

The Art of Yoga Project
Request for Proposal: National Affiliate Grant
(Cohort 4)



Overview

The Art of Yoga Project is a leader in serving marginalized girls* and gender expansive youth with our model of trauma-informed yoga and creative expression. The Art of Yoga Project directly serves marginalized youth involved in the San Francisco Bay Area juvenile justice and behavioral health systems. We send specially-trained yoga teachers and creative arts educators into juvenile detention centers and rehabilitation facilities to teach our proprietary, gender-responsive, mindfulness-based program to youth promoting self-awareness, self-respect and self-control. Since our inception in 2005, we have served over 10,000 youth. Today, we provide over 1,000 hours of programming annually in short and long-term detention and rehabilitation centers as well as in substance abuse recovery settings, agencies serving CSEC (commercially sexually exploited children), Level 14 facilities (for youth with high psychiatric needs), alternative high schools and high schools in gang-impacted communities.

*(*Please note when we use the term girls, it is meant in the most gender-expansive way possible to include cis-gender girls, trans girls, gender non-conforming youth, non-binary youth and any girl-identified youth).*

National Affiliate Grant

We are currently looking for organizations who are interested in taking our model beyond these borders to establish a presence in their community through our National Affiliate Program. Our vision is to make a very real impact on our country's juvenile justice, education and social service systems, by providing a new approach for the rehabilitation of at-risk, incarcerated and exploited youth.

If you work with adolescent girls and gender expansive youth and are interested in participating in our National Affiliate Program we invite you to submit an *National Affiliate Grant Application*. Please let us know by email if you plan to submit an application, so that we can send you additional information that may help you complete your application and answer any open questions.

The Affiliate Grant Application is due 5 pm PST on January 14, 2022. The application should be sent by email to Noelle Kaplan, Director of Education, Training and Outreach, at noelle@theartofyogaproject.org. Organizations will be notified of the outcome of this grant by January 31, 2022. The Grant period will start February 1, 2022 and run until January 31, 2023 organizations are encouraged to continue the work beyond the grant period and join The Art of Yoga Project's Affiliate Alliance. Multiple organizations will be selected to participate in this National Affiliate Program.

About The Art of Yoga Project Model

Our model and proprietary curricula was created with the following basic tenets:

- Yoga and creative arts are essential tools to address the underlying trauma experienced by system-involved girls. These mindfulness-based practices rewire girls' brains for improved self-awareness, self-respect and self-regulation, bringing them out of cycles of violence and victimization and into empowerment.
- Each girl can achieve her full potential. Our curriculum is strength-based, meaning we acknowledge each young woman's past but focus on her present abilities and innate wisdom.

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- Girls thrive with a gender-responsive approach. Our curriculum reflects an understanding of the reality of marginalized girls' lives. A growing number of studies show that: (a) girls tend to commit crimes that are minor and nonviolent; (b) are younger when they enter the system, and (c) their path to delinquency usually begins with an abusive family or relationship. Curricula is focused on building healthy relationships with appropriate boundaries.
- Services should be culturally-responsive. Our curriculum is adaptive to reflect the populations served in order to be relevant, engaging and effective on a local level.
- Teachers should be trained in trauma-sensitive yoga. Our first priority is "do no harm." Our Teacher's Guide directs instructors to both plan for and respond appropriately to the manifestations of trauma students present. We highlight techniques to mitigate symptoms and avoid re-traumatization.

Affiliate Organizations Receive:

If selected as grantee in our National Affiliate Grant, your organization will receive:

- 1) **Training:** Invitation for two people to attend the annual training: *The Art of Yoga Project Model: Trauma-informed Mindfulness for Marginalized Youth*. Participants will learn about the neuroscience of mindfulness, The Art of Yoga Project's integrated approach to teaching mindfulness and creative expression to marginalized youth and best practices for understanding and effectively handling issues specific to working with teens and trauma survivors.
- 2) **License:** Copies of our yoga and creative arts curricula and program materials (see Appendix A)
- 3) **Support:** 1:1 training to implement the program in your specific settings, and ongoing phone consultation services with our programming experts to troubleshoot program implementation.

