting the Berkeley Art Museum's presentation ESTRANGED PARADISE: YANG FUDONG SELECTED WORKS 1993-2012, one of the first comprehensive museum retrospectives of this influential contemporary Chinese artist. Because these films have roots in traditional landscape painting, and examine tensions between urban and rural and intellectual retreat, the exhibition offers rich opportunity for cross cultural public programs to broaden the American public's perspective and engagement. Besides, these art films and photographs are simply gorgeous and mesmerizing.	\$35,000
BART (Berkshire Arts and Technology Public Charter School) in Adams, MA - Social Emotional Learning and College Readiness Curriculum	Now in its 10th year, this small 6-12 grade public charter school has achieved remarkable goals in serving 7 rural communities in Northern Berkshire County, 60% of which are low income families. Social Emotional Learning and Collegiate Readiness Curriculum have been a crucial need, catering to all students, providing counseling and advising and personal attention, which the foundation has supported. BART is a High Achievement, 18th ranked charter school out of 5,000 charters. Every school needs to be able to provide this program called SEL, though often little is done to walk students through such needs.	\$20,000

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The Breakthrough Collaborative - Recruitment & Campus Leader Initiative & Summits	This summer program for academically talented, under-served public middle school students is two-pronged: one, it challenges Breakthrough students to finish high school and go to college, and two, it encourages college-age teachers to go into teaching/community professions after college graduation. STUDENTS TEACHING STUDENTS is a win/win program!	\$30,000
California College of the Arts - New faculty position for Contemporary Asian Visual Cultural (3-year grant of \$150,000)	This is the third of a three-year grant to launch a new faculty position for Contemporary Asian Visual Culture, as well as to support the position once selection is completed. Viet Le, an international artist and academic, has been chosen to lead this new department and has begun developing curriculum most suited to enhance cultural connections and cross-cultural understanding among students and faculty and the college. This is a timely endeavor for this leading-edge college of art.	\$62,500
China Institute - Inspired by Dunhuang Educational Programs	Support for the education programs complementing the exhibition INSPIRED BY DUNHUANG: RECREATION IN CONTEMPORARY CHINESE ART. Since Dunhuang caves are some of the most historically important records of Chinese, Buddhist and Silk Road art, the idea of studying the caves and then creating and revitalizing what one studied, seemed like a good education program for both k-12 students as well as adults. The result was a small exhibition shown at the institute.	\$15,000
College Spring - SAT Preparation and College Readiness	This now three-year old SAT tutoring organization has a very basic premise: to help underserved kids get through high school and into college. Knowing how important SAT scores can be, as a sophomore in college, the founder and his friends offered to tutor high school kids for the SAT for free. The results were life-changing for both those students and the founder. After graduation and now three years later, free tutoring is soundly embedded in a number of public schools serving low-income kids in both Los Angeles and San Francisco, and there is an ongoing plan to expand and refine the program each year. Watching the fine tuning of this extraordinary yet simple program is both a tribute to, and an example of, a new generation of social entrepreneurs.	\$30,000
Foundation Center - General Support	Supporting the philanthropic resource library and its programs.	\$3,000

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Generation Citizen - San Francisco Program Support	Founded 4 years ago by a recent college graduate, GC partners college students with classroom teachers to teach hands-on civics courses in which underserved high school students attempt to solve problems they are facing in their own communities through advocacy and hard work. Students learn the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, from voting to ensuring that elected officials hear their voices - and holding them accountable - to applying academic skills to real-world problems in their everyday life. These students are learning the democratic process! Now serving more than 6,000 civically-engaged students in Boston, New York and Providence, GC opened programs in the San Francisco Bay Area in 2013.	\$30,000
Japan Society - Mariko Mori Education Programs	Support for the education programs complementing the exhibition REBIRTH: RECENT WORK BY MARIKO MORI. The artist has changed course and has shifted from pop-oriented work to current works influenced by the JOOMON period of nature worship of Japan cosmology, technology and ecology. The education programs give opportunity to learn about rebirth, moving away from tradition and moving toward the future. This is a heavy and serious trek and brings to the fold performance, ceremonial aspects, and the cutting edge into her art. Oh, so much fun to watch this young artist and see her beautiful art, in addition to learning more about contemporary Japan.	\$25,000
John G. Shedd Institute for the Arts - Vocal/Singing Department	The second of a two-year grant toward formalizing a Vocal/Singing Department and hiring a part-time Vocal Program Director. This will be the Shedd's first ever formal department. Not only is singing a common human form of communication, but choral singing is proven to be an accessible entry point for arts exposure, far easier than most other art forms. For the city of Eugene, this is yet another community outreach program which keeps performance art alive and certainly popular.	\$5,250
KIPP: Bay Area - General Operating Needs	Support for this free, open-enrollment charter public education program which prepares middle-school students in underserved communities for success in college and in life. With KIPP's "Be Nice and Work Hard" motto, the school leaders and staff are constantly seeking improvement in education strategies to achieve designated goals. KIPP's "no shortcuts and no excuses" environment will most assuredly continue to set the tone as the organization reaches its goals.	\$30,000

