

I hereby certify that I am authorized to approve this Report, which serves as a Request for Reimbursement, that I have reviewed the attached invoices in the amount of \$1500; that all costs claimed have been incurred for the Project in accordance with the Agreement between Ashanti Files and the CITY OF URBANA; that all submitted invoices have been paid; and no costs included herein have been previously submitted.”

May 3 2021

Ashanti Files

Final Report for Tier I Grant 2020-2021

To the Urbana Arts and Culture Commission,

The award of 1500 dollars provided by this commission allowed the Writers of Oya to become a positive element of change with Urbana Middle school and this community. The grant funds were used to acquire supplies for recruitment, provide each participant with a journal, t-shirt, water bottle, as well as offer supplemental snacks for performances. The largest portion of grant funds was spent on the creation of the published work Unmasked which displayed poems written by participants. Participants were given 15 copies of each book to sell for themselves to promote self-efficacy. Free copies were given to schools within the community and to anyone who stated they could not afford to pay but wanted a copy.

The program was able to provide girls of color with the ability to recognize, write, and recite. Classes were cut short due to the Pandemic however I took it upon myself to pick up and transport the girls for one on one meetings outside following Covid precautions. Transportation to and from the program was provided by me. The 3 "R"s that I implemented taught participants how to recognize their emotions. The funds provided for personal sessions with myself and the participant's food for our outings and even studio time where the participants got to experience what it is like to record spoken word with a professional producer within the community. Grant Alexander instructed the girls on recitation to music breathing exercises and the importance of memorization of written work for performances.

Our community poetry slam took place at the Independent Media Center and was hosted by Black Voices Theater Production. It was a free event that took place and was attended by community members and local poets of all ages. Camille Files placed 3rd despite competing with adults! The participants were very proud of their performance and the opportunity to be able to speak their truths honestly and openly in the community setting.

The Writers of Oya have built a name for themselves as evidenced by the group being invited to perform at several venues. They were invited to perform at their school's Black History month program, sharing their voices and experiences with staff, students, and parents as the event was streamed virtually. They were interviewed on WCIA 3 CI Living about their book release with the Urbana Free Library, featured in Smile Politely, Chambana Moms, Kwanza 365, and The Daily Illini. The culmination of their experiences happened when they were invited to perform at Soul on Sunday one of the premier events that showcase poets within the community.

Overall, approximately 275 hours have gone into lesson planning, class time, creating and editing their book, and communication with members of this community to find and develop opportunities for the Writers of Oya to be a success. This project has allowed me as an artist to recognize the importance of interacting and mentoring teens as having a trustworthy and stable adult influence is critical for their development.

It has been an immense pleasure and honor to be able to host this program and I am grateful that it was made possible through the funds this committee provided.

Fiscal Expenditures 2020

Writers of Oya		Copies Received	Price	Paid		Shipped
Unmasked books						
Danyla Nash		15	150	0		Y
Diana Nash		15	50	0		y
Achly Ramos		15	150	0		Y
Shakura Bramley		15	150	0		Y
Camille Files		5	50	0		Y
Kayla Files		5	50	0		Y
Makenzee Johnson		15	150	0		Y
Sam Smith		15	150	150		Y
Tamara Gold		2	20	20		Y
Arnetra Barber		2	20	20		Y
Darlene Files		2	20	20		y
Uni highschool		3	15	0		y
UMS		5	50	0		Y
Carol Inskeep		3	30	30		Y
Sudura Barber		1	10	10		Y
Dreamm Program		20	200			
Jennea Kilinberg		1	10	10		Y
Sharon Irish		1	10	10		Y
Grandma cookie		2	20	0		Y
Tracy		20	200	200		y
Total		152	1505	470		
Initial 50 Copies 12/29/20		175.99				

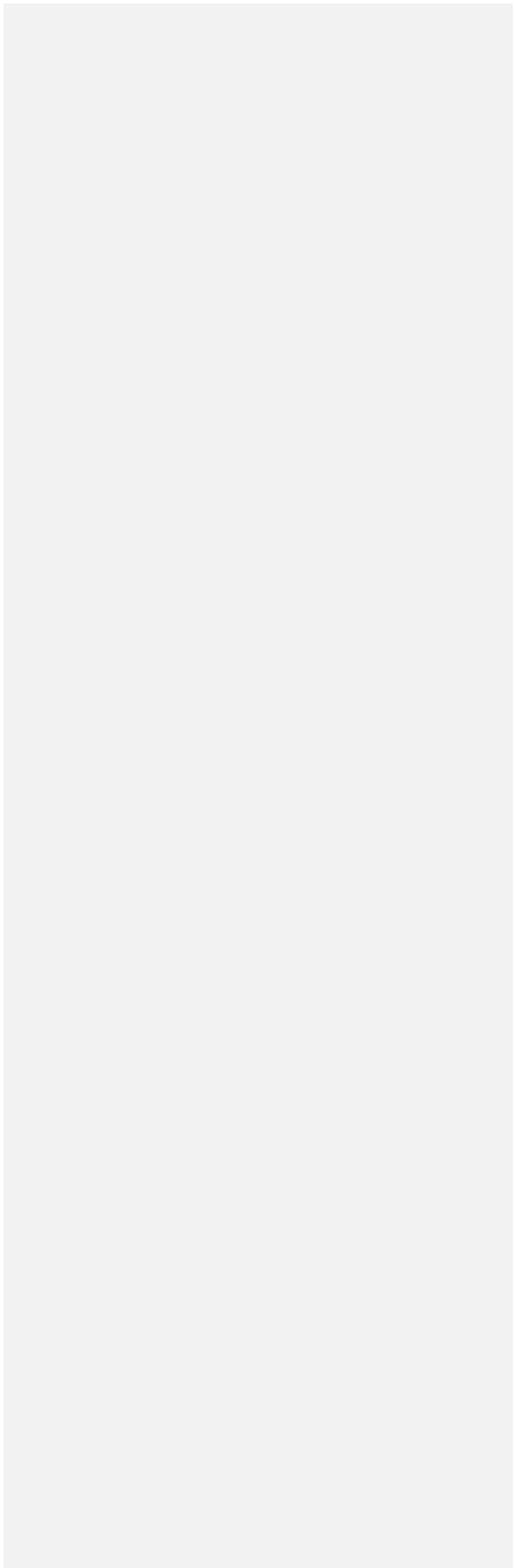
Reorder 50 Copies-Stock		160.77			
Reordered 50 Copies 2/13/21		145.47			
reordered 50 copies 1/18/2021		145.47			
Grant funds Used		627.50			

Vendor	Item	Price Paid	In-kind donation
Norjoria Pratt Designs	Logo	65.00	100.00
Grant Alexander	Studio Time	0.00	480.00
5 Shades of Brown	T-shirts	200.00	0.00
Forever21	Book prizes	14.13	0.00
Yankee Candle	Book prizes	23.98	0.00
McDonalds	Event Dinner	39.42	0.00
Dollar Tree	Welcome gift bags	49.05	0.00
Walmart	Competition gift bags	110.93	0.00
Walmart	Book Launch gift bags	59.37	0.00
MagicShop	Woo Keychains	90.00	0.00
Mentorship	Time	270.24	500.00
Total Expenses Receipts		651.88	
Total expenses Books		627.88	
Total overall expenses		1500.00	
Total grant funds received	750.00		



WRITERS OF OYA
PAGE TURNERS

- Virtual Book Launch
- Friday, Feb. 5th 7pm
- The Urbana Free Library
- Facebook
- mytruenorthartistry.com





Invoices