

HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:
Kathy
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:
Schmaltz
3. The cosponsoring representatives' names. All cosponsors must be listed. If none, please type 'n/a.' A signed letter from the sponsor approving the co-sponsorship and a signed letter from the member wishing to co-sponsor are required. Attach letters at question #9 below.
n/a
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
Jackson School of the Arts
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
135 W. Cortland St., Jackson, MI 49201
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:
135 W. Cortland St., Jackson, MI 49201
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:
HD 46 - Kathy Schmaltz
8. Purpose of the legislatively directed spending item. Please include how it provides a public benefit and why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funding. Please also demonstrate that the item does not violate Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution. Jackson School of the Arts (JSA) is requesting \$50,000–\$60,000 in state appropriated funds to support operational costs that directly sustain equitable, community-based arts programming for children and families across Jackson County. As a nonprofit community arts center located in downtown Jackson, JSA serves 850–900 children weekly—primarily the same students throughout the school year—offering programs in dance, visual arts, and theater in a safe, nurturing, and inclusive environment. These funds would support:

- Sustainable staffing and compliance with Michigan labor laws, including living wage pay for all employees and full adherence to ESTA sick time accrual requirements. To ensure uninterrupted programming, JSA overstaffs its facility daily - providing backup coverage when staff utilize earned sick time, so no child goes without access to instruction. JSA currently employs more than 40 part-time instructors and staff, many of whom travel from across a 60-mile radius—including Lansing, Ann Arbor, and surrounding communities—underscoring their role in generating regional economic opportunity and cultural exchange.
- A sliding-scale tuition model based on Area Median Income, ensuring that all families have access to arts education at a rate aligned with their financial means. Additionally, JSA partners with trusted organizations such as the Jackson Interfaith Shelter, the City of Jackson’s MLK Center, and the Jackson County ISD to provide fully subsidized programs and 100% of necessary attire or materials to referred families with the greatest need.
- Ongoing operational expenses—utilities, facilities, and instructional support—that allow JSA to serve hundreds of families each week, employ a regional workforce, and maintain a vibrant downtown facility that anchors Jackson’s cultural economy. JSA also collaborates with organizations like Center Stage Jackson (by providing ultra-low-cost storage for statewide costume access), Jackson Symphony Orchestra (for cross-referrals and resource sharing), and Michigan Theater and Jackson College (through stage rentals that provide both student performance opportunities and rental income to these venues). By bringing 150–200 families into downtown Jackson each weekday evening and Saturday morning, they contribute directly to the foot traffic and economic vitality of downtown businesses.

This appropriation is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars because it reinforces state goals in education, workforce development, and community revitalization. It ensures that families across income levels have access to meaningful, developmentally rich programming that uplifts children and contributes to Jackson’s growing cultural and economic momentum.

This request complies fully with Article IV, Section 30 of the Michigan Constitution. JSA is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) with no private or personal benefit to any legislator. Funds will be used exclusively for public benefit and are overseen by a governing board with independent fiscal controls in place.

9. **Attach documents here if needed:**

Attachments added to the end of this file.

10. **The amount of state funding requested for the legislatively directed spending item.**

60000

11. **Has the legislatively directed spending item previously received any of the following types of funding? Check all that apply.**

["Federal","State","Private"]

12. Please select one of the following groups that describes the entity requesting the legislatively directed spending item:

Non-profit organization

13. For a non-profit organization, has the organization been operating within Michigan for the preceding 36 months?

Yes

14. For a non-profit organization, has the entity had a physical office within Michigan for the preceding 12 months?

Yes

15. For a non-profit organization, does the organization have a board of directors?

Yes

16. For a non-profit organization, list all the active members on the organization's board of directors and any other officers. If this question is not applicable, please type 'n/a.'

• Chair: Sarah Miller, Chief Financial Officer, American 1 Credit Union • Vice Chair: John Macchia, Jr., CEO, Advance Turning & Manufacturing, Inc. • Treasurer: Ben Butterfield, Retirement Consultant, Jack V. Butterfield Investment Co. • Secretary: Phil Curtis, Managing Attorney, Curtis, Curtis & Brelinski • Matt Aubin, Artistic Director, The Chelsea Symphony & Music Director, Jackson Symphony • Stu Kail, Director of Brand & Communications, Keystone Agency Partners

17. "I certify that neither the sponsoring representative nor the sponsoring representative's staff or immediate family has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the legislatively directed spending item."

Yes, this is correct

18. Anticipated start and end dates for the legislatively directed spending item:

June 1, 2025-August 31, 2025

19. "I hereby certify that all information provided in this request is true and accurate."

Yes



VISION: What we're creating together

We live in a community where the transformative power of the arts is within reach for all, especially those with the least access.

MISSION: What drives us every day

To provide quality, accessible arts education programs for all Jackson County youth, regardless of their financial means.

