



St. Croix Valley Foundation Proposal Narrative

I. Organization Overview

Provide your mission statement and a brief history of your organization.

Our mission is to foster and provide educational opportunities through the visual arts.

The Burnett Area Arts Group, known as BAAG, was established as a visual arts organization fourteen years ago in 2004. The original purpose for BAAG was to foster the visual arts in Northwestern Wisconsin, to create a support network for area artists and to foster a working relationship with local and regional arts organizations. In the spring of 2017 BAAG received federal non-profit status and has since added an educational component to its goals. This new goal creates an opportunity for BAAG to offer additional experiences for local residences and local artists of all ages.

In March of 2017 BAAG moved out of its rental location in Siren, WI. BAAG faced several challenges due to this move but continued to sponsor two major art exhibits, a new area high school student exhibit, open studio, a monthly art reading discussion group, and monthly organization meetings.

In December of 2017 Northwest Passage Limited, Webster, Wisconsin, invited BAAG to move its operations into an existing art facility that the Passage proposed to expand. BAAG continues to carry on its regularly scheduled monthly activities and hopes to move into its new home sometime in September of 2018.

II. Project Description

What is your project? Discuss the specific activities.

Art work from the five area high schools will be displayed in an exhibit during National Youth Art Month. A ceremony will be held during a Friday evening reception at which time participating art students and their teachers will be recognized. All events will be held at Northwest Passage Art Center.

What is the plan and the timeline of the project?

Teachers will be contacted in early September, 2018, to introduce the project and solicit their participation. Guidelines, posters and invitations will be provided. Periodic communication between the BAAG event chair and the art teachers will take place.

Selection of the pieces to be exhibited will be made by the high school art teachers. They will deliver the artworks to the show site. All equipment needed for hanging the show, including uprights, lighting, tables and chairs are being provided and assembled by BAAG. The show will be hung by BAAG members.

All advertising and publicity will be coordinated by BAAG. Ads will be placed in three newspapers, along with press releases by both BAAG and Northwest Passage. Posters will be designed, printed and hung in public places. Posters will be provided for the commons areas of the schools and the art classrooms.

Teachers will retrieve the artwork on Saturday afternoon. BAAG members will disassemble the show elements.

All financial responsibility for this event falls entirely on BAAG. The schools are being asked to contribute only the artwork.

What are the goals you hope to achieve?

To provide an opportunity for talented high school students to interact with talented students from other school districts

to provide a venue that highlights the achievement of area high school art students

to encourage art appreciation and participation by area residents of all ages

What public service activity will you provide and where will that activity be conducted?

By hosting this event, BAAG will provide recognition of local student talent and a chance for the high school art programs to gain publicity, as well as give the general public exposure to the visual arts.

This exhibit will take place at the Northwest Passage art complex, located between Siren and Webster, Wisconsin on Highway 35.

How will people find out about your project and/or what will you do to get your project to them?

Advertisements will be placed in the Advertiser, Burnett County Sentinel and the Intercounty Leader. Wisconsin Public Radio host Al Ross will be conducting an interview with the event chair and will provide periodic community service announcements regarding the show. Press releases will be done by both BAAG and Northwest Passage in the three newspapers prior to

and after the event. Information will be posted on the BAAG Facebook page and the Northwest Passage website.

Who is involved in this project (leadership/consultants/volunteers/artists)? Why are their qualifications right for this project? If artistic personnel have not yet been selected, what is the process and/or criteria you will use to select them?

BAAG is made up of local artists, former art teachers, recognized art professionals and art supporters. BAAG has a 14-year history of conducting events of this nature. All BAAG members are passionate about their art and equally passionate about creating opportunities for local youth and the public.

III. Need, Impact, Evaluation

Why is this project needed?

There is very little opportunity for participation in the visual arts by residents of our rural area. Both Burnett and Polk County are among some of the poorest counties in the state of Wisconsin and have few art experiences available for local residents.

What artistic benefit will result from your activities?

This event is unique in that it provides support and publicity for the five area high school art departments. Students will be exposed to and inspired by new ideas that will aid in their artistic development, and will have an opportunity to receive recognition for their art. The general public will be provided with an experience to increase their appreciation of art, and have an opportunity to appreciate and celebrate talented young artists.

How will the participants and the larger community benefit from the project activities?

BAAG will be providing the student artists the opportunity to have their work in a public art exhibit. This will add weight to future resumes and will provide additional experience for higher education, especially important for those entering an art program.

The larger community will benefit by having the opportunity to enjoy and be inspired by these artworks. This will help develop appreciation and support for the arts.

The five area high schools will benefit by having attention brought to the high quality of their art programs. This will help establish a support program for further art activity involvement in our local communities.

What methods will you use to determine whether you have met your project goals?

An exit survey will be made available to all persons attending the event. Feedback will also be solicited from the student participants and their teachers. The resulting information will be used to plan future exhibits and assist BAAG to better understand and provide for the needs of our local area art departments.