

Braelyn M. Schenk  
Art Scholars Rising 4th Year Grant Request  
Fresh Camp Internship & Dance Classes  
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### **Fresh Camp Internship & Dance Classes**

My proposed project centers on a high intensity, hands-on involvement with Cleveland, OH nonprofit, Fresh Camp. Fresh Camp and the Refresh Collective exists to enliven Cleveland through “creative arts, community engagement and youth development.” The camp uses project-based hip-hop-in-action programs to motivate, educate, and activate students in personal and community development. Students learn skills in digital music composition, lyric writing, recording arts, and public performance. The creative, song writing process allows students to express experiences, perspectives, problems and solutions. Founder Dee Jay Doc and his team listen carefully to what students are saying and help give them opportunities to create “fresh action” such as planting new neighborhood gardens, tasting fresh food, silk screening t-shirts, and writing songs that promote the neighborhood farmer's market. As an intern, I will have the privilege of working, learning and living in and through these efforts.

With Fresh Camp, I intend to encounter, more intimately than ever before, the inner workings and founding infrastructures of a service-based, arts oriented and education-driven non-profit organization in an urban locality. My desire is to experience, interact with and assist the not-for-profit structure and to grasp the basic administrative framework required to run Fresh Camps and other successful human-focused, creativity and empathy-driven organizations. These skills will serve to augment a more practical understanding of the logistical, social, political, financial and administrative requirements and sensitivities necessary for a future dedicated to art, service and social change.

As a performing artist, activist and arts administrator, I seek a new maturity in my interaction and exposure to others, especially youth, whose upbringing may have been dramatically less privileged than my own. My rising third year grant allowed me to enter a culturally, racially and socioeconomically diverse local high school with the tools of dance and the pursuit of discovering identity through movement and relationship-building. This opportunity to teach weekly movement workshops radically fused my passion for art making with working alongside youth. Fresh Camp will allow for me to further tend to this passion by cultivating my language and skill sets to serve through the tenants of another craft; music-making, singing, performance and lyric writing.

Through this summer training, I will seek to learn how to actively listen to and love the kids in each Fresh Camp, to provide artistic and relational support, and to exercise understanding authority within appropriate boundaries and discipline. I hope to diversify my sensitivity to students coming from a vast array of backgrounds and to become better attuned to their needs and their voices, ever learning to both abundantly give and humbly receive with generative reciprocity.

Experiencing, practicing and learning more about music production basics will also prove an invaluable product of my involvement with Fresh Camp. As a singer and songwriter I am eager to amplify my capacity to collaborate, record, produce and perform original music. I have had only brief, rudimentary exposure to the inner workings of music production. I look forward to gaining some actionable skills and the necessary vocabulary to more successfully and informedly interact with and take advantage of recording, mixing/mastering and producing technology during my time with Fresh Camp. The camp's vibrant and active creative space will offer a platform for me to hone my craft and to learn alongside professionals and students alike.

My final "product" to share for my required grant outcome report at the end the year may include, but is not limited to new music/audio and/or video and photographic documentation from the process. I intend to bring the

camera and equipment I had funded through last year's mini grant cycle, to assist in the visual documentation process. Since music and merchandise (Fresh Camp t-shirts, albums etc.) are inherent outcomes of each Fresh camp, I will have such products to further animate my outcome presentation next April. I will pursue personal, yet collaborative music-making during my time in Cleveland. My aim is to have 1-3 songs/recordings/rough cuts by the close of the summer.

Finally, to compliment my time with Fresh Camp and to continue my dance training, I will attend classes with Cleveland-based Inlet Dance Theatre, Elu Dance Company and Cleveland City Dance. I will seek out artistic performances and events that will serve to diversify and enliven my artistic exposure, experience and to broaden network.

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### **Schedule Outline**

Directly after classes end on May 12, I will travel to Cleveland, OH by May 19th, move in, settle and prepare for the training weeks starting on May 22nd.

May 22 - June 4th: Prep weeks and a 2-3 day retreat with student leaders, 8:30am-4pm

June 5th - June 16th, Monday- Friday, 9am - 4pm, Neighborhood: East Cleveland

June 17th - June 30th, Monday- Friday, 9am - 4pm, Neighborhood: Buckeye Camp

Upon completion of these camps I will have a few days to debrief then will return to Charlottesville, VA to attend classes during the III Summer Session at the University of Virginia. I intend to study abroad the Fall of 2017 in a program based in Prague entitled, Art and Social Change. Upon return in the Spring, I will complete my 4th year and present my project outcome from my time in Cleveland during our April 2018 showing. This outcome report will undoubtedly be augmented by my studies in Prague.

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### **Budget**

Travel: \$700

Housing: \$750

Food: \$600 (\$100 per week)

Professional development (Dance classes etc.): \$500

Miscellaneous: \$200

Stipend: \$1,250

TOTAL: \$4,000

I am asking for \$4,000 rather than the suggested \$3,000, due to the robust nature of the unpaid Fresh Camp internship and of my time in Cleveland, which include a simultaneous pursuit of three critical skillsets; dance, music and arts administration.

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### **Notable Experience With the Arts**

As a Dance Minor, Miller Art Scholar and active participant in the greater arts community at UVA, I have had the opportunity to feed my many creative passions through on-grounds internships, classes and external

connections. I am currently choreographing an original piece for the upcoming Spring 2017 Dance Concert and am dancing in the guest artist piece, choreographed and devised by Rose Pasquarello Beauchamp. This semester I am taking Dance & Culture with dance faculty member Katie Schetlick, attending technique classes (both at the University and in greater Charlottesville) and I am learning Laban Movement Analysis with Head and Artistic Director of Dance at UVA, Kim Brooks Mata.

For the past two semesters I've been enrolled with Art In/With Community led by music faculty Peter Bussigel and Dance faculty Katie Schetlick. In this class we study and practice community art and activism, visit and interact with local leaders in the Charlottesville community and create our own collective art. Our studies together have tracked alongside and supported my Fall 2016 3rd year grant project, a movement workshop with Monticello High School Drama students. This project was also heavily influenced and guided by Kim Brooks Mata in the form of an independent study.

This past year I've also had the privilege of working the administrative side of the arts in an internship with the Office of the Vice Provost of the Arts. Emma Terry has been an unwavering and formative example of a passionate and active member, investor and supporter of the arts at UVA and beyond. In the Spring of 2016 I also served as personal assistant to and member of George Sampson's Arts Administration team, tasked with bringing in a New York based Jazz and World Music band, the Untempered Ensemble.

Most recently, I am a new member of the student-led CIO, O-Records, a musician collective, recording and networking resource and I am eager to contribute to the community, to collaborate and create with other musicians.

Regarding Arts Scholars specifically, I have been a member since my second year and I am the dance representative for this Spring 2017 semester. I've attended two Fall sessions and one Spring session. I am passionate about the ever growing organization and am grateful for the community and support it offers. I will never cease to fight for even greater recognition and empowering action for and from our diverse and capable team of scholars.

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