

OMSI Business Plan

Submitted by Sandy Jewell

WR 510: Grant Writing, Fall 2017

Prof. Dillon

OMSI's Mission Statement: Inspire curiosity through engaging science learning experiences, foster experimentation, and stimulate informed action.

OMSI's Vision: OMSI, collaborating with partners, will ignite an educational transformation at the intersection of science, technology and design, and weave a thriving innovative district into the fabric of Portland, that spreads opportunities across the Northwest.

Description of Programs and Services/Funding Needs:

For nearly 60 years OMSI has been providing summer science education to the greater Portland area and northwest communities. In the summer of 2017 alone, OMSI was able to provide over 130 classes during a 10 week period to over 2,600 students. Of our 2,643 students, 6% received full or partial financial aid. OMSI awards financial aid to individuals for OMSI Summer Science Classes based on household income. OMSI's education programs connect public audiences with local industry, and work with community organizations to deliver science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education that is targeted specifically for our region's most underserved populations. To inspire innovation in STEM learning, OMSI Summer Classes has been offering LEGO Robotics and LEGO Robotics II for all audiences in grades 4-8 for the past 6 years. However, this audience has an unbalanced girl to boy ratio, with some classes running with no girls attending. OMSI believes in developing the self-efficacy of its youth audience, especially girls. With recent studies showing shockingly low numbers of women in STEM related occupations, and girls in STEM related classes (especially those from low economic areas), OMSI has played a role in increasing this self-efficacy by providing girls only programming in these areas, including LEGO Robotics. In the summer of 2017, OMSI offered two LEGO Robotics classes inclusive to girls. Both were filled to capacity. In the summer of

2018, in addition to general LEGO Robotics and LEGO Robotics II classes, OMSI Summer Science Classes will continue to offer Girls LEGO Robotics I, and will now include LEGO Robotics II for girls who have completed LEGO Robotics I. Hearing the need from teachers and parents in the community, OMSI will also expand its LEGO Robotics audience by running LEGO Robotics programming for grades 2-3, including a class at this grade level just for girls.

Funding Goal:

By providing funds for 24 scholarships and program development to OMSI's girl inclusive LEGO Robotic classes for grades 2-8, OMSI will be able to construct a classroom atmosphere that creates an altruistic, peer supported, hands on learning environment to engage girls in activities that support critical thinking and problem solving. With these skills, our students will have increased confidence in their STEM learning and motivation to pursue STEM subjects in their formal education. This in turn will foster a positive attitude and potential interest toward STEM careers in their future. By facilitating this knowledge and providing these programs at no charge to the student, OMSI will be able to ensure that the cost of the program is not a barrier to participation. Support for this program helps OMSI continue its vision of igniting educational transformation in the areas of science, technology, and design, as well as further its mission to provide engaging science learning experiences that will inspire curiosity, foster experimentation and the exchange of ideas, and stimulate informed action.

Funding Objectives:

OMSI respectfully requests a \$10,000 grant to fund 4 girl inclusive LEGO Robotics classes for the 2018 OMSI's Summer Science Classes season.

\$5000 will provide scholarships to 24 girls (grades 2-8) in the Portland metro area who are seeking financial aid from OMSI to participate.

\$1,500 will fund recruitment of girls from our local community partners, including Girls Inc., Adelante Mujeres, ChickTech, and Black Parent Initiative, who engage members from our target audience, and recruit girls to participate.

\$3,500 will fund research, development, and evaluation of all girls programming to ensure that OMSI's girl inclusive classes incorporate the altruistic atmosphere that will engage girls' learning.

OMSI will measure the success by monitoring registration and attendance, as well as different aspects of participant experience including knowledge, enjoyment, and attitudinal dimensions. OMSI's methods will include an analysis of program registration data, as well as administering an electronic survey at the program's conclusion, to be used for program evaluation and subsequent programming refinement.

Action Plan:

OMSI's Summer Science Classes are self-sustaining and run on an efficient, proven program model with administrative costs covered by retail and membership operations of the museum. Summer Science Classes will already have a classroom building space, equipment, and educators, so those costs along with general operating funds are not included in this budget.

Expenses	Grant Allocation
Scholarship for 24 girls in any Girls LR classes	\$5000
Research/Program Dev 80hrs	\$2000
Recruitment/Marketing	\$1500
Evaluation	\$1500
Total	\$10,000