

Friends of Thailand
Small Project Assistance
Proposal form

(PCVs: When Completed, Please Forward to your PCT Project Manager)

Note: The level of specificity and detail should correspond to the total amount of funds requested. That is, for those of you who are requesting a relatively small amount of money, you do not need to fill out this request with extreme specificity and detail.

Date of Request: December 2017

Total Funds Requested (maximum is 50,000 baht): 40,800. baht

Title of Project: MaePao community participation in Thai Youth Theatre Festival

Dates of Project: Friday February 23, 2018 through Sunday February 25, 2018

Project Manager (PCV Counterpart(s)): Patcharee Tachi (Sub-District Administration Organization MaePao, English Teacher) and Kanokkan Netsai (SobPao School, English Teacher)

Location of Project (School or Organization, Moo Baan, Tambon, Amphur, Province):

Chulaborn Ratchawittayalai School 51 Soi Khlong Zone 6 T. Lat Lum Kaeo A. Chang Wat, Pathum Thani 12140

Name and Group Number of PCV: Elizabeth Kunz YinD 128

PLEASE PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING

BACKGROUND INFORMATION/PROJECT HISTORY:

The purpose of this grant is to provide transportation, food and minimal materials for 9 youth and 2 counterparts, as well as the PCV from the MaePao community located in rural Chiang Rai province, to attend the Thai Youth Theatre Festival on Friday February 23-February 25, 2018 in Pathum Thani province.

The Thai Youth Theatre (TYT) Festival project has been hosting theatre camps for students in rural Thailand for the past 14 years. It started as a collaborative project between a group of Peace Corps Volunteers and English teachers from Great Britain, as a means to creatively help students with learning to speak and understand English; over the years, however, the impact TYT has had on students has reached beyond language acquisition. Students in rural Thailand have limited exposure to the creative arts, especially western-influenced arts. For a majority of students, extra-curricular programs are not available. Thus many students miss the opportunity to develop

critical skills gained from the arts, music, and dance programs. In addition to a lack of exposure to the arts, students also have limited opportunities to develop critical thinking, leadership, and self-expression skills. Thai Youth Theatre Festival provides youth with the chance to develop such skills needed to become healthy, engaged and contributing adults.

Located in the the northern province of Chiang Rai, MaePao is a typical rice-farming community. With its active and supportive school administration and SAO, the community of MaePao is highly active in creating opportunities for extracurricular activities, both in sports and arts for local students. TYT provides an exciting opportunity for the students of MaePao and their communities to highlight and share their successes and talents with students from across Thailand.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND BENEFITS:

The ultimate outcome of TYT Festival will be that participating students and their peers back in their home communities will gain appreciation, enjoyment, and benefit from the arts. Their communities will be capable of providing ongoing opportunities to participate in creative performing arts, and their English language skills will improve. By the end of the Festival, each group will perform their prepared play publicly for the other groups, significantly increasing their confidence in speaking English. Additionally, through the various scheduled sessions, students will develop skills in singing, dance, costume and mask-making, and crafting. Most importantly, students' confidence will grow, their ability for appropriate self-expression will increase, and they will have opportunities for critical thought development. One of the greatest rewards previous participants have identified is the connections they make with other like-minded students at the camp. In the past, the TYT Festival has been the catalyst in developing acting clubs in rural communities throughout Thailand. This annual Festival motivates participants to continue to practice their performing arts and English language skills in their respective communities. This student-driven approach provides youth with the opportunity to become leaders in their schools and communities.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

SAO MaePao is thrilled to support the community's youth by providing fun activities and opportunities to build life skills through the creative arts, such as English in theatre and storytelling at their annual English camp. A club has been established at SobPao school in response to an overwhelming number of students indicating on a recent post-camp survey that they enjoyed learning through the creative arts and wanted more of these opportunities available to them on a consistent basis. The SAO English teacher and SobPao school English teacher agreed to host a weekly English theatre club hour, where students have been furthering their skill development and rehearsing a rendition of "The Wizard of Oz" to be performed at the Thai Youth Theatre Festival.

