

Miller, Judith

From: Eastern Washington University
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2024 5:26 PM
To: Miller, Judith
Subject: New S&A Funding Request Submission
Attachments: TheatreFY25-Budget-Request-Spreadsheet1.xlsx

New S&A Funding Request received!

Requesting Organization

EWU Univeristy Theatre

Requester's Contact Information

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Budget Request and History

Attach Budget Request Spreadsheet (found at top of form)

- [TheatreFY25-Budget-Request-Spreadsheet1.xlsx](#)

Please select which represents your request best?

FY25 Budget Request

Please provide a summary of your dept/prog/unit.

In addition to classroom studies (Theatre Major, Minor and BAE), the Theatre program offers valuable "hands-on" experience in virtually every phase of theatrical production, whether it be acting, directing, singing, costuming, dance or a myriad of technical and design skills to all students enrolled at EWU. The University Theatre offers an award winning and regionally recognized public performance program comprised of a minimum of three main-stage shows every academic year. The 2023-24 season is Julius Caesar, The Prom a Musical, and a festival of short plays (spring). Our University Theatre season is chosen for balance and variety. Productions range from classical to modern plays and musicals. Plays are produced in the University Theatre located in the Fine Arts Complex. Student Activity fees have provided the essential funding to bring quality theatre to the University community since 1970.

How does your dept/prog/unit plan to spend the awarded funds?

Wages Total- \$37,420
Scene shop foreman (non-student employee) \$13,000 Student \$24,420
1 publicity \$4,884.00
2 technicians \$9,768.00
2 Costume \$9,768.00

Service Agreements Total- \$18,500
Musical Director \$3,000.00

Assistant Musical Director \$1,500.00 Guest Designer \$3,000.00
Dance choreographer \$2,000.00 Orchestra \$3,000.00
Sound \$2,000.00
Royalties \$4,000.00

Supplies Total- \$23,500.00 Play Scripts \$500.00 Costumes \$10,000.00
Set \$13,000.00

Did your dept/prog/unit receive funds in FY24?

Yes

If you answered yes to the previous question, please submit the total amount received.

46,000

Salaries, Benefits, & Wages

Does your request include any staff salaries/benefits, and/or student wages?

Yes

How many UNDERGRADUATE student employees are being supported by S&A funding?

5

How many GRADUATE student employees are being supported by S&A funding?

0

How many CLASSIFIED staff are being supported by S&A funding?

0

How many ADMINISTRATIVE staff are being supported by S&A funding?

0

How many FACULTY staff are being supported by S&A funding?

0

Please confirm that you have budgeted for all salary increases, according to the Budget Assumptions outlined, and that number will be included in your direct expense figure when you build your budget

- Yes

Impact From Funding

How does your dept/prog/unit collaborate with other departments, programs, units?

Theatre is an Interdisciplinary art form and the meeting place of all the arts. We partner with departments across campus and provide opportunities for high quality artistic engagement for all students at EWU.

Theatre serves the EWU Mission:

We give regional students affordable access to high quality education. All EWU students deserve access to affordable arts and cultural experiences and EWU theatre has been a significant contributor in that area since the institution began.

Theatre is highly adaptable and committed to interdisciplinary partnerships and career connected (skill-based) learning. Our ability to quickly adapt was tested during COVID and we succeeded. We remained highly productive/visible when very little was happening on campus.

Theatre produces students who have broad skills in design, technical production, performance, management, and Theatre education. We give students the intellectual, cultural, personal, and practical skills to succeed after EWU.

We foster a deeply relational environment in our program which is critical to the success of our current student population who desperately need a sense of belonging.

How does your dept/prog/unit collaborate with outside stakeholders?

EWU Theatre trains storytellers, multi-media creators and educators for the region, state, and nation. Spokane is a growing hub of live entertainment and media production, and Theatre trains collaborative artists to support the regional creative economy. The Theatre program is essential to EWU's mission because we create meaningful opportunities to empower our students to engage in the community in a healthy and socially conscious way.

Our faculty, staff and students regularly assist/advise with programming theatre activities at public schools, community colleges, theatres, recreation organizations and professional theatres in the Inland Northwest. EWU Theatre is a major contributor to the local artistic culture of the Spokane region. We have developed that reputation in two ways. First, the quality of our production speaks for itself. We are regularly recognized by the Kennedy Center American College Theatre festival for excellence in theatrical production. We maintain a successful momentum in community outreach—choosing plays that provoke discussion, capitalize on current issues, and cannot be seen elsewhere. We provide engagement opportunities for majors, minors and NON-MAJORS!!! All students at EWU can be directly involved in our public performance program.

How does your dept/prog/unit contribute to the local/regional community?

The theatre program has been a special place within Washington for educating theatre practitioners for many years. Theatre adds to the culture of our region and we have robust attendance from our community.

In Washington State, arts and culture is a \$72.9 billion industry---10.8% of the state economy---and supports 187,196 jobs (larger than transportation, construction, and agriculture).

Creative Industry jobs are diverse.

Average yearly earnings for creative jobs is \$52,879.

Data indicates employment is steady with growth in many cases.

