

## ACADEMY FOR ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE (AAE)

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*2023-2024 City of Pittsburgh STOP the  
Violence Community Investment Grants*

### *Academy for Artistic Excellence*

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## FollowUp Form

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### *City of Pittsburgh STOP the Violence Mid-Year Progress Report*

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The City of Pittsburgh established the STOP the Violence grants as part of the City's comprehensive approach to ending violence. Through the STOP the Violence Community Investment Fund, the City partnered with your organization to build new insights and stride toward our mutual goals. Thank you for your efforts to take proactive steps with individuals who exhibit risk factors for violent behavior, support those individuals to overcome the risk factors, avoid violence, and lead healthy and productive lives.

With these grants come the expectations of midterm and final reports. This interim report provides space for your organization to tell the City about the progress of your originally-stated activities, outcomes, and goals. It also offers an opportunity to share any challenges and triumphs thus far. This critical feedback helps us:

1. Keep focused on the investment made and the anticipated project results;
2. Understand if our grantees are on track for success to bring about their anticipated project results (midterm reports), and
3. Analyze our work, learn from your experiences, and make choices for the future.

### WHAT SHOULD I INCLUDE IN MY REPORT?

This report should include grant-related activities and projects from when your organization received funds through the first six months.

We are interested in knowing

1. what you did;
2. what you learned;
3. what questions your work answered, and what questions remain;
4. what follow-up work do you plan to do?

When reading the narrative report, we understand that no project proceeds entirely as planned. Some strategies work better than hoped; others do not. An honest assessment of what worked and what did not gives us additional context to gauge the impact of the grants and consider the implications for future collaboration.

Put your project into a larger context of reflection and interrogate its assumptions and method. Your report should include these considerations.

1. How did your strategies and design work?
2. What might you or others do differently in the future?
3. What do you see now about your problem or question that would press you to do things differently?
4. Progress and Results: Please briefly describe (in 300 words or fewer) the key actions, activities, or products resulting from the grant funding, as well as any resulting benefit to the organization or the people it serves.
5. Please explain any significant variance from your planned use of funds as stated in your grant proposal. For example, have there been changes in your project timeline or expenditures?
6. Please describe the challenges the funded project encountered, and explain how you overcame them (or plan to overcome them).
7. Photos, Stories, Social Media Posts/Reels, and Testimonials: Your participant/event stories, reels, and photographs provide a critical piece of the puzzle for us. They give us the materials needed to inspire others to engage, celebrate, and continue to support your violence prevention and intervention efforts.

**Organization Name\***

*Please enter the name of your project/program in the box below.*

ACADEMY FOR ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE (AAE)

**Project Start Date (from Grant Proposal)\***

3/1/2024

**Project Start Date (Actual)\***

3/1/2024

***Grant Information***

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**Grant Amount Awarded\***

\$20,000.00

**Award Amount Spent\***

Has your organization spent the awarded STOP the Violence funds in their entirety?

Yes

***Population Served***

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**Number of Program/Project Participants (Proposed)\***

75

**Number of Program Participants (Actual)\***

11

**Number of Participants Ages 0-17 (Actual)\***

2

**Number of Participants Ages 18-30 (Actual)\***

9

**Number of Participants Ages 30+ (Actual)\***

0

**What neighborhoods do your project participants represent?\***

East Liberty

Larimer

Perry North (also known as Observatory Hill)

Regent Square

**Participant Contact Information\***

Our team maintains a list of complete names, addresses, and contact information for all or almost all of the program participants in the project/initiative.

Yes

**Police Zone Served\***

Zone 4

## *Work Conducted*

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**Proposed Project/Program Activities\***

Provide a list of project activities/initiatives from your proposal.

Weekly activities included weekly Rites of Passage- Violence Intervention & Prevention (ROP-VIP) online and in-person health and wellness workshops & activities. From March 15 - May 18, 2024, faculty worked to convert and upload the initial tranche of the Rites of Passage curriculum to the learning platform, Thinkific. However, we ran into some difficulty with the inability of the animations to sync to the new platform and had to change platforms to Udemy. We subsequently hosted the program kick-off orientation on May 18th, 2024, and welcomed 8 of our 11 participants where we introduced them to the program and its objectives, aligned mentors and distributed schedules of activities. Throughout the following 7 months we conducted Rites of Passage workshops, mentoring activities, peer to peer tutoring and study groups, and the "Making Math Masters (3M)" Math and Reading tutorial program.

## Collaborations

Please comment on the collaborations presented in your project proposal. Did you collaborate as anticipated in the proposal?

