

Glassboro Education Foundation, Inc.

Cjs
approved
for
Submission
9/11/26

Send the completed application to the attention of:

Craig Stephenson
Beach Administration Building
Joseph L. Bowe Blvd
Glassboro, NJ 08028

A. General Information

Applicant(s): Vanessa Poggioli, Brittinee Garcia, Lisa Rencher, Aileen Castro, Jessica Parto

School: Thomas E. Bowe Middle School

Principal: Lauren Kerr

Grade Level or Subject: African American History Month Committee

Phone: (school) 856-652-2700 x8190

(Home): 718-354-6381

E-mail(s): vpoggioli@gpsd.us, bgarcia@gpsd.us, lrencher@gpsd.us, acastro@gpsd.us,
jparto@gpsd.us

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BY: _____

B. Statement of Assurances:

The applicant hereby assures the Glassboro Education Foundation that:

1. The applicant(s) meet(s) the eligibility criteria.
2. The activities and services for which the grant is sought will be implemented as written.
3. Any monies not expended within the school year shall revert back to the Glassboro Education Foundation, unless permission to carry it into the next school year is granted.
4. All publicity releases regarding a funded project will acknowledge the Glassboro Education Foundation and/or a particular mini-grant sponsor as the funding agency.
5. The grant recipient(s) will submit a final report summarizing the project's evaluation results.
6. The Board of Education authorizes the filing of this application.

We do hereby certify that all of the facts, figures and representations made in this application are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and that the assurances as stated above are understood and will be followed in their entirety.



Signature of Applicant



Signature of Principal

Please note: from this page on, please **do not include your name or your school** in any of your descriptions as all applications are coded to prevent bias.

C. Project Title and Description

Title of Project: African American Experience Day: Traveling Museum

Subject Area(s): Social Studies, ELA,

Approximate Number of Students Participating: 430

Project Starting Date: 12/1/26 Project Completion Date: 3/15/26

Need: Describe the problem or deficiencies that exist which require the improvements described.

Last year, the Glassboro Education Foundation funded a traveling museum exhibit designed by the African American Heritage Museum of Southern New Jersey. Thirty 8th graders served as docents, guiding every student at Bowe School through the exhibit. Teachers visited during their free periods, and even a news crew and Mayor Wallace joined us. Each student submitted a "what I learned" card on the way out, and we were impressed by both their reflections and the positive feedback from the museum staff. The program was such a success that it was recognized as part of our National Schools of Character Promising Practice Award. We also extended the learning through our 8th grade Speaker Series, hearing from the tour guide coordinator at the NJ legislature and a fundraising expert from the Edelman Fossil Park and Museum.

Our initial goal was to expose students to local Black history, in contrast to the national events they usually study in class. What we discovered was that students' leadership and interpersonal skills blossomed in the process. It is rare for middle schoolers to practice public speaking and communication in front of authentic audiences of peers and community members. Students read about history but are seldom the interpreters of it. The docents embraced their roles—doing extra research, creating supplemental materials, rehearsing, and supporting one another when someone was nervous or tired.

When students are given authentic opportunities to see themselves in new roles, they build self-esteem and a stronger sense of well-being—outcomes essential for academic success and healthy relationships. About half of the docents were nominated by teachers and the other half by fellow students, giving opportunities to those who may be overlooked by adults but recognized by peers. Because the students came from different friend groups and had to work together, new bonds formed just as they were preparing for high school. The pride they felt was clear, and they deserve more chances to lead, showcase their talents, and grow by doing something that pushes them outside their comfort zone.

We know it will not always be possible to fund a partnership with the African American Heritage Museum of Southern New Jersey. Our long-term goal is for students to create a Black History Month museum with content of their own making, giving them even more ownership of

the event. This year, however, we want to build on last year's success by inviting families and community members to an evening session at the museum and by expanding the number of student docents, based on feedback from the original group.

Strategy: Briefly describe your plan to alleviate the need/problem.

