

Organization Name: Pima County Las Artes Arts and Education Center

Organization Background:

More than 25 years ago, Pima County's Community Services, Employment and Training (CSET) department launched a groundbreaking GED program for area youth in South Tucson. Las Artes is an innovative education and employment program providing a GED to the area's Opportunity Youth ages 17-22, the majority being Hispanic and in poverty. While at Las Artes, students benefit emotionally, financially and academically from support on a variety of related issues ranging from language barriers, anger management, legal intervention, and childcare.

Many of these students have not been successful in traditional schools and are at risk for un- and under-employment, low paying jobs, and a cycle of poverty. The student body is about 77 percent Hispanic and 60 percent women. About 10 percent are young parents and 35 percent were involved with the criminal justice system.

Youth enter at whatever academic level they are at and advance in cohorts through two levels of general education classes. After testing shows they can function in reading and math at a 9th grade level, they move into the mural program, and finally into the GED component, each eight weeks. The process can take from four to eight months. Structured classroom study allows students to prepare for successfully completing testing and employability skills are built by participating in community art projects. Stunning mosaic art murals created by Las Artes students beautify neighborhoods, libraries, and other public buildings throughout Pima County. While learning the production skills, students receive valuable on-the-job training. Exercises promoting team building, punctuality, community involvement, and self-confidence develop a strong work ethic and provide a sense of pride and accomplishment.



Not surprisingly, many students and their families are food insecure and this takes a heavy toll on mental and physical health, as well as the ability to focus on future plans. A goal for Las Artes is to provide a quality and nutritious lunch for all the students on a daily basis.

Project Description: *Addressing Food Insecurity at Las Artes GED Program*

The desired outcome is a realistic plan for addressing food insecurity, specifically to provide a quality and nutritious lunch for all the students on a daily basis. To achieve this, the Las Artes Intern will:

1. Coordinate with a leadership council comprised of current students, alum, and staff to address food insecurity among students
2. Investigate possible resources in the community. Engage students and staff as much as possible.

3. Compile information and determine what resources would be needed for different scenarios. Get input from the leadership council.
4. Review with and make recommendations to Las Artes leadership for decision-making.
5. Based on that feedback, develop a plan for reducing food insecurity with recommended action steps detailing timeline, costs, and other factors. This may take the shape of short and longer term plan.

The intern will be supervised by the Las Artes Program Manager, Patty Short, with support from the Ending Poverty Now Program Manager, Bonnie Bazata. The Community Services, Employment, and Training Director, Arnold Palacios, will approve the final plan. A work plan has been developed and the intern will further develop the plan in more detail and with key dates. The goal is to have an achievable plan in place by then end of the spring semester.

<http://webcms.pima.gov/cms/one.aspx?pagelId=6382>

Internship Project Title

Addressing Food Insecurity at Las Artes GED Program

Internship project keywords (check all that apply). These keywords help students search for internships in our database based on their areas of interest:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☒ Health Disparities | ☐ Maternal/Infant Health |
| ☐ Public Health Preparedness | ☐ Tobacco Use |
| ☒ Collaborations with Community | ☐ Injury/Violence Prevention |
| ☒ Collaborations with University | ☐ Immunization |
| ☐ Community health service | ☐ Infectious Disease |
| ☐ Physical Activity | ☐ Oral Health |
| ☐ Substance Abuse | ☐ Evaluation |
| ☐ Mental Health | ☐ Policy Development |
| ☐ Access to care | ☒ Program Planning |
| ☒ Nutrition | ☒ Data Analysis |
| ☐ Reproductive/Sexual Health | ☐ Other Click or tap here to enter text. |
| ☐ Environmental Health | |

When: When do you want the work done? Check all that apply.

- ☐ Fall Semester
- ☒ Spring Semester
- ☐ Summer Term
- ☐ I want this listing to remain active indefinitely and we will accept applications from students for any upcoming semester.
- ☐ This listing is only for a specific semester/term: _____

Where:

Organization Mailing Address: *23 W. 27th St. South Tucson, AZ 85713*

Address where Student will work (if different from above): *Click or tap here to enter text.*

☐ Check here if the student may have the option to work remotely from a site not listed above for all or part of this project.

Student Characteristics:

Students need skills related to: ability to create and carry out a plan; engage with Opportunity Youth who are predominantly youth of color, collaborate with Las Artes staff, research community and state-level resources, meet with organizations to investigate their resources, ability to communicate ideas, summarize and write effectively. We are looking for someone who is flexible, tenacious, and excited about this project.

Level of Expertise Needed: *Do you wish to request an MPH program intern or an undergraduate public health program intern? Note: The field-based internship for undergraduates should provide an experience that allows students to incorporate classroom learning into public health practice. Graduate student internships differ as the students should be required to apply advanced knowledge and skills to the solution of health problems. Both experiences prepare students for future employment.*

☐ MPH

☐ Undergraduate

☒ Either

Supervision

Patty Short will provide the day to day supervision. Patty is a lifelong educator with a degree in counseling and a Master's in multicultural, bilingual education from the UA. She has worked at Las Artes for more than ten years. Bonnie Bazata is the Ending Poverty Now Program Manager and the project supervisor. Bonnie has many years of experience in community development, working with youth, poverty, and related issues. She also holds a Master's in multicultural, bilingual education from the UA. She has supervised many interns over the years and is committed to providing a meaningful internship experience.

Compensation/Benefits

At this point, we do not have a stipend, but we can certainly compensate travel. We would include the student in any publications, but we do not have any research or other articles planned at this time.

Application Contact Information

Please send a cover letter/email and a resume to Bonnie Bazata at bonnie.bazata@pima.gov. For more information call, (520) 724-3704 (office) OR (520) 247-6011 (cell)