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Mass MoCA - Xu Bing Catalogue	Xu Bing, one of the most famous and respected artists from Beijing and Brooklyn, gathered Beijing street debris, built a pair of PHOENIX that weigh over a ton a piece, and shipped them from Beijing to Taiwan (where they hung from a bridge for a year). The pieces were then shipped to Philadelphia by slow boat and were finally broken apart to travel by flatbed truck to North Adams, MA where they were exhibited for a year before moving to The Cathedral of St. John The Devine in New York City. An academic catalogue telling this story as well as the life of this special artist who also heads one of the most famous art schools in China, if not the world, was supposed to be produced by the museum for better understanding of different cultures and peoples.	\$35,000
The Noguchi Museum - Immersed in Ink and Brush	An academic and historic exhibition between Isamu Noguchi, a famous 20th century Japanese/American ink artist and an equally famous Chinese ink artist, Qi Baishi. In works shown side-by-side at the absolutely stunning Noguchi Museum in Queens, New York, one can see the endless opportunities for study and cross-cultural understanding between and among countries, cultures and traditional mediums. This is a celebrated show indeed.	\$30,000
Peer Health Exchange - Bay Area Program	Support toward the training of college student volunteers to teach a comprehensive health curriculum to teenagers in San Francisco and Oakland, giving the students knowledge and skills they need to make healthy decisions. Founded in 2003 to address a growing crisis that teens are engaging in risk behavior at alarming rates, harming their bodies and their futures. Preventing serious health problems such as obesity, binge drinking, smoking, and teen pregnancy, these in-school programs serving low-income communities provide tools teens need to make educated decisions about their lives. Educated choices can prove to prevent school drop out, entering into the criminal justice system and the rise in poverty.	\$20,000
Playworks - General Support	Once called SPORTS4KIDS, this recently re-named organization focuses on school recess, providing organized sports and coaching in 24 low-income elementary schools in San Francisco. The results of this rather simple program prove to have changed the very climate of the schools. School bullying has been significantly reduced, and after recess, the children go back to class, settle down and are more engaged in classroom studies.	\$15,000

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Reading Partners - San Francisco Expansion	The second of a two-year commitment to this K-5 literacy intervention program to increase the number of students served beyond the 350 students it now serves in San Francisco. Reading Partners is a volunteer-driven, one-on-one literacy tutoring program enabling and encouraging children to stay in school and succeed academically. The highly trained volunteers help close the achievement gap in measurable ways, putting struggling readers on a path of academic success.	\$30,000
South Eugene High School - AVID Program	The second of a three-year grant toward the expansion of South Eugene High School's ADVANCEMENT VIA INDIVIDUAL DETERMINATION (AVID) program, a national program which proves to be timely and challenges high school students in the "academic middle" to live up to their potential by working hard and attending college. The ingredients to fill the "achievement gap" are well trained teachers, dedicated parents, hard working students, rigorous curriculum, continuous expectations, and encouragement. It works!	\$29,400
Summerbridge Hong Kong - General Support	Summerbridge Hong Kong is one of the oldest sites in THE BREAKTHROUGH COLLABORATIVE, and one that continues to grow the number of middle school students who show great academic promise (now over 300 per year), as well as expand the number of American college students coming to Hong Kong to be the teachers (now over 70). This is a STUDENT TEACHING STUDENT program. Since the handover in 1997, the Hong Kong student population in city schools has changed as have the demographics at Summerbridge. Now, approximately 44% are immigrants from China, 50% are Hong Kong residents, and 32% of children live with one or no parents. While this can be daunting, the Summerbridge mission continues to put emphasis on improving the educational trajectories of low-income students through English education (ENGLISH ONLY) and life skills development such as communication, love of learning, confidence, leadership and teamwork. Kudos to Summerbridge for staying steady in light of demographic changes occurring in Hong Kong.	\$10,000

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Summer Search San Francisco - Expansion and Outreach Efforts	<p>The last of two grants for ongoing support toward expansion of the well-proven program called Summer Search. Life-changing summer experiences, college advising, and year-round mentoring contribute to a lasting support network that keeps over 1,000 kids in seven sites across the country in school and attending college. For example, 41% of all California high school students (California being one of the seven sites) are designated as under-served, and they need opportunities, role models, and support in order to break the cycle of truancy, failing grades, and dropping out of school. Summer Search creates opportunities for students to see beyond their neighborhoods and envision a different life for themselves, and then helps them achieve the goal of higher education.</p>	\$30,000
Teach for America Bay Area - Growth Plan	<p>The fifth of a five-year grant toward TFA's expansion into the San Francisco Unified School District. This grant helps provide for recruitment, selection, training, support, and professional development of corps teachers. Across the country, corps teachers made academic gains of 1.5 grade levels or more - this is more than three times the status quo considering the majority of low-income community students are, on average, three grade levels behind by the time they reach grade 3. The expanding number of corp teachers and alum who live in the Bay Area are committed to making transformative change.</p>	\$100,000
Teach for China - Growth Plan	<p>The second of two grants toward expansion in both Yunnan and Guangdong provinces. Teach For China is part of the TEACH FOR ALL international consortium with 28 countries now adopting variations of the Teach For America program. Starting with Britain seven years ago, the formula for education reform - "well educated, good teachers get good results" - has spread across the globe. In China, the program is rural, where close to 70% of the population is underserved. Close to 80% of the teachers in this two-year commitment are graduates of the finest universities in China, with about 20% of the teachers coming from the United States. While most of the Teach For All programs have 100% of the teachers from a particular country's universities and not from the U.S., the Chinese program continues to use some American college grads. . . all of whom speak Chinese. This is truly building bridges with younger generations.</p>	\$100,000

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Vincent Academy - Intervention Work	Support toward intervention work so necessary at this blossoming young charter school in the heart of low-income Oakland. Lincoln Child Center provides services which are either one-on-one or in small groups, and both parents and students can take advantage of therapist work. Starting with pre-K and now up to grade 3, the need for supplemental academic support, work with English language learners, mental health services and family support services are highly needed. These are the three pillars of Vincent Academy that help students to thrive.	\$30,000
Total Mission Grants		\$775,150
Total Discretionary Grants	Discretionary grants are non-mission oriented grants that have been approved by the Board.	\$71,000
2013 Grants Total		<u>\$846,150</u>