Circumstances to consider:

- Have roles and responsibilities shifted?
- What unanticipated changes did you experience?
- What impact does the collaboration make on the project and the population served?
- What circumstances would improve collaboration among STOP the Violence grantees?

We did not anticipate collaboration.

## Status of Project Plan\*

What activities/events from your proposed project plan have been implemented?

To date we have made significant progress uploading and utilizing the Rites of Passage workshops to the Udemy learning platform; conducted 10 workshops with up to 11 participants allowing us to conduct mental health assessments and mentoring; assisting 8 of the 11 young adults with Adulting activities including aiding them in securing housing, mitigating utility shut offs, and preventing homelessness; working with members of the LGBTQ community to work through discrimination issues; working with some of the participants to understand how they are breaking the law and the consequences behind their inappropriate actions.

## Proposed Outcomes\*

1. Incident Reduction Metrics: We worked with three of the participants to avert incidents that could lead to violence and/or intervention by the police.
2. Program Relevance: Six out of the 11 consistently participated in all 10 of the workshops while 8 out of 11 participated in at least 5 workshops including exploring effective communication skills, self-image and socio-cultural assessments in a group setting.
3. Academic Performance: Most Students report satisfaction with onsite peer to peer assistance with tutoring and Making Math Masters, however some cheated by having peers complete their online assignments. We addressed the issue upon discovery but there was nothing else we could do other than warn them of impending tests failure which unfortunately was the case for the cheating student.
4. Behavioral Health: Our program continues to have a distinct impact on those who found themselves on the back end of so-called "Adulting" skills.

## Progress\*

Please provide an overview of the project achievements/highlights to date. Provide any appropriate data supporting your statements.

To date we have made significant progress uploading and utilizing the Rites of Passage workshops to the Udemy learning platform; conducted 10 workshops with 11 participants allowing us to conduct mental health assessments and mentoring; assisting 8 of the 11 young adults with Adulting activities including aiding them in securing housing and preventing homelessness; working with members of the LGBTQ community to work through discrimination issues; and worked with college students to more clearly understand the purpose and urgency of working to complete their assignments themselves.

## Do you believe that your project or program impacted violence?\*

Do you believe that your project or program contributed to violence prevention or violence intervention rates in the communities served?

Yes

## What has this project done to reduce or prevent violence?\*

1. Describe your actual outcomes.
2. Describe the impact of your project.

To date, 11 out of 11 participants conducted the obligatory personal development assessment tools labeled "Self Knowledge and Cultural Identity Assessments" which provide an introspective analysis of oneself by answering a few questions, and participating in a few activities. These assessments aid in our ability to know who and what we were working with. Six out of the 11 consistently participated in all 10 of the workshops while 8 out of 11 participated in at least 5 workshops including exploring effective communication skills, self-image and socio-cultural assessments in a group setting. Our program had a distinct impact on those who found themselves on the back end of so-called "Adulthood" skills which was demonstrated by our assisting with mitigation of a number of emergency situations (including averting homelessness, mitigating utility shut offs, and aiding in securing restitution for their landlords), and disrupting what could have turned into criminal behavior (i.e. breaking into houses and prostitution) while providing an intimate mentoring and learning platform for youth who don't have an ear to listen to their issues and respond effectively.

## Learning and Adapting

Are there any changes to any aspect of your proposed plan? If "Yes", please explain.\*

Changes to the program included our inability to conduct the arts and culture program interventions, the inability to provide stipends to the participants, and the inability to hire the required # of staff and college students to assist with the mentoring. Therefore we conducted the interventions but at limited capacity.

## Challenges

Describe any ongoing challenges.

When we submitted the grant application we asked for a budget that would support intervention activities used to facilitate the broad scope of the Rites of Passage program. However, due to limitations like not being able to provide the stipends and off-site intervention activities, our intensive mentoring was limited to discussion and curriculum based workshops instead of including the off-site intervention activities which sometimes stifled engagement. We feel that the project would have been more engaging and the mentoring interventions more impactful if we could have secured the appropriate funding to acquire the proper staff and conduct the full spectrum of activities related to the development program. We continue work on uploading the remaining Rites of Passage workshops to our online platform and are approaching civics classes in high schools and colleges to utilize it with their students for Adulthood 101 classes.

