



PLATO Philosophy Fund Application

Thank you for Applying!

Project Title: Longmont Thinks! And Summer of the Mind

Dates for Project: April 1-August 13, 2019

Amount of Funding Requested: \$3000

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

Longmont Thinks! and Summer of the Mind are related programs of public information, community philosophy discussions, and philosophical activities designed to encourage the citizens of Longmont, Colorado and surrounding towns to make the practice of philosophy part of their everyday lives. (See Section 4 for Details)

On March 19, 2019, Mayor Brian Bagley of Longmont, Colorado will issue an official proclamation declaring April as Longmont Thinks! Month in collaboration with Grey Havens Philosophy. Grey Havens Philosophy will work with the City of Longmont as well as local businesses and nonprofits to provide as many philosophical activities and discussions as possible for ages 3 through senior adult.

Longmont Thinks! Month will be followed in May by our second annual Summer of the Mind in cooperation with the City of Longmont, Longmont Downtown Development Authority, High Plains Library District, and others. Longmont Thinks! and Summer of the Mind will launch programs that we plan to repeat annually in Longmont and other nearby cities.

Longmont Thinks! will also see the launch of our "How to Have a Philosophical Conversation with Your Child" brochure and poster campaign followed by a summer brochure campaign offering parents and caregivers advice on incorporating philosophy into their family's summer activities. We will offer workshops on these topics as well as a series of Family Philosophy Discussions through Longmont Recreation Services. We will issue weekly "Thinking Challenges," through social media and at our events. These will be simple philosophical exercises that individuals and families can do on their own. We hope that they will go viral!

Grey Havens Philosophy will also have a booth geared toward children, teens, and families at the Longmont Pride festival (typical attendance: 3500) on May 19. The booth will feature our instructional brochures, information about upcoming seasonal programs, information about our ongoing philosophy programs, and interactive features such as shorter versions of Thinking Games and brief discussions of philosophical stimuli. We plan to host a similar booth at Longmont's popular ArtWalk festival.

We expect that publicity around the Longmont Thinks! mayoral proclamation will enable us to acquire more partners to host our discussions and events so that we can make philosophy available in even more public spaces. We are proud of our instrumental role in establishing Longmont as a community committed to providing all its citizens with tools and opportunities for critical and creative thinking.

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

Part of the mission of Grey Havens Philosophy is to make our community proud to identify as a place where access to healthy communities of inquiry is seen as a fundamental right for people of every generation. The mayor and city council's public commitment to providing all Longmont citizens with tools for critical thinking is a very big step in this direction. The goals of our Longmont Thinks! and Summer of the Mind programs are:

- To engage as many different generations as possible in the act of thinking together in public spaces, thus raising awareness that philosophy can and should happen anywhere.
- To teach individuals and families that their lives can be profoundly enriched by incorporating philosophical thinking and discussion into their everyday activities. We will provide them with the tools to do this through discussions, activities, workshops, posters, and brochures.
- To increase awareness of Grey Havens Philosophy's seasonal Philosophy Programs. Our goal is to increase our following of people who look forward every year to seasonal programs such as Fall Family Philosophy and Summer of the Mind.
- To increase participation in our seven ongoing philosophy programs for children and teens, our monthly intergenerational philosophy discussions, and monthly adult philosophy discussions. These happen year-round in addition to our seasonal philosophy programs and day camps.

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

The primary beneficiaries of the programs are the citizens of the City of Longmont, but we will also offer Summer of the Mind events in Lafayette, Firestone, and Erie, Colorado. There will be an emphasis on programs for children, teens, and families.

Our community philosophy programs have been growing consistently for the past five years. This requires a commitment to outreach to keep them vital and inclusive. Longmont Thinks! and Summer of the Mind will provide Grey Havens Philosophy the opportunity to empower more people to do philosophy both within and beyond our discussion groups and activities. Even those who do not directly participate in our programs will have the opportunity to learn from our posters and brochures about practicing philosophy within their families. These will be distributed at child care centers, libraries, through Longmont Recreation and Education Services, and at other family-friendly locations.

Longmont, Colorado is a city of fewer than 100,000 people, but the idea of a community that publicly values philosophy and provides its citizens with opportunities to practice it has the

potential to spread beyond our town's borders. Grey Havens Philosophy will promote the Longmont Thinks! mayoral proclamation through local, state, and national press releases. Our intention is to spread the idea that everyone of every generation benefits from regular participation in philosophy discussions, that it is possible to make civil discourse part of the fabric of community life, and that thinking together makes every community better.

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

Longmont Thinks! Month will be proclaimed at the Longmont City Council meeting on March 19 and will officially launch on April 1. Summer of the Mind will begin on May 23, the last day of school for most students in Longmont, Lafayette, Erie, and Firestone. Summer of the Mind will end on August 13, the day students return to school. This is when Grey Havens Philosophy launches its Fall Family Philosophy program.

80% of the programs we are offering will be based on programs we have successfully implemented in the past but with innovations to keep them fresh. Longmont Thinks! and Summer of the Mind will provide us with new partners and audiences for programs that we know work well. We will also take advantage of opportunities to experiment with new ways of doing philosophy in the community, such as our philosophy outreach to Longmont's homeless population.