Teachers, SAO representatives and community members have all been very supportive of the project, seeing how engaged the students are with the creative arts facilitators. The students are demonstrating obvious improvement, not only in English, but in inter- and intra-personal skills that are being shared to better their community. The supporters of the youth are happily providing space for practice, a computer, Wi-Fi access, printer, ink for the printer, a copy machine, reams of A4 paper, and a television with a sound system. Additionally provided are materials for props, including markers, colored pencils, rulers, pens, large colored poster paper, glue, tape, string, and scissors. The supporters are devoting time during and outside the school day to help students prepare both the language and content of the performance.

SUSTAINABILITY:

Life Skill-building and strengthening self-esteem and confidence amongst the students who attend TYT Festival--these skills will impact their performance in everyday life, helping them to broaden their horizons and to take on new opportunities to reach their full potential and impact others in positive ways. The English Theatre Club at SobPao school is being co-facilitated by the secondary school English Teacher who is gaining new ideas and comfort in teaching the material for use in the future, with the plan of using song, dance, acting and storytelling aspects of theatre, to improve English skills in her students during class. The SAO's English teacher directs the community's annual English camp and she uses theatre activities for warm ups, energizers, and games in the camp's lessons.

BUDGET

| Item | Cost per unit (Thai Baht) | Number of units | Total (Thai Baht) |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Van to Chiang Rai Airport | 1,000. | 2 | 2,000. |
| Two-Way Air Travel Chiang Rai to Bangkok | 2,500. | 12 | 30,000. |
| Van from Don Muang Airport to Pathum Thani | 2,200. | 2 | 4,400. |
| Meals During Festival | 100. | 24 | 2,400. |
| Miscellaneous Props and costumes for performance | 1,000. | 1 | 1000. |

Total: 40,800. Thai Baht

PROJECT SCHEDULE (including start and finish dates):

August 7, 2017: Receive TYT application by email

September 3, 2017: Submit TYT application by email

First week of November, 2017: Receive confirmation of permission from SobPao school principal for students to attend TYT; Confirm SAO English teacher and SobPao school English teacher are available on TYT dates to travel; Seek interested students to join club; Confirm students in club have permission to travel and all have valid Thai ID card

Early November 2017: Purchase *Teaching Drama: The Essential Handbook* by Beat by Beat Press for lesson plans teaching skill development

Friday November 3, 2017 2:30-4:00pm: First English Theatre Club Session; Intro to Theatre

Friday, November 10, 2017 2:30-4:00pm: English Theatre Club Session; Skill development

Friday, November 17, 2017 2:30-4:00pm: English Theatre Club Session; Skill development

Friday, December 1, 2017 2:30-4:00pm: English Theatre Club Session; Select play to perform at TYT by group vote; Skill development

Friday, December 8, 2017 2:30-4:00pm: English Theatre Club Session; Auditions; Skill development

Friday, December 15, 2017 2:30-4:00pm: English Theatre Club Session; Character Reveal; Skill development

Friday, December 22, 2017-Friday February 16, 2018 2:30-4:00pm: English Theatre Club Sessions; Rehearsal; Create props; Skill development

December 2017: Create copies of all student and teacher Thai ID cards for travel; Gather permission slips with emergency contact information

January 2018: Reserve and purchase all modes of transportation, including flights through Thai Lion Air, and vans through Wattanatour and Oriental Escape; Purchase misc. costumes/props.

Friday, February 23, 2018 am: Depart SobPao school for Pathum Thani; 5:00pm: Participate in TYT; Check-in, locate assigned dorm rooms, unpack bags, and participate in opening ceremony with large group activities and games.

Saturday, February 24, 2018: Participate in TYT. Students are divided into groups and participate in theatre-inspired classes in the morning. Some student groups will perform in the afternoon for all the students who attend the festival.

Sunday, February 25, 2018 am: Participate in TYT. Students are divided into groups and participate in theater-inspired classes in the morning. The student groups who did not perform on Saturday will perform their play or musical in the afternoon for all the students who attend the festival, followed by an awards ceremony, 2:00 pm: Return to SobPao school.