

Technical Review Cover Sheet

Panel Details

Fiscal Year 2010 **CFDA/Subprogram** 84.351D **Schedule No** 1 **Tier No.** 1

Panel Name Panel - 12

Applicant Name Quest: Arts for Everyone **PR/Award No** U351D100106

Questions

	Points Possible	Points Scored
1. Selection Criteria		
Need for Project	15	15
Significance	10	10
Project Design	25	18
Project Personnel	10	10
Management Plan	20	15
Project Evaluation	20	16
TOTAL	100	84

Technical Review Form

Applicant Name Quest: Arts for Everyone **PR/Award No** U351D100106

Reviewer Name

Selection Criteria - Need for Project

- Your comments and scores should address the following criteria:**
- (a) The extent to which the proposed project will provide services or otherwise address the needs of students at risk of educational failure.**
 - 1. (b) The extent to which specific gaps or weaknesses in services, infrastructure, or opportunities have been identified and will be addressed by the proposed project, including the nature and magnitude of those gaps or weaknesses.**

Strengths:

This is an initiative that will directly serve 505 of the deaf and hard of hearing (DHH) students in MD and indirectly serve all of them. This organization possesses a proven track record of producing some of the nations leading programming. It has a long standing partnership with MSD. It makes a rock solid case about the learning needs of this unique population and clearly knows how to address this gap in services.

Question Status:Completed

Reviewer Score: 15

Selection Criteria - Significance

Your comments and scores should address the following criteria:

- 2. (1) The likely utility of the products (such as information, materials, processes, or techniques) that will result from the proposed project, including the potential for their being used effectively in a variety of other settings.**

Strengths:

This proposal proves that it has significant strategies to disseminate its model to local, state and national agencies that serve this population. The fact that the ASDC conference will be held in MD in 2011 is significant. The emerging collaboration with AATE is an important step towards reaching out to educators who serve more mainstream students.

Question Status:Completed

Reviewer Score: 10

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Design

Your comments and scores should address the following criteria:

- (1) The extent to which the design of the proposed project reflects up-to-date knowledge from research and effective practice.**
- (2) The extent to which the proposed project is part of a comprehensive effort to improve teaching and learning and support rigorous academic standards for students.**
- (3) The extent to which the proposed project is designed to build capacity and yield results that will extend beyond the period of Federal financial assistance.**

Strengths:

Many research-based studies are used to justify the design of this model (14/15) and shows that the literature on theatre arts for mainstream students has potential to be adapted to DHH populations. There is great potential for ground-breaking work here. The goals are explicitly stated and are appropriate to this project. It is tied to VSC standards (17/18). The parent programming is an essential component to the success of this project. Through MSD, it will serve students across their lifespan from birth to 18yrs.

Weaknesses:

QuestFest needs more rigorous professional development programming for teachers and parents. Currently, it reads as a performance and visibility occasion with little connection to the k-12 setting. It talks about working with individuals with and without disabilities (16/17) but this program appears to be targeted to DHH specifically. The connection of the program design to texts and literacy is not developed enough. There is an excellent description of visual theatre, but the linkages to the program and the use of text-based language (reading and writing) is unclear.

Question Status:Completed

Reviewer Score: 18

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Personnel

- Your comments and scores should address the following criterion:**
- (1) The Secretary considers the quality of the personnel who will carry out the proposed project. In determining the quality of project personnel, the Secretary considers the extent to which the applicant encourages applications for employment from persons who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability.**
 - (2) In addition, the Secretary considers the following factor: The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of key project personnel.**
- 4.

Strengths:

The project personnel have the experience and expertise necessary to lead and fully implement this project. Their time commitments appear to be appropriate. I especially liked that the evaluator has experience working with the DHH population, which is vital to have the data collection strategies accommodated to DHH students.

Question Status: Completed

Reviewer Score: 10

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Management Plan

- Your comments and scores should address the following criteria:**
- (1) The adequacy of the management plan to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestones for accomplishing project tasks.**
 - (2) The extent to which the time commitments of the project director and Principal investigator and other key project personnel are appropriate and adequate to meet the objectives of the proposed project.**
 - (3) The adequacy of procedures for ensuring feedback and continuous improvement in the operation of the proposed project.**
- 5.

