



July 29, 2019

100 and Change Grant Proposal Review Committee
McArthur Foundation

Re: Montana State University Grant Proposal

Dear Review Committee:

Arts Without Boundaries (“AWB”) is a non-profit organization that encourages and facilitates student participation in the arts. AWB believes student participation in art and music is critical for academic success and can increase the probability of an at-risk student staying in school. Our programs are available to public, private, and homeschool students.

AWB is primarily based in Billings, Montana, and its programs include loaning out approximately 150 instruments rent-free to students in the community. Our organization also provides free music lessons for students who want to take private lessons but cannot afford them. Although AWB focuses on students in Billings, we have also funded scholarships to allow students from other counties to participate in the Red Lodge Music Festival.

AWB has several after-school art programs in elementary, middle, and high school, and those programs reach approximately 300 students each year. Some of the schools with AWB programs have cut their school art programs, and the AWB after-school program is their only opportunity for art education. Additionally, AWB runs a summer art program that serves low-income neighborhoods, and the Title 1 school where it is hosted provides free breakfast and lunch for participants. Finally, for the past two years, AWB has taken high school students who are passionate about the arts to New York City for an arts and culture trip. The trip is fully funded for those students who cannot financially contribute.

Every board member or officer of AWB is a volunteer, and we all care deeply about our mission. Montana has a significant population of low-income students, many of whom are passionate about music and art. We are continuously looking for ways to expand our programs, and there is always more need than available resources. For these reasons, AWB supports MSU Bozeman’s application for the MacArthur 100 and Change Initiative. Passionate students deserve passionate advocates, and AWB will continue to promote access to the arts for all students.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adrian Miller", written in a cursive style.

Adrian A. Miller
President