

Commission's Grant Application Form

Shelby County Board of Commissioners

GRANT APPLICATION

Legal Name of the Organization:	Memphis Bears, Inc.
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EIN:	61-1537097
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Street Address of Organization	1035 University Avenue; Memphis, TN 38107
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Office Phone:	901-240-6927
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E-mail	mphsbearsinc@aol.com
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(Section Break)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

First Name	Craig
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Last Name	Littles
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GENERAL CONTACT FOR THIS REQUEST(if other than Executive Director)

First Name	Tammie
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Last Name	Artison
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Title:	Sponsorship Coordinator
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DESCRIPTION OF GRANT REQUEST

Program/Project Area:	Frayser / Raleigh / North Memphis
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Amount Requested	80,000
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Total Organizational budget (for current year):	82,299.96
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Total Project/Program Budget: 161,500

Dates covered by this budget: July 2016- July, 2017

Project/Program Name: Memphis Youth Academy of Dreams Project- Phase 1

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INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND OF ORGANIZATION

Please summarize in a short paragraph the purpose of your agency. Briefly explain why your agency is requesting this grant, what outcomes you hope to achieve, and how you will spend the funds if a grant is made.

Memphis Bears, Inc.'s, (MBI), purpose is to empower, enhance and enrich youth through education, discovery and sports competitions to boys & girls ranging between the ages of 6 and 12, in a fun, safe and exciting environment. We have served inner city youth since 1996 and have continually expanded our efforts in the Frayser/North Memphis communities growing from 25 youth in our inception to now serving approximately 200-250 boys and girls annually with nearly 60 adult professional volunteers. This grant is being requested due to youth who live in the Frayser community in Memphis are among the most vulnerable in the country as it pertains to poverty, teen pregnancy, illiteracy, violent crimes, gang activity, and other elements that threaten the health, safety, and their well-being. According to the 2013 City of Memphis Data statistic and the MPD 2011 Crime Report, nearly 90% of Frayser's children live in single-parent households. They also have the highest rate of teen pregnancy in the state and the highest infant mortality rate among the largest 60 cities in the U.S. Also, (**give a cite info about this statment) parent involvement and participation levels of athletes (can use SYS for this one) has drastically decreased over the years. Problems that plaque Memphis and Shelby County are more concentrated in the Frayser community. Children growing up in Frayser face enormous challenges to their safety and well-being The desired outcome is to build the Memphis Youth Academy of Dreams/ Field of Dreams, a facility that will serve as a safe haven for more than 500 youth in the Frayser community. In contrast to the inner city, suburban areas have a full array of facilities and after school programs with strong financial support and parent participation. In response to this significant disparity, MYAOD will be created to provide a variety of educational assistance, leadership skills, community volunteer opportunities, and athletic programming, as well as

teen workforce development and increased parent participation.

(Section Break)

Narrative - Organization

Current programs and accomplishments. Please emphasize the achievements of the recent past.

In pursuing our goals, we have built an excellent track record of helping children improve their lives, and assisting in protecting them from the neighborhood's criminal element. In 2000, the organization received a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition and Invaluable Service to the Community. We have also received the national Jefferson Award from the American Institute of Community Service in 2006 and in 2011 placed third from among 100 programs for Volunteer Mid-South's Program of the Year. More than 60 of the children who have participated in the organization received athletic scholarships to college, 3 of our athletes went on to play in the NFL. Our founder, Mr. Craig Littles recently was recognized by the Frayser Community Association and named Grand Marshall for Frayser Christmas parade and in December, 2015 he received the City of Memphis Ovation Award.

Numbers of paid full-time staff: 0

Number of paid part-time staff: 0

Number of volunteers: 60

(Section Break)

Narrative - Funding Request

Please describe the program/project for which you seek funding and include how it will benefit the general welfare of residents in Shelby County, TN.

To assist in renovations for the Memphis Youth Academy of Dreams After School Care Facility. It will benefit the general welfare of the residents of Shelby County, TN because the children will utilize the facility to receive academic training, compete in athletic events and become involved in community service projects, such as beautification projects. The need for these programs were determined by the physical inactivity amongst youth during the summer months. The recent increase of drug and gang activity in the communities that we serve has lead to a spike in violent crimes specifically assaults,

robberies, burglaries, and homicides. It is very important to ensure that children learn the importance of being physically active and how to maintain a healthy lifestyle at a young age. Children who are physically active, engaging in extra curricular activities and afterschool/summer programs are more likely to have higher self-esteem, improved social skills and become productive citizens of the community.

