

The White Family Foundation
Grant Request #745
AS220-RI
March 30, 2022

Date of grant proposal submission	Wednesday, March 30, 2022
Are you an IRS compliant 501(c)3 public charity/ nonprofit?	Yes
Legal name of organization	AS220
Address	95 Mathewson Street Unit 204 Providence, RI 02903 United States
Website	http://as220.org
Telephone	401-831-9327
Organization Director/ Title	Shauna Duffy & Anjel Newmann / Co-Executive Directors
Contact Person/Title	Gem Marley / Director of Development
Contact Person's Telephone	401-831-9327
Contact Person's Email	development@as220.org
Grant Request Amount	\$15,000.00

Please provide us with a brief description of your organization (no more than 500 words).

AS220 is a nonprofit arts organization founded in 1985 and located in

Providence, RI. AS220 offers artists opportunities to live, work, exhibit and perform in our facilities, which include: six rotating gallery spaces, performance stages, a black box theater, a print shop, a community darkroom and media arts lab, a fabrication and electronics lab, a dance studio, a youth arts and workforce development program, 47 residential spaces (39 of which are designated affordable housing) and 7 work studios for artists, and a restaurant and bar. Annually, over 40,000 people attend and participate in AS220 programs.

AS220's largest program, AS220 Youth, was founded in 1998 through a partnership with the RI Training School, the state's juvenile detention center. Today, this nationally recognized program works with hundreds of young people per year at three service sites: the RI Training School, Nowell Leadership Academy, and AS220's Downtown Studio. The program centers youth leadership and the elevation of youth of color, and combines arts and social justice education, mentorship, peer-to-peer learning, and civically engaged creative projects. AS220 Youth strives "to empower young leaders to use their experience, influence and creativity to build an alternative future for themselves and their communities."

At the core of AS220 Youth's mission lives these values:

- + The creative process supports youth to develop key social-emotional learning (SEL) skills needed to be successful in all areas of life
- + All youth should have access to the arts, especially those most impacted by racism
- + We are dedicated to serving youth who are system involved, and those disconnected from school or employment who come to AS220 for more than traditional artistic training
- + The youth we serve can benefit from (1) caring, consistent adults (2) support in navigating community resources and (3) professional opportunities
- + Relationships are key
- + Art is a vehicle for social change and young people should be the ones leading that change

ones leading that change

Foundational to the program is the belief that Black, Indigenous, and youth of color should not just be involved in decision making, but should be the drivers of decision making and programming. During three 10-week sessions per year, our tiered program structure (member, apprentice, teaching assistant, and youth council member) provides growth and paid leadership opportunities to young people throughout their time in the program. During the summer months youth may apply for our Summer Jobs program, through which they gain additional career readiness training and experience. We typically hire 30–40 youth each summer for the 6 week program; participants complete skills-based creative projects, and participate in workforce readiness training that includes resume writing, financial planning training, interview skill building, and more.

Grant Purpose (one paragraph)

AS220 requests \$15,000 to support youth mentorship and skill-building programs in digital media, visual arts and design, dance, music composition, and apparel design. This year, AS220 is in the process of aligning the AS220 Youth Program and AS220 Industries to create a new shared creative ecosystem called AS220 Community Studios, a learning and making space for youth and adult participants. AS220 Youth will move its primary location from our 115 Empire Street building, to our building at 131 Washington Street, where AS220 Industries is located. This move will allow Youth easier access to additional resources and technology that the Industries provides. AS220 Industries is a maker and educational space for members 18+ that includes a full media lab, fabrication lab, and printshop. Through the alignment of the two programs, AS220 Youth will have more opportunities for training with technical tools. Additionally, we are developing opportunities for skill sharing between youth and adult members. The goal of this collaboration is to foster an intergenerational and multicultural learning environment, where our Youth are more acquainted with the technology and tools available to them in their creative practice at AS220.

Annual Project/Program Budget (if request is for a specific project) \$653,512.00

Annual Organization Budget \$1,895,097.00