
Organization Name **Many Mouths One Stomach** 03/09/2019

by **Many Mouths One Stomach** in **CIG20 Full I-III - Fiscal Year 2020 Community Investment Grant Application** id. 12577327

P.O. Box 15
250 S. Grande Avenue
Tucson, Arizona
85702
Arizona
United States
5202729041
uberhagen2323@gmail.com

Original submission 03/09/2019

Applicant Organization Overview **Provide information about the organization applying for the grant. Information provided in this section is for internal purposes only and will not be used in the panel review process.**

DBA Organization Name n/a

Secondary Contact Name **Paul Weir**

Secondary Contact Title **Technical Director**

Secondary Contact Phone Number **520-312-1448**

Secondary Contact Email **info@flamchen.com**

ADA Coordinator Name **Paul Weir**

ADA Coordinator Phone Number **520-272-9041**

ADA Coordinator Email **info@flamchen.com**

Is your organization applying with a Fiscal Sponsor? **No**

Is your organization a unit of government? **No**

Federal Tax Exemption Letter

[mmos501c3letter.pdf](#)

Select your organization's CIG Eligibility Level **Level III**

GRANT PROPOSAL Information provided below will be considered during the panel review process. Please complete all the required sections below.

The following questions are not meant to provide the review panel with a comprehensive understanding of an organization, but are meant to provide examples of the ways in which an organization meets the criteria for the Community Investment Grant program.

Organization's Mission Statement

Many Mouths One Stomach (MMOS) is a Tucson-based collective of artists, teachers, and community activists who come together with the intent to create, inspire, manifest and perpetuate modern festal culture.
“Festal Culture” refers to the expression and fulfillment of core human needs through public celebration, ceremony and ritual. The All Souls Procession is an event that was created to serve the public need to mourn, reflect and celebrate the universal experience of Death, by honoring ancestors, loved ones and the living. Our events, establish a legacy that reclaims public space through art and blurs the line between participant and observer, ritual and performance.
Together with our commitment to education, outreach and collaboration, MMOS stewards a vision wherein the creative act becomes a mode of living.

1. What is the work that your organization does (programming, activities, services, etc.) to fulfill its mission?

MMOS is a collective that produces the Annual All Souls Procession Weekend and events that manifest "festal Culture". We umbrella like-minded arts organizations and a performative circus school. Our largest events are The Procession of Little Angels, The All Souls Procession and Finale Ceremony. In 2018, we produced Night of the Living, a two-day Indie music festival in tandem with All Souls Weekend.

Other events thru out the year include The Return of the Mermaids Parade (Aug.) and Dia de San Juan (June).

MMOS umbrellas Tucson Circus Arts and Sol Axe; a Brazilian Cultural Group, who offer year round classes and guest workshops, and Emergency Circus, a talented group of performers who bring joy to "undercircused" communities all around world. In 2018, we supported their efforts touring Puerto Rico, after Hurricane Maria. Our main event, The All Souls Procession is a massive, grassroots gathering to collectively honor and celebrate our dead. It has its roots in the arts community of Tucson, which shows in the wide range of creative projects that participants bring to honor their loved ones.

The Finale Ceremony is centered around the burning of prayers and remembrances placed in a large sculptural Urn. Volunteer Spirit Groups create performances that feed the deep human need for resolution and practiced resiliency.

The Procession of Little Angels is free for over 2000 families. Families attend all day Art Workshops, build altars, walk in the children's parade and watch performances, by Stories That Soar, exploring loss in a family friendly environment.

In the fall, MMOS offers free instructional workshops.

Craft Shops teach traditional arts, such as, mask and lantern building, costume and Multi-Cultural Performance Workshops, are hosted at Neighborhood Centers and MSA Annex.

These opportunities engage, teach and connect hundreds of participants to skills that are the backbone of festal culture.

2. Why do you do what you do? What drove the formation of your organization and the development of its mission?

Founders Paul Weir and Nadia Hagen both grew up in the 1980's, amidst a backdrop of cultural repression, economic recession and widespread drug abuse. Both tried to commit suicide in their teens, both lost many friends to AIDS and overdoses. Their art was expressed in the decaying landscape of 80's Downtown Tucson. Informed by radical use of abandoned space, industrial noise projects and punk rock abandon, they formed Flam Chen Theater and took over the reins of the All Souls Procession from Susan Johnson in 1996.

