

## **Ex Fabula Summary Report**

### **Information about the Applicant**

Ex Fabula is a nonprofit that connects Milwaukee through real stories. Our vision is a radically inclusive community that honors the dignity of all people, so we leverage personal stories to help community members grow, connect, and heal. Programs include a season of public StorySlams and workshops, collaborations with businesses and nonprofits, and media partnerships that extend the reach of stories told onstage. Our innovative community-building has been recognized with a Unity Award from Milwaukee Magazine. Ex Fabula has brought 1600+ stories to stages in SE Wisconsin.

Ex Fabula, which is Latin for “from stories”, was founded in 2009 when five individuals connected over a meal to discuss the possibility of a Milwaukee storytelling series. In its first season, Ex Fabula hosted seven StorySlams – events where any audience member can put their name in the hat for a chance to share a true story on stage – in five neighborhoods. In 2014, Ex Fabula hired its first employee, co-founder Megan McGee. She expanded Ex Fabula’s offerings to include workshops, StoryCircles, one-on-one storytelling coaching, and curated StorySlams. She also expanded the team of storytelling coaches and created innovative programs that each addressed barriers to participation.

From 2016-18, The Equal Access Project amplified the voices of individuals with disabilities and helped audiences to increase their cultural humility. In 2019, Ex Fabula kicked off the Deaf Storytelling Project. The planning committee consisted of Ex Fabula staff, a Milwaukee Public Library representative, and Deaf community members. Deaf community members selected a storytelling theme, which was then visually communicated by a Deaf Graphic Artist. In 2021-22, the Mental Health Storytelling project helped individuals build their storytelling skill and confidence – with an emphasis on stories about depression, mental health, and suicide that reduce stigma.

### **Statement of Need**

Now, we are seeking funding to help engage more individuals with disabilities in our Public Slams and workshops – where they can be heard by and celebrated as part of the mainstream community.

Accordingly, we will support the Education / Recreation needs of teens and adults with disabilities in SE Wisconsin by:

- Marketing our public events and radio show directly to individuals with disabilities (for example, via ABLE and Milwaukee Country’s Handy News and Notes newsletter) and offering free tickets to Ex Fabula’s Public Storytelling workshops and StorySlams.
- Hosting free storytelling workshops for organizations that serve individuals with disabilities.
- Working with those organizations to coordinate group outings to StorySlams; such group outings can reduce transportation challenges and decrease anxiety of participants.
- Helping more individuals with disabilities to share their stories at StorySlams. This will include targeted outreach to individuals of identities that are most underrepresented on our stages (for example, individuals with developmental disabilities; individuals with autism). We will have conversations with interested individuals and offer them free storytelling coaching and a stipend for time/travel.
- Featuring more stories from individuals with disabilities on Real Stories MKE.
- Recruiting additional individuals with disabilities as volunteers and paid storytelling coaches.
- Providing accommodations including Eng <> ASL interpretation at public events as requested.
- Filling other needs of individuals with disabilities as we discover them.

### **Project Goals and Expected Benefits**

Between September 2022 and May 2023, we will measure our progress as follows:

- Goal 1: Engage more individuals with disabilities.
  - o How measured: on surveys, we'll ask audience members, storytellers, and workshop participants for demographics including if they identify as a person with a disability.
  - Success: 10%+ respondents will be individuals with disabilities (and therefore meet the definition of a Wispact Beneficiary)
    - o How measured: we'll look at surveys from individuals with disabilities and see if there are any ways in which they are less satisfied with our programming.
  - Success: Surveys from individuals with disabilities aren't statistically different – and/or we identify opportunities for improvement.
- Goal 2: Help individuals with disabilities to increase their storytelling skill and confidence.
  - o How measured: we'll look at workshop surveys from individuals with disabilities and review their self-evaluation of skill and confidence levels.
  - Success: 90%+ who participate in workshops will increase skills and confidence.
- Goal 3: Amplify the stories of individuals with disabilities.
  - o How measured: on the same surveys but looking at storytellers only.
  - Success: 6+ individuals with disabilities tell stories at public Slams (an increase over previous years when between 1 and 4 tellers were people with disabilities)
    - o How measured: we will also manually track the number of stories shared via media partnerships that highlight the lived experiences of individuals with disabilities.
  - Success: 3 or more stories shared via media partnerships – possibly far more!

