

Grant Program Inquiry  
Barra Foundation  
Offices at the Bellevue  
200 W. Lancaster Avenue, Suite 202  
Wayne, PA 19087

Dear Grant Program Fellows:

The Maupin Theatre Company seeks support of \$13,500 from the Barra Foundation for support in the expansion of our summertime educational outreach programming to include a three-week program for high school aged students that focuses on the workshopping of student plays, culminating in a staged reading of each piece under the guidance of local playwrights and directors. We believe that this project aligns with the Barra Foundation's values, particularly in regards to your interest and dedication to Arts and Culture and Education, by both providing students with the unique opportunity to deeply develop a piece of their work beyond the limitations of a typical playwriting workshop in our traditional summer program, as well as providing our company with the opportunity to expand our summer educational programming so that it may serve a wider range of students interested in learning about the different aspects of theatre beyond the realm of acting.

The Maupin Theatre Company, founded in 2012, seeks to develop new work from burgeoning playwrights through workshops, staged readings, and a season-long playwright-in-residence program. In 2012, we also began our educational outreach program, which provides classes for young artists aged 8 to 18 in the Philadelphia area to come together to create their own work under the mentorship of local playwrights and directors. These programs are specifically geared to students attending schools outside of the Center City area that do not offer extensive arts programs, allowing them to learn more about the ins and outs of theatrical work and experience creating theatre from a variety of different perspectives. Although classes and programs are offered throughout the year, our summer programming remains the most popular, and this will be the first year that we will offer an extensive playwriting workshop for students as a part of our summer course offerings.

Although Philadelphia is a great hub of theatrical work, the marketing of theaters and the work they produce, both in regards to productions and educational outreach, begins to taper off and eventually disappear almost entirely the further a community is from the immediate Center City area. Maupin Theatre Company already seeks to combat this issue in its educational programming by specifically advertising in these areas of Philadelphia, as well as offering our courses in multiple areas of the city every year to provide easier access to our programs for students who may not have the opportunity to do so otherwise. Additionally, we strive to keep the registration costs for our programs low, in order to make them as financially feasible to low

income families as possible, and we provide a small number of scholarships for each course to allow students to attend for free should they not be able to afford the registration fee.

Our summer programs up until this point have traditionally been comprehensive experiences that cover a variety of aspects of theatrical work. Returning students have often requested the opportunity to further deepen their studies into more specific aspects of theatre, rather than continue with a broad, conceptual approach. This proposed addition to our summer programming would allow for students specifically interested in playwriting to focus solely on that work, thereby providing returning students with a course geared toward expanding upon the knowledge they gained in previous summers in a more specified portion of the theatrical field. This program would also serve as a test model to expand our summer programming further to include similar workshop processes for students with different theatrical interests.

Ultimately, by adding this playwriting workshop course to our summer programming, we hope to provide students with the opportunity to further explore what playwriting entails while also having the opportunity to see their own written work on its feet under the tutelage of professionals, which will then empower them to further explore their writing capabilities once they complete the course and inspire them to pursue playwriting as a potential career path.

We have already received some financial support for this expansion from individual donors totaling to \$16,000, putting us well on our way to our final budget of 30,000 for this program expansion. The \$13,500 we hope to receive from the Barra Foundation would go toward the rental of spaces in which to provide these workshop courses. We have already begun to search for appropriate locations in which to offer these courses, and we hope to occupy three separate spaces in different areas of the city in order to reach as wide a student base as possible. We hope to launch this course in the summer of 2019, with the course being offered in a new location every month from June to August.

The Barra Foundation's dedication to funding innovative projects that challenge existing models greatly aligns with our goals at the Maupin Theatre Company to encourage young playwrights and artists to create work that pushes their boundaries beyond what they may have previously thought they were capable of producing. We hope that you will consider our proposal, and we thank you for your support and consideration. Additionally, we invite you to come visit us at the Maupin Theatre Company should you desire to see our educational programs in action. We look forward to the opportunity to submit a formal proposal for your review, and do not hesitate to contact me at (315) 244-2463 should you have any questions or require any additional information.

Thank you once again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Emily Wanamaker