STRATEGY: How we make it happen

Through our dedicated downtown space and meaningful partnerships, we provide accessible, high-quality arts experiences that empower youth and transform our community. By scaling tuition, optimizing resources, and removing barriers to participation, we ensure the arts remain within reach for all.

VALUES: What guides our choices

- Accessibility** – We remove financial, physical, and social barriers so everyone has the opportunity to create, grow, and thrive through the arts.

Accessibility: We remove barriers.

- Inclusion** – More than teaching technique, we foster a culture of belonging, where students share space with all people, embrace diverse perspectives, and grow as passionate community members.

Inclusion: We share space with all people.

- Sustainability** – We maximize resources and make responsible financial decisions to keep the arts accessible for generations.

Sustainability: We sustain the arts for future generations.

- Excellence** – High-quality programs and affordability go hand in hand. Every child deserves exceptional instruction and opportunities, ensuring their artistic growth is never limited by cost.

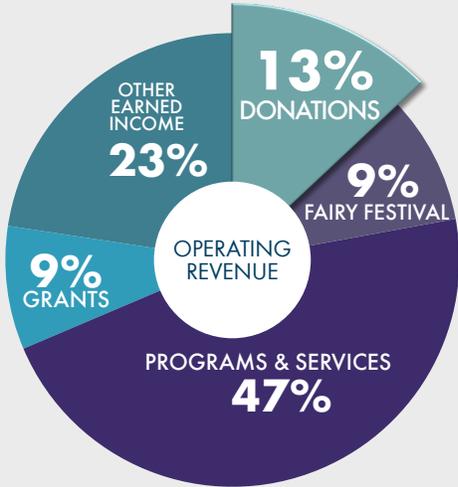
Excellence: We deliver excellence.

- Community** – Meaningful work brings us together. We recognize that our collective efforts ripple out into the Jackson community, nurturing a thriving future for the arts and the children who have access to them.

Community: We thrive together.



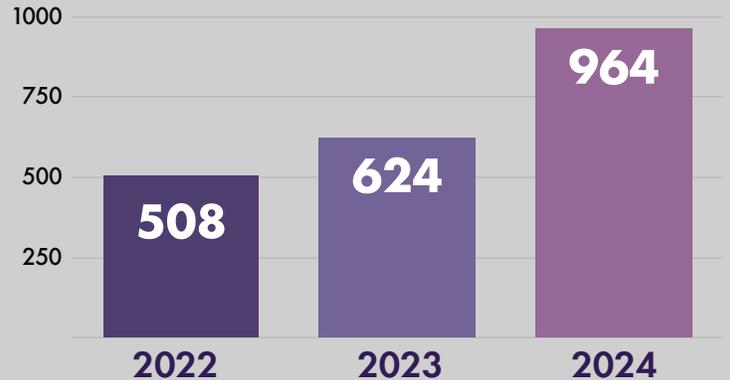
UPDATE ON OUR NUMBERS & NEEDS



THE IMPORTANCE OF DONORS

- You are the reason that Jackson School of the Arts is a place of diversity and inclusion in our community. It's a place where the community comes together.
- You enable all children to expand their horizons and learn from caring and talented adults.
- Your gift helps level the playing field for children from disadvantaged circumstances.

OCTOBER ENROLLMENT AMOUNTS



STUDENT ENROLLMENT GROWTH

Look at this amazing growth over these last few years! This past year, we awarded \$69,043 in scholarships, but the need continues. Over 900 students attend monthly, many needing tuition assistance. To keep arts education affordable, we rely on donations. Your contribution can help cover tuition for those in need, building their confidence and fostering creativity in a safe environment.

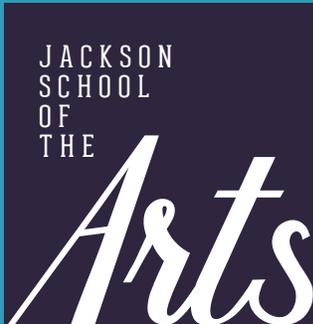


THE IMPACT OF OUR CLASSES & PROGRAMS

Jackson School of the Arts' mission is to provide quality, accessible arts education programs for Jackson County youth regardless of their financial means. The relocation to 135 W. Cortland St. gave us the capacity to build upon our mission, providing opportunities for the community to engage in and interact with arts and culture. JSA is proud to serve more than 900 students every week, employ 40+ staff members, provide

creatively based childcare for families in need of full-time or part-time care, and offer 167 youth programs and 17 adult programs annually. We also advance the JSA mission of accessibility to the arts with programming at partner organizations, such as David's Promise for adults with special needs, City of Jackson's MLK Center serving low income families, and Jackson Interfaith Shelter for those experiencing homelessness.

CREATIVE AFTER-SCHOOL EXPERIENCES



AFFORDABLE LIFE-CHANGING OPPORTUNITIES



ART / DANCE / THEATER / GYMNASTICS / JIU-JITSU / PRESCHOOL
CLASS REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR 2025 CLASSES

SCAN THIS
QR CODE
FOR OUR
LISTINGS OF
PROGRAMS