### **Project Implementation Plan**

While it may seem that our plan is multi-pronged and not streamlined, that is deliberate. Individuals with disabilities have varying needs and we must be flexible in responding. Accordingly, multiple staff will carry out this effort. Executive Director Megan McGee is responsible for oversight; Program Director Alea McHatten will coordinate engagement at Slams and workshops including surveying, as well as scheduling coaching to visit community groups; a marketing person (role currently being filled) will coordinate print and email marketing as well as the sharing of stories via media partnerships.

### **Evaluation Plan**

See goals. The measures are noted in each

## Budget

BUDGET		EF CASH	WISPACT	TOTAL
4001 Individual Gifts	contributions from Ex Fabula members	\$ 2,750		\$ 2,750
4350 Grants	Wispact grant		\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$ 2,750</b>	<b>\$ 10,000</b>	<b>\$ 12,750</b>
Total Administrative	Small % of insurance, staff travel, etc	\$ 350	\$ 295	\$ 645
Total Marketing	Overhaul of <a href="#">webpage about this effort</a>		\$ 200	\$ 200
Payroll (9 months)	Executive Director (6 hours a month)	\$ 726	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,726
	Event Producer (12 hours a month)	\$ 916	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,916
	Marketing (6 hours a month)	\$ 708	\$ 750	\$ 1,458
Programming				
Free tickets	StorySlams (75*\$10), Wkshops(10*\$45)		\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200
5605 Prof fees	Stipends for individuals with disabilities who serve as storytellers		\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
5605 Prof fees	Paying coaches to provide one-on-one coaching and/or teach workshops		\$ 1,650	\$ 1,400
5605 Prof fees	Create materials in accessible formats.		\$ 400	\$ 400
6010 Photo	Event photography at Slams - for Real Stories MKE and website		\$ 300	\$ 300
6012 Audio	Audio processing to air stories on radio		\$ 375	\$ 375
6050 Interpret.	2 ASL interpreters at a Public StorySlam (2.75 hrs plus travel), \$90/hour		\$ 630	\$ 630
7000 Printing	Fliers and materials for visits to groups serving individuals with disabilities		\$ 200	\$ 200
7200 Postage	Mailing of materials, checks	\$ 50		\$ 50
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$ 2,750</b>	<b>\$ 10,000</b>	<b>\$ 12,750</b>

<b>Eras Senior Network</b>		
<b>Faith in Action Program 2022</b>		
<b>Supporting Waukesha County Adults with Disabilities</b>		
<b>Revenue</b>		
Wispact Foundation	10,000	
Total	10,000	

Expense		
Program Director to supervise staff, evaluate program	3,120	F A P D ( 2 h x
Fringe @ 17% for Program Director	530.4	
Program Personnel to screen, train, manage volunteers and screen and manage clients and client requests	3,900	F A P C ( 1 h x 2 c
Fringe @ 17% for 2 Program Coordinators	663	
Mobility Specialist to drive van	1,300	E M S ( 1 x
Fringe @ 17 for 1 Mobility Specialist	221	
Fuel for Van	266	
Total	10,000	

### Staff Recommendation

The grant application can be recommended for approval with some modifications to the amount and by applying grant funding to specific sections of the outlined budget. We cannot pay staff salaries but we can support the cost of tickets, stipends for story tellers, materials, photography, audio, sign language interpreters, marketing materials, and mailings. We can provide a grant in the amount of \$5,755.00