Traditional religious models for mourning and loss were not an option for their artist community, in many instances; families were estranged and did not even know the legal names of our dead. Families, who hadn't seen their children in years, would collect their bodies and possessions.

The All Soul procession provided a creative and highly personal vehicle to process loss. The proximity of Mexico and It's Dia De Los Muertos traditions, inspired artists from all over the region.

In 2006, what was a small gathering of hundreds, ballooned into thousands, necessitating the formation of a formal non-profit board that could fundraise, raise public awareness and liaison to civic departments for the growing event.

3. Who are the communities that specifically engage with and/or participate in your organization's work?

MMOS 's mission of radical inclusivity connects a wide demographic of the Tucson community to our main event, The All Souls Procession.

Since most people are in full costume, it can be difficult to distinguish individual features, but crews consist of the LGBT community, who carry the AIDS Ribbon every year, various environmental groups representing water rights, jaguars and sand hill cranes. Employees of companies that have perished such as The Grill and the Tucson Citizen newspapers have all participated. Local schools represent, The U of A Marching Band, City High, Roskruge and Davis Bi Lingual schools, all march.

Church choral groups walk and sing, Pascua Yaqui and Aztec ceremonial societies dance. Japanese OBON and even a squad of local DJ's, all show up to represent and honor their traditions and ancestors.

Community Craftshops are attended by a cross section of the community, but are located mainly on Tucson's West side. Over 200 participants from old to young, representing all races and whole families attend Workshops together at the MSA Annex Festival Grounds and El Rio Neighborhood Center. In partnership with Homicide Survivors Inc. Volunteer grief counselors are on hand to listen and talk to folks actively processing. Homicide Survivors also partners with MMOS for their annual "Day of Remembrance" Ceremony and volunteers at the Procession of Little Angels. Local hospices, such as, Desert Harmony and Casa De Luz are some of our most devoted sponsors.

Participant demographics, overall are in line with Tucson census numbers for the general community. However the 2016 FMR Impact Study found the Procession skews slightly more female and visitors accounted for 12.5% of attendees.

4. How does your organization listen and respond to its communities in your planning and decision-making processes?

In September, we announce our theme at a “Community Potluck” that is open to the public. Attendees are invited to ask questions and talk to board members and Directors of important areas. Sign up sheets are distributed for volunteer call-backs and ongoing communication. Community members who are seeking a “higher commitment” relationship usually connect at this time.

To connect with the people who are geographically most impacted by the high volume of pedestrians, MMOS representatives attend neighborhood meetings in Mercado, Menlo and Barrio Hollywood in the run-up to the event. Paper flyers with maps and pertinent traffic information are posted in apartment complexes and neighborhood gathering centers.

MMOS also meets with local church leaders and small business owners to air concerns and/or show support. Local small businesses are given free listings on the All Souls App to support the local economy of the Barrios.

We attend Civic event meetings to listen to safety concerns from Tucson Police, Fire and Traffic departments.

MMOS maintains a strong FB presence all year long, with updated videos, reader submissions and relevant articles for the bereaved.

We read all our comments and invite readers to give feedback.

The FB album “Why We Walk” is dedicated to participant testimonials and has thousands of heartfelt stories that readers have submitted.

We have presence on all major social media and print platforms. Information is disseminated on a Mobile App, Email newsletter and Visit Tucson websites, as well as, allsoulsprocession.org where the public can find a directory for all project Directors.

The All Souls Webpage has Handy Guides for participation, testimonials and FAQs with narration in English and Spanish.

Within the scope of each project directorship, it is mandatory that emails be answered promptly and valid concerns be brought up during meetings.

5. What are one or two recent accomplishments your organization has experienced related to your mission?

We formed a unique partnership with Homicide Survivors Inc., a local agency that counsels and provide resources to homicide victims and their families.

They added to our Volunteer pool by helping at The Procession of Little Angels and sending trained grief counselors to Craftshop events. Their grief counselors also hosted an orientation and Q & A for our Directors who work closest with folks experiencing loss. We participated in their annual "Remembrance Ceremony" and their members were highlighted in the 2018 Finale Ceremony.