Planned Longmont Thinks! Preview Programs, March 2019:

- Intergenerational Philosophical Songwriting Workshop with Discussion on Creativity and Collaboration
- Philosophy Discussions for Shelter Clients of Homeless Outreach Providing Encouragement (HOPE): The plan is to hold these discussions on a regular basis throughout HOPE's shelter season and to work with HOPE to find ways to do philosophy outreach with their clients outside of shelter season.
- Think & Drink Discussions at Still Cellars Distillery and Saint Vrain Cidery
- Intergenerational Philosophy Discussion at Longmont Senior Center (Pop Culture Themes)
- Intergenerational Philosophy at Art Jam at La Vita Bella Cafe in partnership with Firehouse Art Center

Planned Longmont Thinks! Programs April, 2019

- Philosophy Day at Longmont Museum's Discovery Days (school-readiness program)
- "How to Have a Philosophical Conversation with Your Child" workshops at Longmont Creation Station and Crossroads Alternative School
- Senses, Art, and Philosophy (ages 4-6) at Firehouse Art Center
- Intergenerational Pop Culture and Philosophy Discussion at Longmont Senior Center
- "An Intergenerational Exploration of Meaning" at Longmont Senior Center
- Think and Drink Philosophy Discussions at Longmont Pubs and Breweries
- Philosophy Brunch

- A “How to Talk About Politics” Workshop for Teens and Adults

Planned Summer of the Mind Programs

(Note: Many Longmont Thinks! Programs, such as Discovery Days, and Intergenerational Philosophy are intended to continue throughout the summer. We will repeat programs according to demand.)

Additional programs:

- Thinking Games at R Space at Village at the Peaks Mall, sessions in May, June, and July (Worldbuilding Exercises, Two Life-Sized Philosophical Board Games)
- Thinking Games through High Plains Library District Summer Reading Program
- Thinking Games Day Camp at Longmont Museum (ages 10-12)
- Outdoor Thinking Games at Rogers Grove Nature Area: Hidden Symbols Scavenger Hunt (semiotics), Alien Observers Challenge (understanding perspectives)
- Intergenerational Philosophy Walk at Rogers Grove Nature Area
- Teen and Adult Philosophy Hike at Rabbit Mountain Open Space
- “Pop Culture Families Series:” Themed Philosophy Discussions and Activities at Longmont Creation Station (Longmont Recreation Services)
- Film and Philosophy Discussion
- Longmont Pride Booth
- Longmont ArtWalk Booth
- Pop Culture and Philosophy Discussion at Denver Pop Culture Convention (proposal submitted, will be notified by March 31 if it has been accepted)

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

Part of the cost of the project will be covered by a grant from a local donor-advised fund, The Left Hand Giving Circle. The grant is for expenses related to philosophy outreach and making our programs more easily portable. We will also receive some general operating support through fundraising programs from two Longmont businesses, Magic Fairy Candles and Lucky’s Market. In addition, we have applied for general operating support from the Longmont Community Foundation and its donor-advised funds. These funds and individual donations will help us to maintain our year-round programs while implementing our Longmont Thinks! and Summer of the Mind events.

While most of our activities will be free, the City of Longmont will charge a small fee for some programs, such as Intergenerational Philosophy (\$4-\$5 per person) and the Pop Culture Families Series (\$12 for a family of four for the whole series). Scholarships will be available for those who cannot afford the fees. Grey Havens Philosophy will receive 75% of this revenue after the programs have been completed.

In most cases, the City of Longmont and other community partners will provide space cost-free or low-cost for indoor activities. In the past, the City of Longmont has waived fees for the use of outdoor space.

The budget below takes into account discounts typically provided to us by local vendors.

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

- \$1000: “How to Have a Philosophical Conversation with Your Child” and “Summer of the Mind” brochure campaigns (\$500 for initial set of brochures covered by Left Hand Giving Circle Grant)
- \$350: promotional postcards for Longmont Thinks! and Summer of the Mind Calendar
- \$30: bulk mail fees for postcards
- \$150: Longmont Thinks! schedule posters
- \$150: Summer of the Mind schedule posters
- \$250: social media and print promotions
- \$200: tent for outdoor events (covered by Left Hand Giving Circle Grant)
- \$70: Grey Havens Philosophy banner for outdoor events (covered by Left Hand Giving Circle grant)
- \$200: classroom supplies, e.g. self-sticking easel pads, markers, highlighters, pens, pencils, composition notebooks, spiral notebooks, lamination pouches
- \$300: art and sensory supplies
- \$300: new picture books to add to our Books and Big Ideas Storytime library and to maintain a small, lending library for families involved in our programs
- \$300: printing of workbooks and handouts for workshops, activities, and discussions
- \$300: food and drink for Thinking Games and outdoor activities
- \$100: discounted rental of R Space at Village at the Peaks Mall

Total Budget: \$3700

Covered by Other Source: \$700

Amount Requested: \$3000