General Operating Support

If applying for general operating support, briefly describe how this grant will be used.

Not Applicable

Project Support

Please explain the specific project including a statement of its primary purpose and the need or problem that you are seeking to address.

Primary purpose of Memphis Youth Academy of Dreams/Field of Dreams will provide a safe, structured environment necessary for Frayser/Raleigh/North Memphis and adjacent areas as well as foster the highest standards of excellence through its programs which will cultivate, develop, empower, and enrich our youth for years to come. In order to maximize our efforts in creating Memphis Youth Academy of Dreams, phase one, the Memphis Youth Academy of Dreams/Field of Dreams Project, was created. It is the first facility of its kind in the Memphis Area. The need for this project is determined by the issues that plague those communities such as poverty, teen pregnancy, illiteracy, violent crimes, gang activity, and other elements that threaten the health, safety, and well-being of children. It is very important to ensure that the children of these communities learn the importance of such life skills in order to maintain a healthy life style at a young age which they more likely to have higher self-esteem, improved social skills and become productive citizens of the community.

How does the project contribute to your organization's overall mission?

This project contributes to the organization's overall mission because it will be a place that nurtures the youth from inner-city households and will help them reach their full potential and live a quality way of life. It will help our organization to achieve our organizational goals by preventing crime through after-school programs, discouraging gang and crime involvement of youth, exposing them to an alternative environment, instilling character and positive self-esteem, and infusing discipline and structure in our youth through housing the educational and

mentoring programs that will be taught by professional volunteers.

(Section Break)

Narrative - Evaluation

Please explain how you will measure the effectiveness of your activities. Describe your criteria for a successful program and the results you expect to have achieved by the end of the funding period.

We will measure the effectiveness of our activities by pulling the data from the MPD Crime reports for the Frayser/NorthMemphis/Raleigh areas to see if there is a decrease in criminal activities because MYOAD has been erected in the community. We will compile a survey that has questions that are geared toward their past experience during their tenure in the organization. These surveys will be administered via USPS mail to past participants that we have pulled from the database. We will analyze these surveys to see the impact that the organization had in the lives of these participants and to see where we can improve on the components of the programs. The survey will have questions such as: 1. During your tenure of participation in the Memphis Bears, what do you feel impacted your life in a positive manner the most? 2. Are you still in school? 3. Are you planning to go on to attend college? 4. Are you a teen parent? If not, did being apart of the MBI organization have an impact on this decision? 5. Are you involved in a gang or criminal activity? If not, did being apart of the MBI organization have an impact on this decision? 6. If any thing, what would you like to see added to the organization that would have a positive impact on the lives of the youth in your community? After compiling the answers from the surveys, we will analyze the effectiveness of programs whether it be positive and/or negative. We will take the results to critique the elements of the program. Our criteria for a successful program and the results that we expect to have achieved by the end of the funding period is if the Memphis Youth Academy of Dreams/Field of Dreams had a positive impact on the lives of the youth in these areas because they are not involved in criminal and gang activity, teen parents, completed high school and/or attending college and are leading a quality way of life.

Attachments:

If your request is under \$25,000 please attach the following:

1. Copy of the entity's 501 (c) 3 certificate for charitable organizations or 501 (c) 4

certificate for civic organizations

2. Most recent IRS Form 990 or Financial Statements (balance sheet and income statement) as of the most recent fiscal year end certified by Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer of the entity.

3. Complete Budget for grant request

If your request is \$25,000 or more please attach the following:

1. Copy of the entity's 501 (c) 3 certificate for charitable organizations or 501 (c) 4 certificate for civic organizations

2. Copy of an annual audit as of a date within 18 months of the start of the current fiscal year.

3. Complete Budget for grant request

File 1 [501c3 MemphisBears.pdf II.pdf](#)

File 2 [MBI Finance Report from Memphis Bears Inc.pdf](#)

File 3 [MBI Youth Academy of Dreams Project - Phase I - Renovations Total Funding.docx](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

Read, and if you agree to the provisions, sign the following:

The information provided has been submitted in good faith and as completely as our records and recollections permit.

I understand that the information provided in this application shall be open to inspection upon filing with the office of the Shelby County Board of Commissioners.

Signature: Tammie Artison

Printed Name: Tammie Artison

Date 8/3/2016

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