



PLATO Philosophy Fund Application

Thank you for Applying!

Project Title: Young Philosophers of New York

Dates for Project: Started January 20, 2017, intend to run indefinitely

Amount of Funding Requested: \$5,000

1. Please describe the project, including any work that has already been done to develop it. (500 words max)

The program involves developing and providing after school workshops for 8-14 year old children in New York City. The workshops would meet weekly for 1.5 hours, for 10 weeks. We intend to offer these workshops in multiple locations around the city, serving a number of different communities. We are especially interested in bringing philosophy to low-income and generally underserved communities.

We inaugurated the project January 20th, 2017, when our first session began with two workshops, in the Washington Heights area. The first, "What's the Big Idea?" is for 3rd-5th graders, and addresses a series of questions chosen by the children themselves (so far we have discussed: what is philosophy, whether you can choose your personality, and the nature of time. Future topics include the meaning of life, and the nature of colors and numbers).

The second, for 6-8th graders, is titled "Keys to the City," and

introduces them to philosophical thinking and discussion through a series of issues that are raised by their attempt to develop their own city. We have discussed the notions of fairness, equality, freedom and money so far, and will take on the topics of laws/constitution, education, policing and housing. As we do this, we intend to draw attention to how these issues are manifested and discussed in New York City today. Besides getting them started in a life of philosophical thinking, we want them to become thoughtful about the city in which they live. We plan to introduce more workshops with different themes in future sessions.

2. What is the purpose of this project? (500 words max)

Young Philosophers of New York is dedicated to encouraging and enabling the children of New York to be philosophically aware members of their communities. We want them to become more sensitive to the philosophical dimensions of their lives and of their neighborhoods and what is required to nourish them. We want New York's children to see themselves as important members of their city and to start thinking how they can take responsibility for it. We want our program to be an incubator of philosophical citizenship (which the Gotham Philosophical Society is strongly committed to developing in our city).

3. Who will benefit from the project, and how? (500 words max)

We hope the children will benefit, and in turn, their families, friends, neighbors, and ultimately the city!

As noted in the answer to question 1, above, the plan for the project is to provide after school philosophy workshops for students all over the city, but we are especially interested in providing them to children from communities that are underserved because of their concentration of low-income households. Most of these children are public school students. the NYC school system offers little in its curriculum that enables children to wonder, reflect, and ask questions of any philosophical depth. Nor do the various regulations and requirements imposed by the NYC Department of Education make it easy, either for outside contractors, or individual schools, to arrange classroom time during the school day. This is why we are implementing our program as an after school offering. Doing so, however, incurs costs with respect to rent and requires that we charge tuition. In order to enable students from these communities to participate, some or all of their tuition will need to be subsidized.

4. What is the plan for developing and implementing the project? Include a timeline.

We have already begun implementing the program, opening our first session on January 20th. We hope to begin another shortly after the first concludes, giving us sufficient time to complete the second 10-week session before the end of the NYC public school year (June 28). our goal is to run one 10-week session during the fall period of the academic year (September-December), and two during the winter/spring (January-June). We are currently considering whether we will have summer offerings.

With each new session period, we hope to offer workshops in different parts of the city. This will require promotion as well as hiring reliable instructors (we have already been in contact with some of the philosophy graduate programs in the city).

5. What other funding sources have you explored for this project?

Our current session is being funded by tuition and personal savings. This grant is the first we have applied for. We will also offer a donation tab on our website (we are a 501 (c) (3) and all donations would be tax deductible).

6. Please list your budget, including any amounts from other sources.

Our budget for the first session includes

Space Rental: \$1,750 (\$175 per 3.5 hours, x 10).

At present, we do not know the exact costs of other facilities in other neighborhoods, yet keeping rent costs close to \$50 per hour is a priority.

Promotion: \$50 to list the classes on a local website.

Supplies: We have spent approximately \$50 on supplies such as a portable whiteboard, markers, and pens and paper for students.

We also supply snacks for the students, which cost around \$10 per session.



Philosophy Learning and Teaching Organization
P.O. Box 7932, Santa Cruz, California 95061

Instructor Salary: for our initial session, our instructor is not receiving a salary. We would like to set compensation for instructors of future sessions at \$75 per hour.

Tuition: \$375 per student, with a cap of 12 students.