

ABSTRACT: The Bill of Writes Storytellers (BOWS)

Application from: University of South Florida, home of the PAInT Center

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Absolute Priority I: Innovative Instruction or Professional Development in American History, Civics and Government, and Geography

Competitive Priority 1: Innovative Activities for Civic

Competitive Preference Priority 2: Promoting Equity in Student Access to Educational Resources and Opportunities

Invitational Priority: Projects that describe how they will foster critical thinking and promote student engagement in civics education.

Project Partners:

- University of South Florida, global, preeminent, public research institution classified as an R1 university by Carnegie and member of the American Association of Universities (AAU)
- USF Florida Center for PAInT works in partnership with arts and educational organizations to promote collaborative arts-integrated teaching and learning
- Distinctive Schools (Chicago, Illinois, Michigan), 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to supporting and accelerating the work of charter schools serving kids from traditionally underserved backgrounds
- The School of Art and Enterprise (Pomona, CA) Public Charter School with Arts focus, diverse and inclusive, tuition free, non-profit.
- Cesar Chavez Public Charter Schools of Public Policy (Washington DC) Public Charter School

The Bill of Writes Storytellers project reframes teaching and learning. This project serves as the keystone for a national network. The BOWS will engage **12** teaching artists, **24** classroom teachers, **4** research mentors, and **20** Community Hub members, which include school administrators, community stakeholders, parents, students, and teachers, with a direct impact for about **4,000** students across **12** schools. Additionally, BOWS will have a broader impact, as the Smithsonian digital platform amplifies outreach to schools across the nation. BOWS offers innovative professional development in American History, Civics and Government and Geography. Our aim is to improve the quality of teaching and student achievement, in grades 3-8, particularly students from underserved schools and communities. Leading universities work in partnership with Charter Schools offering a diversity of curricular and out of school curriculum to design evidenced based hands-on civic engagement activities for teachers and teaching artists that benefit low income and underserved schools, students, families, and community members. Provide access to original documents; collaborate in professional development of teachers in the use of original sources and documents; collaborate in professional development for teachers on how to use the archives. Rigorous, engaging, and well-rounded arts integration and arts infusion approaches to learning that are inclusive regarding race, ethnicity, culture, language, and disability status and prepare students for college, career, and civic life, including civics programs that support students in understanding and engaging in American democratic practices. Teachers and Teaching Artists activities include writing plays and creating animations with students on the U. S. Constitution, government, and the Bill of Rights. Elevating the voices of underserved community, student and families providing them with access to opportunities for leadership.