Strengths:

A significant portion of the staff are DHH (20). The project director clearly has the potential to lead this initiative into a model that has significant national reach and impact. The arts advocacy committee will serve as the overall advisory group for this project.

Weaknesses:

Unfortunately, the management chart was formatted in such a way that only Y1 and Y2 were mapped by task and timeline. Similarly, I could not determine if this project had benchmarks or milestones, otherwise I would have given it a full score.

Question Status:Completed

Reviewer Score: 15

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Project Evaluation

Your comments and scores should address the following criteria:

6. **(1) The extent to which the methods of evaluation are thorough, feasible, and appropriate to the goals, objectives, and outcomes of the proposed project.**
- (2) The extent to which the methods of evaluation will provide performance feedback and permit periodic assessment of progress toward achieving intended outcomes.**

Strengths: It uses instruments that were already calibrated and validated by MSD (35). Students are measured twice a year. **Weaknesses:** There is a quasi-experimental design in Y1 although from the same school, which is not rigorous enough because the likelihood of contamination is high. The student indicators are not connected to the standards and the overall evaluation design is not explicitly tied to the projects stated goals on page 10.

Question Status:Completed

Reviewer Score: 16

Technical Review Cover Sheet

Panel Details

Fiscal Year 2010 **CFDA/Subprogram** 84.351D Schedule No 1 Tier No. 1

Panel Name Panel - 12

Applicant Name Quest: Arts for Everyone **PR/Award No** U351D100106

Questions

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Applicant Name Quest: Arts for Everyone **PR/Award No** U351D100106

Reviewer Name

Selection Criteria - Need for Project

- Your comments and scores should address the following criteria:**
- (a) The extent to which the proposed project will provide services or otherwise address the needs of students at risk of educational failure.**
(b) The extent to which specific gaps or weaknesses in services, infrastructure, or opportunities have been identified and will be addressed by the proposed project, including the nature and magnitude of those gaps

or weaknesses.

STRENGTHS:

The applicant gives information showing the great need of deaf/hard of hearing elementary and middle school students at the Maryland School for the Deaf, and how this project will focus on the use of visual theater to enhance the difficulty of teaching literacy skills of these students. Page 2

By the third year, elements of this program will be introduced to other elementary and middle schools in Maryland which have at least 35% deaf/hard of hearing students from low income families. Page 3

The proposal identifies in general terms the profile of many deaf/hard of hearing children as having multiple needs. Pages 15-16

WEAKNESSES:

No weaknesses found.

Question Status: Completed

Reviewer Score: 15

Selection Criteria - Significance

Your comments and scores should address the following criteria:

- 2. (1) The likely utility of the products (such as information, materials, processes, or techniques) that will result from the proposed project, including the potential for their being used effectively in a variety of other settings.**

STRENGTHS:

The applicant will develop a series of lesson plans developed on their website and provide insights on how they worked so other teachers can utilize this information. Page 8

The applicant will present the information, lesson plans, and activities developed during this project at numerous regional, state, and national forums. Page 9

WEAKNESSES:

No weaknesses found.

Question Status: Completed

Reviewer Score: 10

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Design

Your comments and scores should address the following criteria:

- (1) The extent to which the design of the proposed project reflects up-to-date knowledge from research and effective practice.**
- (2) The extent to which the proposed project is part of a comprehensive effort to improve teaching and learning and support rigorous academic standards for students.**
- (3) The extent to which the proposed project is designed to build capacity and yield results that will extend beyond the period of Federal financial assistance.**

STRENGTHS:

The applicant will provide summer camps for students and also training for parents in using visual theater games to play with and reinforce childrens language and social development. Page 11

The applicant states it will use an empirical, experimental model to assess the impact of the program activities on student achievement. Page 12

The applicant will develop an Arts Advocacy Committee with broad support and membership to advocate for sustaining arts and arts education programming at the school. Pages 12 and 19

WEAKNESSES:

There is no detail provided on how the professional development and lesson plan creation will impact the teaching and learning. Pages 12-14

The applicant uses research that dates primarily to the 1980s and 1990s to support many of the objectives and activities, and there must certainly be up-to-date research to verify this information from 20-30 years ago. Page 15

There is no discussion of 10 teachers from all levels- - pre-k to high school- - and how they will share this information with other teaching staff members so there is consistency throughout the grade levels and sequencing into the next grade level. Pages 6-8

Question Status:Completed

Reviewer Score: 18

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Personnel

- Your comments and scores should address the following criterion:(1) The Secretary considers the quality of the personnel who will carry out the proposed project. In determining the quality of project personnel, the Secretary considers the extent to which the applicant encourages applications for employment from persons who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability.**
4. **(2) In addition, the Secretary considers the following factor: The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of key project**

personnel.