In our effort to reach out to schools and educators, we were honored to have Students from Ochoa Elementary, Davis Bilingual Elementary, the University of Arizona Social Sciences Department, Roskrige Middle School and City High School all include activities that were directly involved with the Procession in their 2018 curriculum.

These collaborations align with our goal to deepen the quality and meaning of the event for the community.

6. How do you evaluate your work? How does your organization know when/if it is effective?

We gauge our success by the quantity and quality of participation in our events.

In person, we host open invitation potlucks for participants to contribute ideas and feedback. We collect digital and paper surveys. We hold After Action Report meetings to collect comments and concerns, these notes are integrated into online Handbooks, which are accessible to all staff and volunteers.

Our websites, pages and apps have received more then 1 million unique hits.

We engage participant observations and comments through social media.

Attention from others working in similar fields give us a sense that All Souls is inspiring in its' efforts. Artistic Director, Nadia Hagen and media director, Kathleen Dreier, were both featured in the January 2018 issue of

"Art of Dying " magazine, a periodical published in North Carolina devoted to modern grieving and burial practices.

Also in January of 2018, "Performing Utopia" by Rachel Bowditch and Pegge Vissicarro dedicated a chapter to the event as an example of a "Performative Utopian Moment " in the evolution of modern culture.

The All Souls Procession was also featured in Jan. 2019, "American Funeral Magazine" as inspiration for funeral directors on modern grieving practices

We evaluate our work through direct conversation, online communications, and the continued public participation and financial support given to us.

7. What is your organization's operational or administrative structure? (i.e. all volunteer, working board members, one or two dedicated individuals, etc.)

MMOS has a small "Core Board" of 3 to 5 members, who hold down the fort, administer bank accounts, coordinate tax returns and write grants out of season. We bring on more helpers for Fundraising events in December and April.

In June, calls go out to "Working Board" members to commit to Directorship of various areas from Sept. thru our main event in November. As well as, calls for our "Advisory Board" members, folks who will not oversee an area, but are "on call" if Directors need legal or legislative assistance.

The "Working Board" consists of approx. 20 Directors and the Advisory Board 4 to 6. "Working Board" Directors coordinate areas such as, Craftshops, Finale Ceremony, Procession of Little Angels, Advertising and Merchandise. These roles are delegated among Directors, as needed, depending on the scope and demands of the area. For example, Procession of Little Angels has an Overall Event Director, Art Table Coordinator, Children's Altar Director and a Performance Director. Directors are encouraged to form their own volunteer crews, helped by the MMOS Volunteer Coordinator. If a position is too complex or time consuming to be done by volunteers, Directors can make requests to the board that they have some paid folks on crew.

Directors sign Independent Contractor agreements, stating their stipends and descriptions of their responsibilities. Each area has an online Handbook that Directors can refer to for deadlines and resources.

All Directors attend the "Community Potluck" to engage the public and network. At least one meeting is scheduled with core Board members during the two weeks prior to the main event to touch base. Administration is always reachable through an MMOS G Doc account, where each director is assigned their own email account.

Umbrellaed organizations have Lead Directors that communicate with the Core Board.

8. How does your organization benefit from in-kind support and/or services? Tell us about those relationships/partnerships and the support they provide for your organization.

In 2013, The All Souls had outgrown all the available gathering spaces in Downtown, Tucson. Gadsden Company had purchased land on the West Side for mixed-use housing/retail development and stepped up to offer us use of the land, free of charge. We have been staging the Finale on this property for the last 5 years.

We are also “Artist in Residence” and curators of performance on the MSA Annex Festival grounds that opened in June of 2018. The Grand Finale would not be possible without the help of our many technical friends. Companies that provide us with sound and light reinforcement, do so at vastly discounted rates, as well as heavy equipment retailers like Sunstate, Creco and Hook Crane. Owners and Employees of these companies have told us, they donate time and effort to the Procession because of the palpable sense of community they feel when we all work on the project together. Visit Tucson is one of our largest donors and they support us with Live Stream hosting of the Procession and Finale on their website, and a robust network of outreach to visitors and tourists from all over the world.