What impact(s) does this dept/prog/unit have on campus? Briefly describe the need for your dept/prog/unit. How does your dept/prog/unit support the mission and/or goals of EWU?

Our program offers unique opportunities to the academic and cultural climate of EWU. We create theatre to connect and communicate with the people around us. We ask questions, "Can these issues be spoken of? Is it possible for this person to have a conversation with that person? Can we, together, arrive at a different and more nuanced perspective? Can articulate the complex issues of the human condition that need to be addressed?" We invite an audience into the theatre in the hopes that something will happen. The value of our creative work can be measured by the extent to which the audience is able to access a familiar or unfamiliar world and become engaged to a degree that they understand something about themselves that they did not know before coming to the theatre. When students return to our shows year after year, when I read letters from audience members that express immense gratitude, and when students expand their definition of what it means to be human our mission is affirmed. It is also profound to hear so many students say they had no idea they loved theatre because they had never been or had only been to a K-12 performance. We also offer the university significant visibility through attendance at our shows and consistent engagement on social media.

How does your dept/prog/unit assess the effectiveness of your programs/services and how is it tracked?

Our program is reviewed on a regular basis via program review, SRA, faculty reviews etc.. Evaluations are largely focused on the success of our public performance program. We track audience engagement and numbers and have faculty and professional artists see our shows and respond to our students work. We also receive an abundance of informal feedback from our audiences.

Excerpts from Audiences-

* I thoroughly enjoyed Julius Caesar and looking forward to The Prom!

* We loved the play, your interpretation, the music, the universally good acting. It brought back so many memories of high school when Julius Caesar was required. We got a chance to chat a bit with the president. Before she got caught up in her crowd we had agreed how important it was to support the students.

*I saw Julius Caesar Friday night, and I loved it. Jeff, the staging was terrific, such an ominous build-up to the murder of Caesar, and, Sara, you were simply terrific as the great man –

*And speaking of talented students: last week I had the pleasure of attending EWU Theatre's fall production of Julius Caesar.

This reimagined version of the familiar Shakespeare tale was superb, and all of the actors gave amazing performances — I can't wait for the winter production!

Financial Responsibility

What are the top funding priorities for your dept/prog/unit and is any of this funding for contracts? If so, how much?

Actual expenditures align very closely to our requested budgets. Non-student and Student labor are the most important but equally important are the materials to produce theatre.

The 2016-2020 levels of funding, enabled us to fully realize many of our program goals. We have always used our revenue to offset the difference in the SAF allocation versus the initial request and to invest/replace equipment. Due to FY 23/24 funding levels we made significant cuts to programming and we charged students a \$5.00 admission fee to attend shows.

The service agreement component is \$18,500.00

Wages (5/6 students and 1 non-student) \$37,420. The ability to hire non-work study in addition to work study is essential.

Performance Rights and production costs are budgeted for 23,800
Please let me know if I can be more specific with our budget needs.

How does your dept/prog/unit track and manage your budgets to ensure financial sustainability?

All theatre faculty have input on the budget request. We are individually held responsible as faculty for all of our purchases. We work diligently to reconcile our credit card purchases and work with Judy Miller in student accounting to track expenses. Our purchases are also reviewed by the purchasing office at the end of the fiscal year. We have regular program meetings to track our spending, traditionally at the end of each quarter. We spend according to our budget and we try to save some of our revenue for maintenance and future investments in equipment because we don't have other reliable funding sources. Due to budget cuts this year we are using anticipated revenue from ticket sales to fund our student employment. This year we will not be able to roll over revenue into our emergency/equipment replacement fund.

How will you ensure that student fees do not subsidize non-student use?

We track audience attendance via online ticket sales. We track direct student involvement via cast lists and crew assignments and audition sheets.

2,658 people attended shows from "Twelfth Night", "Tick Tick Boom" and "Julius Caesar". (Winter 2023, Spring, Fall quarters of 2023).

1,186 of those tickets were current EWU Students, so roughly 48%.

We also have between 5-75 students directly involved in producing the shows every quarter (backstage, onstage and front of house).

Students pay \$5.00 and general admission (non-student rate) is \$10.00

Engagement

Please share the number of STUDENTS your dept/prog/unit serves annually.

1,472


Please share the number of OUTSIDE STAKEHOLDERS your dept/prog/unit serves annually.

1,472

Any additional information or considerations you would like the S&A Committee to have:

Theatre is also a valuable resource in creating and enhancing diversity, equity, and inclusion at EWU. We produce plays that provide opportunities to engage in difficult dialogues, critical thinking, and acting for change. By providing opportunities to collectively engage difficult topics and challenging moments, we are taking a first step to change the dynamic of silence, inaction, and oppression. We want all our students to feel welcomed, seen and included. When we select our Theatre season, we try to center voices that are often marginalized. We try to encourage diverse participation throughout our program (onstage and backstage). We strive to create an environment in which students can develop a unifying bond as creators and audience members. Those bonds can help our students and community better communicate across our differences and find intersections in our lived experiences. Powerful Theatre education has a bearing for social justice both in its presence and absence.

Acknowledgment

 I confirm that the details included in this budget request are accurate to the best of my knowledge and are fully aware of S&A Fee regulations.