

# THE BLOSSOM FUND

## **Funding Focus: A Supplement to the Guidelines**

This document is designed to give further guidance to prospective applicants by outlining the components of a successful proposal, describing several exemplary grantees in each of the Foundation's four program areas and clarifying what kinds of requests cannot receive support.

### **Successful grant proposals include:**

- broad community support
- community-based institutions such as public schools and libraries
- a strong volunteer base
- a broad range of participants
- a potential for leveraging other dollars
- means of measuring outcomes

emphasize:

- practical skill-building
- cooperative, rather than individual, efforts
- an ongoing role in the community and the potential for replication and/or expansion

### **The Blossom Fund cannot support:**

- health care initiatives
- domestic violence prevention or recovery
- community organizing without larger ties to economic development
- construction projects
- individuals
- organizations with large budgets and/or access to larger, more-traditional funding sources
- programs serving very few individuals
- scholarships

## **Sample Programs Receiving Funding**

### **Codman Square Library, Dorchester, MA**

#### ***Summer Writing Program***

This five-week summer workshop is designed to give students in middle school an intensive experience in both reading and writing. In 1999, students read work by Toni Cade Bambara and William Shakespeare, and examined the role of the written word in self-expression and cultural ritual. Students were given a series of writing assignments using the forms of prose, poetry and short plays. Students were also assigned outside readings from various newspapers and journals, and kept a reading log.

**Fourth Presbyterian Church, South Boston, MA**

***Summer Program: Music and Art for Children***

The program provides 70-80 children from one of the city's poorest neighborhoods with instruction and participation in music and theater activities. Extensive volunteer involvement of community and church members enables this small church to provide impressive, ongoing programs on a non-denominational basis. Recent activities include activities for pre-teens.

**Hull Lifesaving Museum Maritime Program, Charlestown Navy Yard, MA**

***Home Waters***

A year-round, volunteer-supported, after-school program for boys and girls ages 11-18, Home Waters recruits city youth through the Boston School Department, the Boston Housing Authority, and the Department of Youth Services. The core of the program is the development of fixed-seat/open water crews, usually four to six youths per boat, that row together in Boston Harbor. Students also participate in a variety of classroom and field studies, learn basic boat-building and carpentry skills, participate in a conflict resolution program, and compete in the New England Youth Rowing Championships at the Charlestown Navy Yard.

**Patrick Lyndon School, Boston, MA**

***After-School Enrichment Program***

This parent-run program enables about 140 students to participate in various after-school classes (art, chess, dance, computer club, foreign language, etc.). Classes are led and assisted by parent volunteers and occasional specialists. This broad support allows a nominal participation fee (scholarship help if necessary). A matching fund challenge encourages further participation by the school community.

**The Esplanade Association, Boston, MA**

***Charles River Esplanade Youth Leadership Program***

The Esplanade Association's mission is to restore, preserve, and enhance the historic Charles River Esplanade. Fostering a sense of park stewardship amongst youth and building community are essential elements in achieving this. This year-round, after-school youth leadership program seeks to utilize the park's best recreational, ecological, historical and cultural assets to enhance the lives of 10-30 students while improving park stewardship and programming for many others who enjoy the park.

**Womens' Section of FUMEDI, Quetzaltenango, Guatemala**

***Project IXQUIB, Strengthening the Organization of Mayan Women***

This three-year program is training 163 Mayan women from three villages in the Quiche in administration, cooperative formation and management, as well as in techniques to improve the production of their handicrafts and clothing. This training takes place in a context of learning about their rights as indigenous people and as women under the new accords signed by the government of Guatemala. The women are gaining the tools to become leaders in their communities as well as producing income for themselves and their families. After the initial technical and administrative training which lead to commercialization of their production, the women in this group successfully worked together to form a legally recognized cooperative.