STRENGTHS:

The applicant identifies project staff and participating artists who will be part of this project that are deaf/hard of hearing and the education and experience of staff and artists will have a positive impact on the experiences of children, parents, and teachers. Pages 20-23

The personnel listed in this proposal are well qualified and experienced in their fields and in sharing knowledge and skill with students. Detailed resumes are included for all of the staff and primary artists to be involved in the development of the curriculum and lesson planning that will be necessary for this project to be successful. Pages 20-23 and appendix

WEAKNESSES:

No weaknesses found.

Question Status: Completed

Reviewer Score: 10

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Management Plan

Your comments and scores should address the following criteria:

- (1) The adequacy of the management plan to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestones for accomplishing project tasks.**
- 5. (2) The extent to which the time commitments of the project director and Principal investigator and other key project personnel are appropriate and adequate to meet the objectives of the proposed project.**
- (3) The adequacy of procedures for ensuring feedback and continuous improvement in the operation of the proposed project.**

STRENGTHS:

The time commitments and feedback opportunities allocated to this project appear to be reasonable within the scope of the project and have meeting time built in to insure the project will make program adjustments as necessary to continue the project as developed. Page 29

WEAKNESSES:

There is no detail to the work plan that is included so it will be difficult to determine if and to what level each of the activities to be undertaken will be met. Pages 25-28

The applicant did not provide a comprehensive listing of timelines and milestones in measurable and complete terms to determine accomplishment of the objectives of the project. Pages 25-28

Question Status:Completed

Reviewer Score: 15

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Project Evaluation

Your comments and scores should address the following criteria:

- (1) The extent to which the methods of evaluation are thorough, feasible, and appropriate to the goals, objectives, and outcomes of the proposed project.**
- 6. (2) The extent to which the methods of evaluation will provide performance feedback and permit periodic assessment of progress toward achieving intended outcomes.**

STRENGTHS:

The evaluation plan will be implemented by a knowledgeable and experienced evaluator who is also familiar with the school and the special needs of

deaf/hard of hearing students. Pages 33-34

The applicant will use a variety of testing instruments to assess student growth and achievement that are already in place in the school, such as those required by the state- - Maryland Model for School Readiness checklist, Maryland State Assessment Program, and the Alternate Maryland State Assessment. Pages 38-39

Video portfolios will be an important assessment tools for this project. Page 39

WEAKNESSES:

The applicant states it will use objective performance measures but does not provide benchmarks in the charts that are shown so it will be difficult to determine success of specific objectives and activities. Pages 34-38

Question Status:Completed

Reviewer Score: 16

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Panel Name Panel - 12

Applicant Name Quest: Arts for Everyone **PR/Award No** U351D100106

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TOTAL	100	100

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Applicant Name Quest: Arts for Everyone **PR/Award No** U351D100106

Reviewer Name

Selection Criteria - Need for Project

- Your comments and scores should address the following criteria:**
- (a) The extent to which the proposed project will provide services or otherwise address the needs of students at risk of educational failure.**
 - 1. (b) The extent to which specific gaps or weaknesses in services, infrastructure, or opportunities have been identified and will be addressed by the proposed project, including the nature and magnitude of those gaps or weaknesses.**

Strengths

The need for this project is clearly presented through socioeconomic, academic, and physiological challenges of the targeted students who have hearing impairments, including deafness, and multiple severe disabilities. This need includes communication and service difficulties experienced by the parents of these students and a continuous lack of effective instructional methods. The supporting research is relevant and convincing. (p. 2-4)

Weaknesses

None

Question Status:Not Completed

Reviewer Score: 15

Selection Criteria - Significance

Your comments and scores should address the following criteria:

2. **(1) The likely utility of the products (such as information, materials, processes, or techniques) that will result from the proposed project, including the potential for their being used effectively in a variety of other settings.**

Strengths

The project will develop a much needed program to enhance the literary and theatre skills of students with hearing impairments and multiple disabilities, in elementary and middle school at the Maryland School for the Deaf, serving 59% of these students in Maryland, and mainstream it to the other 41% in mostly public schools in other counties. (p. 3)

Quest will partner with MSD and Gallaudet University's College of Professional Services and Outreach to assure product relevance for this special population, their families and communities.