On Thursday, February 26th, Mr. Hunter, founder of the African American Heritage Museum of Southern New Jersey, and his staff will bring the "Stealing Home: How Jackie Robinson Changed America" exhibit to Thomas E. Bowe Middle School. They will set the museum up in the gym and the exhibit includes informational panels and primary artifacts. All students at Bowe will rotate through the exhibit during their history classes, allowing us to meet the needs of students with disabilities while ensuring that groups are small enough to allow traffic flow through the exhibit.

Two groups of docents will explain the exhibits to their peers. These students would be trained in advance, during three rehearsals with materials provided by the museum. Not only does this give us an opportunity to share a potential career as a museum guide with students, it allows them the opportunity to act as leaders and experts within the building. The students will be nominated by teachers and their peers and be given training in public speaking and presentation. Student docents will prepare supplemental materials that help give additional information for students based on the gaps they identify.

From 6-7:30pm, we will invite family members and members of the community to experience the exhibit and to allow students to share their hard work and leadership with those that are important to them. We will also have the docents who are not currently presenting running a station where families can make a collaborative quilt inspired by African American artist Faith Ringold that will be displayed at Thomas E. Bowe School. We are submitting an NJEA PEP (Public Education Partnership) grant for these supplies and will be requesting lunch for the docents be provided by the Glassboro PTO if they are able to contribute.

Attachments:

[CBS Article: Traveling Museum](#)

<https://www.cbsnews.com/philadelphia/news/black-history-month-african-american-history-museum-new-jersey/>

[African American Heritage Museum of Southern NJ](#)

<https://www.aahmsnj.org/traveling-museum-2023-24/>

[Jackie Robinson's life explored in exhibit at African American Heritage Museum of Southern New Jersey](#)

https://www.nj.com/gloucester-county/towns/2012/02/jackie_robinsons_life_explored.html

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D. Objectives, Activities and Evaluation Techniques (This page may be duplicated if necessary)

Objectives	Program Activities to Accomplish Objectives	Completion Date	Evaluation Techniques
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Increase opportunities for student leadership at Thomas E. Bowe Middle School 2) Engage families in the positive work that their students are doing 3) Increase student awareness and understanding regarding African American history in sports 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) 40 Student docents trained 1 month prior to museum visit. 2) Students create script and additional materials to provide context for exhibit. 3) Students run the Stealing Home: How Jackie Robinson Changed America museum exhibit on February 26th, 2026 during the school day for all Bowe students and at night for family and community members. 	<p>March 15th, 2026</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Student survey for visitors using Google forms during Study Skills on Mon, March 2nd. 2) Student survey for docents using Google forms during Study Skills on Mon, March 2nd. 3) In person feedback session with docents to help plan for next year's museum.

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E. Itemized Budget

Materials/Equipment		Services		Evaluation Techniques	
<u>Item(s)</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Item(s)</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Item(s)</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Supplies & Decor Docent Name Tags 50pk \$31.99 (Amazon) Rubber Bracelets 144pk \$20 x 4 Plastic table cloths \$1.25 x 5 (Dollar Tree) Door curtains \$1.25 x 4 (Dollar Tree)		African American Heritage Museum of Southern New Jersey Traveling Museum Honorarium		Google Forms (Free)	
Potential PTO request <i>Lunch for Docents</i> <i>16 Large Pizzas (Nick's Pizza)</i> <i>Capri Sun 30pk \$10.49 x 2 (ShopRite)</i> <i>Water 24pk \$3.99 x 2 (ShopRite)</i>		Exhibit: Stealing Home: How Jackie Robinson Changed America \$2250 for daytime exhibit \$600 for additional evening hours			
Potential NJEA PEP Grant <i>Refreshments for Evening Event</i> <i>96 Cookies \$27.99 x 3 (ShopRite)</i> <i>Napkins \$3.99 x 1 (ShopRite)</i> <i>Mini Water 24pk \$3.99 x 6 (ShopRite)</i> <i>Capri Sun 30pk \$10.49 x 4 (ShopRite)</i> <i>Black History Month Stickers 500ct \$8.99 (Amazon)</i> <i>Quilt Kit 24 squares \$27.99 x 3 (Oriental Trading)</i> <i>Fabric Markers 8pk \$6.00 x 5 (Amazon)</i>				Sub-total: N/A	
Sub-total: \$123.24		Sub-total: \$2850		Grand Total	\$2973.24