

WBCA: Creating community through art

Thank you for your support of H.F. 991 regarding a paid high school internship program at White Bear Center for the Arts (WBCA) and for including WBCA in the omnibus bill.

White Bear Center for the Arts is an independent nonprofit organization that does not receive any government funding. We are externally audited annually, and our income composition is nearly 50% earned revenue and 50% contributed support. A 2015 Study by Americans for the Arts detailed White Bear Center for the Arts' economic impact, and in 2023 we will support the equivalent of more than 90 full time jobs in our community and return \$2.6 million into Minnesota's economy.

The funding that we are seeking is what is necessary to pilot the proposed paid internship program that we hope becomes a model for more equitable participation and representation in nonprofits. The nonprofit sector is a thriving community in Minnesota, and with state support, WBCA has an opportunity to utilize the value and robust nature of the nonprofit sector to impact career development for our state's youth. High school students in this program will have the ability to spend extensive time within White Bear Center for the Arts, where we can provide them with a holistic view of how a nonprofit organization operates through the lens of an art center. This holistic view will equip students with the necessary skills to take with them into their next phase of life, whether that is directly into the workforce or into post-secondary education. White Bear Center for the Arts' paid internship program will provide opportunities in a variety of areas, such as communications and marketing, development and donor cultivation, membership, exhibitions, artist development, community outreach, visitor services and retail. All of these opportunities for learning will be accompanied by fair pay, a safe environment, and our commitment to meeting the needs of students, which may otherwise cause barriers to participation. We are committed to providing professional development skills to support students as they become members of Minnesota's thriving workforce.

WBCA is grateful for your support and we are excited for the opportunity to continue to contribute to Minnesota's workforce through our paid high school internship program.



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White Bear Center for the Arts' mission is to:
ENRICH LIVES
by Celebrating Art
NOURISH IMAGINATION
by Inspiring Creativity
BUILD UNDERSTANDING
by Connecting People

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