Affiliate Organizations Requirements:

As a grantee in our National Affiliate Program, your organization will be required to:

- 1) Attend our in-person training *The Art of Yoga Project Model: Trauma-informed Mindfulness for Marginalized Youth* on April 29, 2022 in Redwood City, CA. The registration fee is included in the grant).
- 2) Deliver 16-20 yoga and creative arts curriculum classes over an 8-10 week period between May 1, 2022 through December 30, 2022.
- 3) Find a marginalized population adolescent girls in your community and a space to facilitate the program.
- 4) Provide staff and materials to deliver the program
- 5) Report feedback to us

Enclosed is an overview (Appendix A) that provides more information about our yoga and creative arts curricula available to National Affiliates in our program as well as our National Affiliate Grant application (Appendix B). If you have questions or suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact Noelle Kaplan, Director of Education, Training and Outreach via email noelle@theartofyogaproject.org.

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Appendix A: The Art of Yoga Project: Yoga and Creative Arts Curricula

Organizations selected as National Affiliates will receive a license to utilize the following materials at their site:

1) The Yoga and Creative Arts Curriculum

This is The Art of Yoga Project's first curriculum and the cornerstone of our yoga and arts program. Based on yoga's eight limbs, it honors the rich tradition of yoga while maintaining secularity. The Yoga and Creative Arts Curriculum offers a seasonal (Fall, Winter, Spring) academic approach with a panoply of both individual and group art and writing activities. Published in 2007, the 145 page hardcopy manual includes a complete syllabi for at least 18-24 weeks of instruction (and additional ideas for many more); inspirational quotes and poetry; color photographs of artwork; post-tests for each session; and sample season-end evaluation tools.

2) The Art of Yoga Project's Trauma-Informed Teacher's Guide: A Companion to the Wise Inside Essentials Curriculum

The teacher's guide is meant to be a companion to the Wise Inside Essentials Curriculum. It offers an important neurobiological foundation for working with youth affected by trauma and introduces concepts from The Neurosequential Network, Dr. Bruce Perry's Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics (NMT) which has broadly guided our work. This manual outlines how to teach a trauma-informed class including sequencing, elements to include, a suggested adjustment policy and a sample class. It also contains two NMT Activity Catalogues with (1) sensory-integrating/self-regulating exercises and (2) relational/cognitive exercises

3) Wise Inside Essentials Curriculum (WISE):

WISE is our latest curriculum that combines gender-responsive best practices with trauma-sensitive yoga, developmental assets for healthy adolescent maturation, and contemporary neuroscience research on developmental trauma and the brain. The curriculum includes twenty lesson plans combining yoga and creative expression designed to empower teen girls.

WISE classes consist of highly structured activities that teach girls pro-social skills, anger-management and emotional regulation techniques, and healthy alternatives to self-destructive behavior. The curricula takes a unique multi-dimensional approach to help each girl cultivate a discipline to make mature decisions and healthy lifestyle choices in spite of emotional dysregulation, impulsivity, and other behaviors resulting from their traumatic backgrounds.

The program is inclusive for all girls, including those who may be exploring their gender identity and/or sexual orientation.

Wise Inside Essentials classes are best facilitated by a certified yoga teacher with a trauma-informed background and experience working with teens. We recommend selecting an instructor who is representative of the community in which you serve.

Each class is designed to be one hour in length and can be facilitated once or twice a week. Teachers will have a step-by-step guide to lead an appropriately sequenced class including

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regulating warm-ups, check-in questions, inspirational quotes, discussion guidelines, yoga asana sequencing, journaling questions and art projects. Below is a complete list of the themes addressed in the curriculum.

Week	Theme	Activity/Description
1	Introduction to Yoga: <i>How can yoga help me?</i>	Asana, Discussion, Personalize Journals, Pre-Assessment
2	The Power of Breath: <i>What is pranayama?</i>	Asana, Discussion, Breathing with Props, Yoga Deck Card
3	Knowing Ourselves: <i>Healthy boundaries</i>	Asana, Discussion, Adjustment Cards
4	Living with Purpose: <i>How to set an intention</i>	Asana, Discussion, Journaling
5	Growing Healthy Sisterhood: <i>Strength in community</i>	Asana/Feminine Warrior Sequence, Discussion, Yoga Deck Card
6	Managing our Emotions: <i>Meditation 101</i>	Asana, Discussion, Journaling
7	Living Peacefully: <i>Committing to nonviolence</i>	Asana, Discussion, Poetry Writing
8	Celebrating Diversity: <i>Sharing our depth</i>	Asana, Discussion, Iceberg Activity
9	Yoga as Play: <i>Yoga Detective</i>	Asana/Yoga Detective Game
10	Art as Activism: <i>Honoring Kara Walker</i>	Asana, Discussion, Yoga Silhouette Art Project
11	Healthy Choices: <i>Applying Wisdom</i>	Asana, Discussion, Wisdom Flags Group Art Project
12	Building Resilience: <i>Understanding my trauma</i>	Asana, Discussion, Brain Modeling Project
13	Honoring the Feminine: <i>Loving the strong woman within us</i>	Asana, Discussion, Love Letter to Yourself
14	Telling the Truth: <i>The power of words</i>	Asana, Discussion, Journaling
15	Caring for Ourselves: <i>Positive Self-Talk</i>	Asana, Discussion, Self-Talk Bubbles Activity
16	Speaking Out for Social Justice: <i>Honoring Dolores Huerta</i>	Asana, Discussion, Social Justice Tweeting Activity
17	Owning my Future: <i>Unlocking my destiny</i>	Asana, Discussion, Doors of Destiny Activity
18	Compassion for Self and Others: <i>Lovingkindness meditation</i>	Asana, Discussion, Create Group Compassion Meditation
19	Growing Positive Relationships: <i>My ideal community</i>	Asana, Discussion, Journaling, Individual and Collective Collage
20	Claiming What We Know: <i>Reflect, review and renew</i>	Asana, Discussion, Journaling, Post-Assessment

