

The University of Michigan's First *Small Project Grant*

Team Members:

BLI Team Member 1

with

Team Member 2

Team Member 3

Team Member 4

Team Member 5

Team Member 6

Team Member 7

Team Member 8

Team Member 9

Team Member 10

Project operation dates:

January 1, 2017 – April 13, 2017, and future winter semesters

***This is a good Cover Page - Title, team members and time-frame of operation are all included.**

***While the flow of this grant proposal is excellent, notice the lack of subtitles and headings - a good grant application should clearly define every section of the grant.**

I am proposing to receive funding to help establish the University of Michigan's first *musical ensemble*, an organization that will enable many percussionists, who had previously not had the opportunity, to perform excellent music with quality equipment from the *Umich Department*. It is a group that will maximize the ability of the performers to craft their own performance with their own vision in mind. This ensemble is a fulfilment of *UM Faculty Member's* desire to create bridges between the *Department* community and the non-music major enthusiast community on campus.

Excellent. Your first sentence should state what your project is.

I first proposed the concept of beginning a non-music major percussion ensemble to members of the *Umich Organization* last fall - performing in an orchestral percussion ensemble is one of the best ways to develop technique on an individual and ensemble basis, and until now it was practically impossible for a *non-Department* Major like me to have that opportunity. I desired very much to perform in one of these ensembles intensely, and one day the thought came to me...why don't I just start my own? Why don't I establish a group that will allow percussionists outside of the *Department* the same opportunity to perform and add another flavor of enriching culture to our University's extra-curricular life? So, after gauging interest among my fellow *Organization* members, I petitioned the idea to *Department* faculty. They supported the idea after much deliberation! I then assembled a team, acquired equipment with the help of Dr. *Faculty Member 2* of the *Department* and now I am happy to say the ensemble is up and running!

Remember, no contractions in formal writing.

Through starting this ensemble, I have witnessed growth within myself as a leader! Never before have I taken a bold idea, with no established precedent, and ran with it! I continue to learn much as a leader through coordinating with various institutions and staff members, and I have learned how to properly lead by effectively delegating other responsibilities to other members of the ensemble. In reality, we are all learning to be leaders here – I divvy up responsibilities among ensemble members, which allows each of us the opportunity to lift each other as we learn to overcome to usual bureaucratic problems and perform quality music.

Because this is a BLI Grant, always make Leadership Development a core focus!

On a professional level, I can certainly say that I have already learned much from this experience in regards to handling responsibility seriously. I have been charged with the care of the *Department's* entire percussion studio for this ensemble whenever we rehearse, which is an opportunity I am grateful for. I know that now and in the subsequent years of this ensemble's existence, we will all learn how to handle responsibility with dignity. This process is driven purely by the initiative of its members (and I am grateful for their zeal), and I can promise that through creating this incredible ensemble we will cultivate self-motivation, creativity and discipline that can only serve to benefit us in our professional lives.

I honestly can see how all of the BLI Habits of Leadership have been developed from this process, and I will focus on a few of them here:

“Start Where You Are”: probably the most obvious habit in this ensemble. I started with

my idea, my percussion talent, and the desire to ask around and gauge interest. Eventually, my starting place multiplied into ten of us and an idea, and at that point we began with our vision and the resources available to investigate - we had no money, equipment or rehearsal space - and went to work.

An excellent integration of BLI Habits!

“Build a Team”: Another integral Habit within the framework of this Ensemble - I selected team members who 1) had proven their willingness to contribute by voicing their interest in joint-starting this ensemble, and 2) proved that they were capable of performing quality music because of their membership in *Umich Organization*. I am very grateful for the team that has been assembled. It really is a team effort - I have given assignments to certain members, and other members have volunteered their services as well! We learn from each other, and the infusion of different ideas has made this ensemble far superior to what it could have been if I had monopolized the brainstorming and implementation process.

“Work to Learn”: Because the path towards forming this ensemble has never been trod before, our journey has been a twisted one, to be sure. As we've discovered and explored our viable options, it seems we have had to change plans, schedules and implement back-up strategies in order to keep the ship running. We have successfully worked through all the challenges presented thus far, and I anticipate we will need to make more course corrections before the end of this project!

“Start Small”: In the beginning, I asked the team why they were here, and what their vision was for the ensemble by the end of the school year. After their thoughts were shared, we began to implement our vision with the small number of tools we had. As momentum gained, we were able to expand from the little equipment we had to being granted access to the entire *Department* percussion studio and our own practice room! It all began with starting small.

The implementation of this project is simple - we have established a weekly rehearsal schedule, which we will abide by until our performance on April 13. During this time we will also hold intermittent meetings that will assess our direction and any necessary course corrections. We will also begin the marketing process for our product (probably in March), which will aim to bring as many people to our performance (free of charge, of course - this is a service to the community, after all!). After the performance I intend to hold a meeting where we reflect on the semester, voice what went right and what could be improved upon the next year. With this evaluation in mind, next year's performance will be even better, and my vision is by the time I graduate to have established a self-functioning entity that will grow in strength and cultural impact in our UMich community.

Past, present, future - all need to be present in the "Implementation" section of the proposal.

As for the Final Report, I plan on giving a brief biography of our group, provide some clips of our performance, and discuss the positive effect that this group has on the community. I will also discuss briefly how each of the BLI Leadership Habits played a role in the success of this ensemble, and how it affected me personally.

Timeline and Cost Analysis

The timeline of this ensemble is relatively short - we rehearse weekly during the weekend from now until April 13th, our performance night. The project will be evaluated shortly thereafter, and then the group will reconvene the semester of Winter 2018.

I am requesting from the BLI \$200 in grant money for the following purposes:

- \$65 for repertoire acquisition (buying our performance music)
- \$100 dollars for advertising (the majority will be spent on materials to make posters), any leftover funds will be funneled to other advertising opportunities
- \$35 for food at rehearsals as an added incentive!

For a total of \$200!

This project currently operates through *Umich Faculty 2's* small ensemble class, *Class and Section Number*. It is part of a broader initiative by Dr. *Faculty 2* to start up small-ensembles for non-music majors. At the present time we are operating as a unique appendage to this effort.

***While this Budget analysis was permissible two years ago, we expect you to have 1) A chronological timeline of your project and 2) a budget TABLE highlighting what you are purchasing and how much it costs.**