



# Chaska Valley Family Theatre

Flexible Support FY22 Sample Grant Application

## Group's Purpose

1. For the past 25 years, Chaska Valley Family Theatre (CVFT) has been creating high-quality live theatre, with an emphasis on local talent and family involvement. CVFT's more than 70 productions have been enjoyed by tens of thousands of patrons and, as the only community theater in Carver County, we provide theatrical opportunities otherwise unavailable to area residents.

Central to our mission is making live theatre accessible and inclusive. In every project, we strive to include people of diverse gender identities, diverse ethnicities, and people with disabilities. We also promote multigenerational family participation. We provide a safe space for all participants, offer sensory friendly and ASL performances, and provide support to individuals as needed to ensure successful experiences. Our participants are often new to theatre, and through their positive experiences with CVFT, they become lifetime supporters of the arts.

2. We produce two to three main stage shows each year at either the Chaska Community Center (CCC) or Chanhassen High School, and smaller events, performed virtually or at other venues. We connect with our community through active participation in community events like Chaska River City Days. We offer free preview shows and comped tickets for seniors, educators and local groups representing disadvantaged communities. We keep our activities safe, welcoming, inclusive, and affordable, to ensure accessibility to all.

## Grant Number & Project Name

FS22-1-131 Performance and Educational Facilities Cost

## Project/Program Description

Funding for facility fees, allowing Chaska Valley Family Theatre to continue providing high-quality family-friendly performing arts opportunities to the people of greater Carver County.

## Project or Program

1. CVFT seeks funding to support facility costs for our upcoming year of productions and classes (January 2022 to December 2022). This includes rental of rehearsal and performance space for three mainstage shows, our 2 week summer day camp, and 5 educational workshops held throughout the year.
2. Receiving this funding will allow us to maintain our current planned offering of productions, educational programs, and community outreach, which we otherwise could not sustain without assistance in covering facility costs.
- 3, CVFT does not have a permanent venue or physical space to provide educational classes, camps, or theatrical productions. Our current projected venue rental cost is roughly \$20,500. Assistance with facility costs, our greatest expense, will alleviate financial stress on our organization during our recovery from the pandemic and allow us to focus on reconnecting with our community. Having access to these facilities will allow us to rehearse, perform, and provide theatre education classes, making theatre more accessible to members of our community, as we are the only community theatre in Carver County.

The CCC is the primary space used by CVFT because it is a centralized location that draws traffic and directly connects to our community. As part of our mission to expand and make theatre more accessible for all members of the community, offering theatre education classes and performances through the community CCC removes geographic barriers and allows better accessibility.

4. The first show, Bright Star, will begin rehearsals in January 2022, and will perform March 11-20, 2022). The second show, Into the Woods, will begin rehearsals in June 2022, and will perform August 12-21, 2022. Two sessions of Dragonfly Theatre Arts Camp will take place on July 11-16, 2022 & July 18-23, 2022, performing the show Honk! Jr. These camps, rehearsals and shows will be held at the CCC. The third show of our planned season is White Christmas, which will begin rehearsals in October 2022. White Christmas will rehearse and perform at Chanhassen High School, running from December 2-11, 2022. We have 5 theatrical workshops, on Auditioning, Theatrical Dance, Improv, Musical Theatre, and Playwriting, planned to be held at the CCC bimonthly beginning in January 2022.

When space is needed for rehearsals and performances, for a given event, Hannah Johnson (co-president) contacts the facilities manager for the CCC or Chanhassen High School approximately 2 months prior to the start date of rehearsals with a proposed schedule. A permit is created and reviewed by the board and production team before booking. When the event is complete, an invoice is sent to the treasurer (Jen Martin),

which is paid upon receipt. For example, for Bright Star, the process to book a venue will begin in November.

## Community

1. CVFT benefits the people and communities of Carver County and the greater southwest metro area. CVFT is the county's only community theatre, and its reach extends far beyond Carver County, including artists from the Twin Cities and beyond. Local performing arts opportunities are limited, and our organization serves as a critical outlet for our creative teams, performers, and audiences. Reflecting our community, our stages and audiences are filled with people from varying gender identities, ethnicities, and abilities. Our continually expanding pool of artists ranges in age from 8-80 and consists of both those involved in more than 30 shows and first time participants. We provide people and families of all backgrounds the opportunity to enjoy theatre together on and off stage with our larger cast sizes. Our experienced creative teams frequently choose to return, and enjoy creative license while delivering high-quality live theatre appropriate for the entire family. We have 9,000 email subscribers from across the Twin Cities metro area and 50% of 2019-2020 audiences were repeat patrons.

2. Supporting our facilities costs for our 2022 season will result in an increased presence at the CCC, a hub for all parts of the community, reaching more Chaska residents, including those unaware of our programming. In addition, funding supporting facility costs enables CVFT to present a bold, expansive season of performances that will provide opportunities for many different local artists. It also allows us to expand our educational offerings to include more members of the community who may not wish to participate in a full scale production.

3. Board Co-President: Gillian Barrow

Board Co-President: Hannah Johnson

Board Vice President: Sten Wall

Board Treasurer: Jennifer Martin

Board Secretary: Elise Nawrocki

Board Members: Brie Stole, Sean Barker, Michael Jarrard, Kathy Keppel, Zachary Hedner, Ginny Enfield, and Rachel Vollbrecht.

Every Board Member represents the mission and core values of Chaska Valley Family Theatre, and serves to accomplish the goals of the organization. The board members are members of the local community, who have committed to represent and provide high-quality theatrical experiences for our neighbors and fellow community members. Support for the facilities for the mentioned projects will help provide opportunities for at least 225 people on and backstage, and over 7,000 audience members between January 2022 and December 2022.

## Proposal Budget

## Project Budget Expenses

\$4000.00 Facilities rental Chaska Community Center January 2022 to March 2022 - Bright Star

\$1500.00 facilities rental Chaska Community Center July 2022 - Dragonfly Theatre Arts Camp Honk Jr.

\$4000.00 facilities rental Chaska Community Center June 2022 to August 2022 - Into the Woods

\$10,000.00 facilities rental Chanhassen High School October 2022 to December 2022 - White Christmas

\$1000.00 facilities rental Chaska Community Center January 2022, March 2022, May 2022, July 2022, September 2022 - Theater Ed. Workshops

Total- \$20,500 for facilities rental for rehearsals and performances in the time period beginning in January 2022 and ending in March 2023

## Total Project Cash Expenses

\$20,500.00

## Amount Requested

\$15,000.00

## Project Budget Income

\$15,000 MRAC Flexible Support Grant.

The additional \$5,500 for facilities rental for these activities will be covered by ticket sales for the mentioned shows and by tuition for workshops and camps.

## Total Project Cash Income

\$20,500.00

## ***(Important!)* Additional Fields Required**

Please note that in the full application there are additional fields that will need to be completed and are not shown to panelists.