4) Additional Resources:

The Art of Yoga Project has a process of assessing programming on a quarterly basis. We are offering an adapted assessment tool to Affiliates to gather Pre and Post program data.

Affiliates receive a copy of a Prenatal Letter to be distributed to pregnant participants to ensure safety and comfort of the expectant mother. They will also receive a copy of an Intake Form, which can be distributed to youth at the first class to gather information about gender identity and physical ability to ensure inclusivity for all participants. Additionally, we provide a completion certificate for the youth.

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Appendix B: National Affiliate Program Application

Thank you so much for your interest in The Art of Yoga Project National Affiliate Program. As a registered National Affiliate you will have access to The Art of Yoga Project's trauma-informed *Wise Inside* teacher training guide and our yoga and creative arts curricula to utilize in your program. Please provide the following to us:

Date of Application:

Contact Name/Title:

Legal Name of Organization:

Address of Organization:

Contact Phone number:

Contact Email:

Organization Website:

Is your organization a 501(c)(3) not for profit? Yes _____ No _____ if no, please explain below.

What year was your organization founded? _____

Provide your organizations EIN#: _____

Total organization budget for last fiscal year: _____

Total organization budget for current year: _____

Dates covered by this budget (mon/day/year): _____

Please provide brief answers to the following questions (limit your response to a maximum of 5 pages for the following 10 questions).

- 1) Provide an overview of your organization's mission.
- 2) Tell us briefly about the services your organization provides, the population you serve and the geographic area.
- 3) Describe how you and/or your organization intends to utilize our yoga and creative arts curricula.
- 4) Tell us what you know about how you will be implementing this program (i.e., number of youth, partner organization or facility where you will deliver the program, number of classes per week, and

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time allotted for each class, etc.).

- 5) How often do you plan to offer this program? For example: is the program ongoing or does it have a specific time period like an 8-week session?
- 6) Do you have certified yoga teachers available to lead and deliver this program to your population? How many staff do you plan to train in our trauma-informed model? Do you have two people available to attend our in-person training on April 29th, 2022 ?
- 7) Please tell us more about the teachers you have in mind to implement this program. (professional background, credentials and relevant training)?
- 8) Describe your criteria for a successful program and the results you expect to have achieved by the end of the program?
- 9) Having adequate funding is an important part of both implementing this program and of successful long term program delivery. Please share with us your intention for financing this important work. How do you plan to fund The Art of Yoga Project National Affiliate Program set up, materials and implementation of your program at your location?
- 10) How do plan to fund the training of your staff for our in-person training on April 29th 2022?
- 11) How did you hear about this grant?

Additional Information:

- 1) Submit your 501(c)3 letter if you are a nonprofit
- 2) Provide a Project timeline for the set up and implementing a 16-20 class, 8-10 week program by December 30, 2022. (max one page)
- 3) Please send your most recent financial statement and annual report if available. The financial statement should reflect actual expenditures and funds received during your most recent fiscal year.
Attached financial statement? Yes _____ No _____ If no, why not _____
Attached annual report? Yes _____ No _____ If no, why not _____

You may send other comments and attach an additional sheet if needed. (Not to exceed one page).

This application is due by email to noelle@theartofyogaproject.org on January 14, 2022 by 5 pm PST.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Noelle Kaplan (She/Her) | Director of Education, Training and Outreach

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