Brill
Family Grant

Grant Application 2022-2023

Over the past few years, we have been working here in Santa Barbara exploring ways to facilitate significant social and environmental impact through transformative change. Currently we are looking for exceptional individuals or collectives who are developing programs that are *locally-based in the greater Santa Barbara area or Central Coast* and in need of financial support to reach the *next level of their proven professional development* or impact in their field. *Our priority is in amplifying someone's recognized potential to bend their field.*

What we are looking for in a potential recipient of this grant is an individual or collective with a vision to have an impact in changing the system and make a difference in their field. Although we acknowledge the importance and necessary work of traditional philanthropy, and the need-based work they perform in changing individual lives (such as through food banks, housing the homeless, educational scholarships), we are choosing to support work that will *change the system* and, thereby, help a broader group of people. We believe this is where our funding will have the greatest impact in creating social good.

Our Criteria for a successful applicant are: 1) proven possession of personal initiative and strong leadership skills and the ability to form a cohesive team, if necessary; 2) a clear idea of why you are doing what you do and how you think you can produce transformative change to an existing system; 3) personal characteristics, such as passion, purpose, persistence and tenacity, creativity and vision, and a strong belief in what you do; 4) be at the right point in your career to be able to successfully bend your field; and 5) propose a project that shows a clear path to bending your field with a direct impact on the greater Santa Barbara area or Central Coast.

Recipient of The Brill Family Grant for 2022 in support of local programs which bend their field: *What is LOVE teen*—to continue their work with vulnerable teens, teaching them to build healthy relationship skills in collaboration with school districts, and ending violence against women and girls through education, prevention, and connection; specifically, reaching young people through technology and performance art via social media.

Recipients of The Brill Family Grant for 2021: *Girls Rock SB*—to continue their Syryn Records program, a completely youth-run record label that operates as an internship program for exceptional teens (ages 13–18); *Corazón del Pueblo*—to build the programmatic and development capacity for The Cultural and Creative Arts Center of the Santa Maria Valley to be a vibrant presence in the local community in conjunction with the support of local government and businesses; and an Affirmation Award was given to *White Buffalo Land Trust* in acknowledgment of their outstanding work in bending the field of regenerative agriculture.

This year we will continue to offer a small number of grants, from $10,000 to $30,000 each with a maximum distribution of $30,000, to be awarded to qualified candidates who meet our criteria and clearly prove their potential to bend their field. Applications will be accepted until January 23, 2023 and should be submitted to brillfamilygrant20@gmail.com.

Applying for the Grant:
Provide a Cover Sheet, Essay and Resume/c.v.

Cover Sheet to include:
1. Name
2. Contact information including email, phone and postal mailing address, and link to your website (if applicable)
3. How you heard about the grant and any funding/awards you have already received
4. Why you do what you do for your field? (in 50 words or less)

Essay questions/topics:
1. In general, what is your model of what produces transformative change to a system? This means not merely meeting a need, no matter how important or urgent, but making a significant and impactful positive change to your field with a clear and direct social benefit. (word limit: 50)

2. Briefly describe how your work supports your model as discussed in 1. above. Include documented history of some success in creating change and provide an example of your personal initiative and strong leadership skills. (word limit: 200)

3. Discuss how our support will bring your work to the next level in bending your field—*this means more than making small changes within your field but actually having a greater impact on the field itself*. Explain the scope of impact your work will have in bending your field, specifically how it will create transformative change, and its potential to do social good (providing a positive social impact) in a sustainable and measurable way, and with a direct impact on the greater Santa Barbara area or Central Coast. Bringing together disparate fields for a bigger effect for social impact and change is acceptable and even encouraged—such as technology and art, art and environment, environment and social justice. Particularly for those in the art fields, your work should challenge the viewer/spectator, reach a broader population than only the cultural elite, and inspire creativity in others. (word limit: 350)

4. Explain why *now* is the right point in your career for you to bend your field and how you got here. (word limit: 200)

5. Outline an estimated budget and anticipated timeline, indicating how much money will be needed to bring your work to the next level and how you anticipate the funds will be used. Successful candidates will be funded no earlier than June 2023 so the budget and timeline should reflect that. (word limit: 200)

Resume/c.v.
Provide a resume/c.v. of no more than two-pages along with contact information for three greater Santa Barbara area references from recognized professionals in your field.

Application Review Process:
All applicants will receive a confirmation e-mail. Those applicants passing the initial review will be contacted for the first (virtual) interview beginning in March 2023. At that time, you may be asked to provide further information, including making available complete financial information. We will then select our short-list of candidates for a second in-person interview, preferably to take place on the site of your organization. The successful candidates will be funded no earlier than June 2023. Funds must be paid to a non-profit, not directly to an individual, and used for activities within your organization, not for personal income.

As our mission statement states, The Brill Family Grant invests in innovative and creative people who are poised to bend their field through fresh and unique ideas toward achieving positive transformative change. We are searching for unique individuals or collaboratives at a crucial moment in their development. This necessitates an extensive review process which may require several meetings with potential candidates and additional requests for information before we can be confident in our final decision. We understand and sympathize with the effort this will put on the short-listed applicants but it is vital to developing a deeper understanding of their abilities and potential, as well as establishing a relationship with our grant recipients. This is why we are providing this Review Process statement within the Grant Application.

Thank you and good luck!

October 2022