KXCI Community Radio provided us with over \$3000 in PSA’s in 2018, sharing workshop schedules, important dates and helping educate the public about what we do and how they can participate.

Brooklyn Pizza delivers pizzas, free of charge, to our stagehands during the build-up and strike of the Finale. Which is the best.

9. Provide an overview of your organization’s current financial status and describe any effective financial strategies you have employed to support your organization’s work.

As of 2018, we made a concerted effort to cut down on our All Souls production expenses and invest more of our budget in administration and sustaining our hardest working Directors.

In 2017, we introduced a new parade route that began and ended on the west side, cutting out an expensive Freeway closure.

In 2018, the Finale was performed by a small dance crew and local musicians, which cut out any stay and travel expenses. These changes, paired with a grant from the NEA, brought us closer to our goal of paying off all our debts at the end of the year and freeing up fundraising efforts in April to go directly to the next year’s activities.

The opening of the MSA Annex Festival Grounds and Performance space has given us a permanent home for gatherings, workshops and fundraisers, where revenue goes directly back to MMOS.

Donation platforms such as, Network for Good, have allowed us to easily umbrella multiple projects and present them to the public.

In late 2017, in response to donors who wanted to use stock shares to help us, MMOS opened a Fidelity account, which has helped us raise another 5K annually.

Towards our goal of financial sustainability, we ended 2018 in the best financial shape, since the Procession began to balloon in size in the early 2000’s. This was an enormous challenge and we are happy and relieved to see our finances stabilize.

10. Use this space to talk about anything that is unusual or stands out about the financial documentation you are providing for FY18 (see next section). This is your chance to explain your finances to the review panel.

As detailed in our 2018 Data Arts Funder Report, our earned income increased from 45% to 60%. This was due, in part to restructuring our Circus School, Tucson Circus Arts. In 2016, our Director left to form her own school and in that same year, 3 other circus schools opened in Tucson. Competition was fierce and we struggled in 2017 to remain open. We have since changed our curriculum to favor multiple Workshops in a given discipline as opposed to ongoing classes, reached out to our professional theater friends to come as guest teachers and cut our summer camp from 4 to 2 weeks. These changes as well as, raising our tuition costs helped us recover in 2018.

We invested 15% of our budget in fundraising in 2018, as opposed to only 2% in 2017. In 2017, we curtailed all our fundraising to digital events but this year, we chose to have 2 physical events, a Silent Auction and a concert series called Night of the Living. Neither of these, were very financially successful, as they both broke a little above even, but attendance at both events was decent and public feedback and engagement was positive.

MMOS is dedicated to the quality, not quantity of experiences we provide for the community and the flexibility and sustainability of our organization.

Financial Documentation

[manymouthsonestomach__arizonacommissionontheartscommunityinvestmentgrant.pdf](#)

Applicant Information

Information provided below is for informational purposes only and will not be considered during any part of the panel review process.

At the Arts Commission, our mission is “to imagine an Arizona where everyone can participate in and experience the arts.” In support of this mission, we are committed to better understanding racial equity and geographic parity across programs, and to ensuring resources are reaching artists, organizations, and communities throughout Arizona. The following questions are used for agency self-evaluation and answers are collected for informational purposes only. Demographics responses are not considered as part of application review processes and do not influence funding decisions.

County

Pima

Is this the first time your organization is applying for a grant through the Arizona Commission on the Arts?

No

Is this the first time your organization is applying for a Community Investment Grant specifically?

No

Primary Disciplinary Category

Multidisciplinary

Is your organization's mission and programming oriented towards or reflective of a specific cultural community, that centers race, heritage, religion, age group, sexual orientation, gender, physical ability, or other cultural identities?

No

Application Submission

You are ready to submit your application if:
1. All sections of the application are complete and in final form.
2. You are done editing and/or making changes.

Once you submit your application, you will no longer be able to make changes to your application. You will receive a confirmation email that your application has been received.

I certify that all information contained in this application and attachments is true and accurate. All funded activities must provide equal access and equal opportunity in employment and services and may not discriminate on the basis of disability, color, creed or religion.

I certify.

true

Name of person completing the application

Nadia Hagen-Dinner

Email Address of person completing the application.

uberhagen@manymouths.org