Professional development will focus on metacognition strategies and integrating the arts and visual skills for students with hearing impairments. (p. 6)

The proposal includes transportation to after school programs, summer institutes and parent meetings so students can attend regularly as well as family workshops and cultural events accessible to people with hearing impairments. (p. 8)

The products will be posted through the established Quest website and shared in conferences on the MSD campus. Families, educators and researchers from all over the United States and other venues such as VSA arts use both of these services. (p. 9)

Weaknesses
None

Question Status:Not Completed

Reviewer Score: 10

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Design

Your comments and scores should address the following criteria:

- (1) The extent to which the design of the proposed project reflects up-to-date knowledge from research and effective practice.**
- (2) The extent to which the proposed project is part of a comprehensive effort to improve teaching and learning and support rigorous academic standards for students.**
- (3) The extent to which the proposed project is designed to build capacity and yield results that will extend beyond the period of Federal financial assistance.**

Strengths

The conferences will include parent focus group discussions to explore strategies for implementing the program in schools throughout the United States. (p. 9)

The proposed program will be implemented in both the academic and life based education curricula.

Weaknesses

None

Question Status:Not Completed

Reviewer Score: 25

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Personnel

- Your comments and scores should address the following criterion:**
- 4. (1) The Secretary considers the quality of the personnel who will carry out the proposed project. In determining the quality of project personnel, the Secretary considers the extent to which the applicant encourages applications for employment from persons who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability.**
- (2) In addition, the Secretary considers the following factor: The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of key project personnel.**

Strengths

All key personnel are highly qualified to work with this population of students and their families.

The staff at QUEST and MSD is recruited from and includes applicants with hearing impairments from a variety of cultures and ethnicities. (p. 20-22)

Weaknesses

None

Question Status:Not Completed

Reviewer Score: 10

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Management Plan

Your comments and scores should address the following criteria:

- (1) The adequacy of the management plan to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestones for accomplishing project tasks.**
- 5. (2) The extent to which the time commitments of the project director and Principal investigator and other key project personnel are appropriate and adequate to meet the objectives of the proposed project.**
- (3) The adequacy of procedures for ensuring feedback and continuous improvement in the operation of the proposed project.**

Strengths

The sequence is logical; sensitive to participant needs and organized so that each step forms a supportive platform for the next step with multiple opportunities for public presentations and participation such as QuestFest. (p. 9)

Weaknesses

None

Question Status:Not Completed

Reviewer Score: 20

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Project Evaluation

Your comments and scores should address the following criteria:

- (1) The extent to which the methods of evaluation are thorough, feasible, and appropriate to the goals, objectives, and outcomes of the proposed project.**
- 6. (2) The extent to which the methods of evaluation will provide performance feedback and permit periodic assessment of progress toward achieving intended outcomes.**

Strengths

The planned conferences will include parent focus group discussions to explore strategies for implementing the program in schools throughout the United States. (p. 9)

MSD participates in Maryland's statewide achievement testing program and provides existing instruments to evaluate the program. (p. 38)

MSD Arts Advocacy Committees and the ones to be formed in the mainstream schools will be forums to access the project and provide recommendations for modifications. (p. 33)

Monthly Quest and MSD program review meetings are planned, as are quarterly meetings with TheatreBridge teachers and artists. (p. 33, 34)

The program is designed to meet state (VSC) and national standards tied to project objectives and supporting benchmarks. (p. 17, 18, 38)

Qualitative measures, such as portfolios, rubrics, and interview processes, are used to assess program effectiveness and have clearly defined purposes in assessing student, staff, and family participation and outcomes. (p. 40, 42)

Weaknesses

None

Question Status:Not Completed

Reviewer Score: 20