

Dobbins Conservatory at Southeast Missouri State University
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Missouri Humanities Council
105 N Main Street, STE 108
St. Charles, MO 63301
Subject: Grant Proposal for Addressing Anxiety Through Student-Written Plays

Introduction:

Anxiety is a pervasive issue impacting millions of individuals of all ages and backgrounds, and yet it often remains misunderstood and stigmatized. The students at Southeast Missouri State University seek to address this pressing issue by hosting a collection of plays written by student playwrights that delve into the complexities of anxiety. Through theatrical expression, our goal is to open up discussions surrounding anxiety, fostering empathy, understanding, and support within our community. To achieve this, we are seeking a grant of \$1,900 from the Missouri Humanities Council to rent the Shuck Recital Hall at Southeast Missouri State University.

I. Background and Problem Statement

Anxiety disorders are prevalent and impactful mental health conditions that affect individuals across various demographics. However, societal misconceptions and stigma surrounding mental health often hinder open dialogue and understanding. Initiatives promoting awareness and discussion around mental health issues, particularly anxiety, are crucial for challenging stereotypes, reducing barriers to care, and fostering supportive communities. This project aims to contribute to these efforts by utilizing theater as a platform for student playwrights and actors to explore and share their perspectives on anxiety, thereby encouraging empathy, education, and solidarity within our community.

II. Project Description

This project aims to produce a collection of plays centered around the theme of anxiety, written and performed by student playwrights and actors at Southeast Missouri State University. The primary objective is to provide a platform for student voices to creatively express their experiences and insights into anxiety, while also fostering empathy and understanding among audiences. Through theater, we seek to engage our community in meaningful conversations about mental health and promote destigmatization. Activities will include a call for submissions, selection of student playwrights, script development workshops, rehearsals, and culminating performances. By actively involving student playwrights and actors in the creative process, we aim to empower them to share their stories authentically and contribute to the broader discourse on mental health. The intended outcomes of this project include increased awareness and

understanding of anxiety, reduced stigma surrounding mental health, and enhanced support networks within our community. Additionally, we anticipate that the project will provide valuable opportunities for personal growth, self-expression, and skill development for the student participants. Through the transformative power of theater, we aspire to create an inclusive and supportive environment where individuals feel empowered to engage with and learn from diverse perspectives on anxiety.

III. Budget

- Venue Rental (Shuck Recital Hall at Southeast Missouri State University): \$1500
- Security: \$270.00
- Ushers and Ticket Takers: \$333.00
- House Manager: \$334.80
- Box Office Manager: \$228.24
- Stagehands: \$243.60
- Box Office Build: \$250
- Props and Costumes: \$150
- Incidentals and/or Unaccounted Fees: \$490.36
- Total Expenses: \$3800.00
- Funding Requested from the Missouri Humanities Council: \$1,900

An additional \$1,900 will be generated from selling show-related merchandise at the additional shows happening in the theaters on the Southeast Missouri State University campus.

IV. Methodology and Implementation Plan

The project will be administered by the Theatre students at the Dobbins Conservatory Southeast Missouri State University, under the supervision of faculty members experienced in theatrical production. Student playwrights and directors will be selected on a volunteer, first-come-first serve basis, which ensures a dedication to the event and the art of storytelling and allows for a range of perspectives and experiences to be represented in the collection of plays. Auditions, rehearsals, and rehearsal spaces will be planned and secured by the event organizers. Set design will be a collaborative effort between the event organizers and the student directors. Promotional activities will be coordinated by the event organizers, which will include posters posted around campus and informative emails sent to the student body by the Dobbins Conservatory.

V. Evaluation Plan

The success of the project will be evaluated through a combination of quantitative and qualitative measures. Quantitative data will be gathered through attendance records and ticket sales, providing insight into audience engagement and interest. Qualitative feedback will be obtained through post-show discussions with audience members, allowing for in-depth conversations about the relevance of the content and any changes in attitudes towards anxiety. It's worth noting that tickets will be offered free of charge to encourage diverse audiences to attend, ensuring accessibility and inclusivity.

VI. Organization Team and Information

The organizing team behind this project is comprised of students from the Dobbins Conservatory of Southeast Missouri State University, united by a shared passion for theater and a commitment to addressing important social issues. With a collective background in writing, directing, and performing within theatrical settings, each member brings valuable experience and skills to the table. Moreover, our project benefits from the guidance and expertise of faculty members with extensive experience in the theater industry, ensuring a robust support system for any questions or concerns that may arise. As students of the Dobbins Conservatory, we are deeply invested in utilizing the transformative power of theater to engage audiences and spark meaningful conversations. Our project's mission is to shed light on the topic of anxiety through creative expression, fostering empathy and understanding within our community. With our combined talents, resources, and support network, we are confident in our capacity to successfully execute this project and make a positive impact on campus and beyond.

Conclusion

In summary, our proposal outlines a project organized, written, directed, and performed by the students of the Dobbins Conservatory at Southeast Missouri State University, focused on addressing anxiety through student-written plays. These plays will serve as a platform for creative expression, engaging audiences in meaningful discussions surrounding mental health. Through the transformative power of theater, we aim to foster empathy, understanding, and destigmatization of anxiety within our community. We are grateful for the opportunity to apply for funding from the Missouri Humanities Council, recognizing the potential impact of this project in promoting mental health awareness and dialogue. By amplifying student voices and utilizing the arts as a tool for education and advocacy, we believe this project has the power to create positive change and promote a culture of empathy and support. Thank you for considering our proposal and for your commitment to supporting initiatives that enrich our communities. Thank you for considering our grant proposal. We are committed to making a positive impact on mental health awareness and look forward to the opportunity to bring this important project to fruition.

Sincerely,
Teddy Martin
Organizer and Playwright
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