## Budget

### Current Budget Overview\*

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1. Click [here](#) to download the Budget Reporting Form.
  2. Complete the form.
  3. Upload the completed form. [https://www.grantinterface.com/Documents/Download/f17c57b0-f6cc-4be9-a9d5-2dce30b11bcbhttps://docs.google.com/document/d/1jM3sEoOobpMJQUc8W-irhCr\\_7KXZVtRM/edit?usp=sharing&oid=101637342679599276330&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://www.grantinterface.com/Documents/Download/f17c57b0-f6cc-4be9-a9d5-2dce30b11bcbhttps://docs.google.com/document/d/1jM3sEoOobpMJQUc8W-irhCr_7KXZVtRM/edit?usp=sharing&oid=101637342679599276330&rtpof=true&sd=true)
- STV Budget Reporting Form B.xlsx - Exempt.pdf

## Share Your Story

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For services supported in whole or in part by your **STOP the Violence** grant, share a story about a client (without sharing any personally-identifying information), service, or community initiative that could be shared with other stakeholders.

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We added 3 additional participants throughout the months who were referrals. One guy who was breaching his rental agreement by breaking in a house by climbing in and out of windows to avoid his landlord because he hadn't paid his rent for 6 months. We helped him get restitution for the landlord but then he disappeared. Another guy lost his job for stealing and was facing homelessness. We helped him catch up on his back rent and finish out his lease but counseled him about the consequences of stealing and continue working with him. We also continue to mentor a young trans girl who was prostituting to survive after being kicked out of her abusive home for coming out as transgender. We continue ongoing mentoring relationships with our participants and have made substantial gains with testing and uploading the curriculum so that it becomes a valued asset to other education and mentoring programs.

### Photos and Digital Clips

Please attach any photos or videos illustrating your work.

## Verification

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### Name of Organizational Representative Completing Report\*

Helena Shorter Alston

### Title of Organizational Representative\*

Executive Director

### Authorization\*

By entering your signature information above and clicking "*I agree.*" you certify that: I certify, to the best of my knowledge, that all information included in this report is correct. The tax-exempt status of this organization (*or fiscal sponsor organization*) is still in effect.

I agree.

### Date of Submission\*

01/20/2025

## File Attachment Summary

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### *Applicant File Uploads*

- STV Budget Reporting Form B.xlsx - Exempt.pdf

# Grant Financial Report

This is a protected worksheet. Complete only those sections that are shaded. See additional instructions below, indicated by corresponding number.

Organization: [1]  Grant Process [4]

Grant Start / End Dates: [2]   Report Period: [5]  to

Approved Grant Amount: [3]  (in US\$)

Budget Category [7]	Approved POISE Fdn Budget [8]	Amount Spent in Previous Periods [9]	Amount Spent in Current Period [10]	Total Spent to Date	Unexpended Balance	Please explain significant budget variances where indicated [11]
General Operations	\$ 10,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 10,000	\$ 0	Expenses for program administration including staff salaries (7,000), Rites of Passage materials (\$500), Food (\$1250); Overhead support for Rental space (250). Maintenance Thinkific and Udemy license, upload and IT fees including consultant to analyze and upload content. As well
Materials and/or Supplies	\$ 5,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 5,000	\$ 0	
Professional Development/Training	\$ 5,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 5,000	\$ 0	
		\$ 0		\$ 0	\$ 0	
		\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	
	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	
	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	
	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	
<b>Subtotal Direct Costs</b>	\$ 20,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 20,000	\$ 0	
Indirect Costs		\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 20,000</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 20,000</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	

The line-by-line budget should match those specified in your proposal.

A red "\*\*\*" indicates that you must include an explanation of the budget variance. This variance will require Foundation approval.

Name and Title: [12]

Date:

E-mail Address: [13]

Phone Number: [14]

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### **Instructions**

1. Enter the organization's legal name.
  2. Enter the approved start and end dates of the grant.
  3. Enter the approved grant amount.
  4. Enter your grant program or process for which you received funding.
  5. Enter the current reporting period from and to dates.
  6. Enter the total amount of POISE Foundation funds received through the end of the reporting period. Specify amount in US\$.
  7. Select Budget Categories which match your proposed grant budget. Select categor(ies) from drop down menu on right of cell
  8. Enter the approved POISE Foundation budget for each budget category. All figures should be reported in US\$.
  9. Enter the sum of amounts spent in each budget category for all previous reporting periods. All figures should be reported in US\$.
  10. Enter the amount spent in each budget category for this reporting period. All figures should be reported in US\$.
- The total spent to date and unexpended balances will be computed automatically.
11. If the expended amount in a budget category significantly exceeds the total direct costs by 35%, an explanation is required. Lines requiring explanations will be indicated by a RED "\*\*\*".
  12. Enter the name and title of the individual who certified the information contained in the report.
  13. Enter the e-mail address for that person.
  14. Enter the phone number for that person.