1. Provide a summary of the project for which you are requesting financial support.

My project, “Students and Seniors: Arts Events Together,” is a program that takes senior citizens from Mallard’s Landing out and about to explore community art events. Each senior citizen will be accompanied by 2 volunteering high school students. The senior citizens will get to see their community events and possibly make new friends and become mentors to the students. The students will also get to see the arts in our community, and interact with the older generation and learn from their experiences. The goals are for people to interact with the arts and each other. We might also invite other senior citizens from around Gig Harbor to also come.

Each student when signing up will receive a short training and list of ideas for deeper conversations. Senior citizens will get to choose their hosts. Students will provide a list of interests and career goals so seniors citizens can select them. The 2 high school students will meet the senior citizens at Mallard’s Landing on a separate day two weeks before the art event to get to know them. Mallard’s Landing Life Enrichment Director Stephanie Ludewig has jumped at the idea of coordinating with interested seniors. Participants will sit together and talk afterwards at the art events.

Events might include:

- May 30 Peninsula Civic Orchestra at Peninsula High School
- May 31 Harbor Winds Band with community choir at Gig Harbor High School
- June 3 Gig Harbor High School jazz concert
- June 4 Gig Harbor High School full band concert
- Boatshop tours every Saturday morning
- Gig Harbor Film Festival: Sept 24-27. The director has offered to give free passes to participating senior citizens
- Every Thursday open mic night at Kimball Coffee

Events will be decided by senior citizens and student volunteers signing up after we advertise the program.

As the organizer, I will:

- Find student volunteers from school, youth groups, and advertising.
- Design posters and invitations, have them printed
- Put up the posters around town.
- Deliver invitations and coordinate with Stephanie Ludewig at Mallard’s Landing.
- Help each volunteer fill out a background check form for Mallard’s Landing
- Guide each student to fill out a list of their college, career, and high school interests so they can be delivered to Mallard’s Landing for each senior to select their host.
- Attend the event

- write a follow-up article of the event on to Gig Harbor Now featuring its benefits and community partners.

2. Describe the benefit to the community (see Funding Guidelines) and explain how

this project will directly engage the audience and/or participants.

The project will benefit the community by helping senior citizens and students to feel more connected to each other and their town. Almost 40% of adults in Gig Harbor are senior citizens. According to a 2020 study by the National Academies of Science Engineering and Medicine, "...a significant proportion of adults in the United States report feeling lonely…" including "…43 percent of adults aged 60 and older." Seniors also lose vision over time making them not want to drive during night. They might also feel awkward being alone at a new event or experience, even if they want to be there. The FDA has also stated there's a "loneliness epidemic in teens". This project would help give both groups an outlet to interact with their community and see events happening around town. With the shared interest pairings, the conversations will be much deeper than just a "How are you." Both parties will be asking about their goals and their experiences. If the project goes well this could be a regularly occurring event allowing for connection.

3. Explain how the city's funding will support this project. If the project can still be done

without city funding, show how the requested funds will improve the project, even if

only partially funded.

The money will be used to advertise towards both seniors and students through posters and invitations. The invitations will hold information for the seniors. Students will deliver these invitations to Mallard's Landing. The students will be recruited by word of mouth and posters around school and the town. The posters will hold a QR code with more information and a way to sign up. The money will improve the project by giving more opportunities for volunteers to see the program and invitations will give the seniors the feeling of being excited of being invited to an event. A quote for printing costs from Minuteman Press was $243.86 for required printing.

Without funding and advertising the project will have few participants.

4. Explain how the project will target Gig Harbor residents or, if the event is designed

to bring in visitors from outside the area, how you will advertise to potential visitors.

The project will increase participation among teens and senior citizens at community events, increasing the visibility and outreach of community partners, including:

- Gig Harbor Film Fest
- Narrows Music Society
- Peninsula Civic Orchestra

- Gig Harbor Boatshop
- Gig Harbor High School Jazz Band
- Kimball Coffee

This event will help bring attention and engagement to all of these businesses.