

# **Project Proposal: LEAP through Dance – Expanding Access to Dance in Marion County**

Submitted by:

Judith Carasco

Parent of Nehyssa Turenne

Marion County Resident

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Date: 07/15/2025

## **Project Title:**

LEAP Through Dance: Empowering Youth and Investing in a Future Choreographer and Dance Studio Owner

## **Background & Purpose**

This proposal seeks funding for \$3,000 to support Nehyssa Turenne, a competitive dancer, current Miss Northeast Florida's Teen, 3<sup>rd</sup> Runner Up at Miss Florida's Teen 2025, and dedicated arts advocate, as she advances her dance career while giving back to her Marion County community and neighbors.

Nehyssa has been dancing competitively for over 4 years and aspires to become a professional choreographer and dance studio owner. Through dance, she has found discipline, confidence, and a voice. Now she's committed to helping other youth experience the same. Her community initiative, LEAP (Launching Equal Access to the Performing Arts), focuses on offering free dance workshops, mentorship, and inspiration to children, the intellectually challenged, who may not otherwise have access to the arts.

This proposal is not simply about sponsoring a dancer. It's about investing in a young woman who is already impacting her community through dance, and who is driven to build a future where art is accessible to all.

## Project Objectives

1. Support Nehyssa's Growth as a Dancer and Future Choreographer: Fund training, costumes, and choreography needs are essential to her advancement in competitive dance and public performances.
2. Enable Community Dance Outreach Through LEAP: Provide materials and support for free workshops and classes targeting under-resourced youth in Marion County.
3. Use Dance as a Vehicle for Leadership, Advocacy, and Mentorship: Support her as a youth leader using dance to empower others and advocate for equal access to arts education.
- 4.

## Funding Request: \$2,000 (Dance-Focused Budget Only)

Dance-Related Expense	Amount
Choreography Fees (competition & pageant talent)	\$700
Dance Costumes (solo, talent routine, outreach)	\$450
Dance Shoes & Gear (jazz, lyrical, hip-hop, sneakers)	\$400
Competition Entry Fees (solo + conventions)	\$650
Studio Rehearsal Rental & Coaching	\$550
Community Dance Outreach (workshop supplies, music, fliers)	\$250
Total	<u>\$3,000</u>

## Impact on the Community

- Offer 5 to 6 free community dance workshops for youth in underserved areas.
- Engage over 100 local children and teens through LEAP programs by the end of the year
- Provide inspiration and mentorship for young dancers, including those with ADHD or financial barriers
- Position Nehyssa as a positive role model and emerging leader in both the dance world and her local community

## Recognition for Sponsors

Sponsors contributing \$200 or more will be:

- Publicly acknowledged on Nehyssa's Instagram (@nehyssa.turenne) and at community dance events
- Listed on all printed materials related to LEAP outreach and LEAP platform @leapforthearts
- Sent a personalized thank-you letter with photos and updates from her dance journey
- Invited to attend a LEAP event or performance.

## Conclusion

Dance is more than movement; it's a path to purpose, leadership, and community impact. Nehyssa Turenne is proof of that. She is not only striving to become a professional choreographer, but she's already using dance to uplift others through her LEAP initiative.

Your support will help her continue competing, training, and, most importantly, giving back through dance. We are grateful for your consideration and welcome you as a partner in her journey.

Warm regards,



Judith Carasco

On behalf of Nehyssa Turenne, Miss Northeast Florida's Teen, 3<sup>rd</sup> Runner up at Miss Florida Teen 2025.

# GRANT APPLICATION

Name of Arts or Educational Organization or Individual Artist: Nehyssa J Turenne  
Name of Program or Project: Leaf Through Dance - Expanding Access to  
Dance in Marion County  
Grant Amount Requested \$ 3,000.00

Application for:

- ☐ Arts Organization Must provide copy of IRS letter or Tax Exempt Certificate.  
☐ Educational Institution Must provide copy of IRS letter or Tax Exempt Certificate.  
☒ Individual Artists Must provide Social Security # \_\_\_\_\_.

Has the Art Organization, Educational Institution, or Individual Artist previously received funds from the Ocala Municipal Arts Commission? If so, provide the below listed information regarding the last project/program for which funding was received from the Arts Commission.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Program/Project: NA

Address: 4900 SW 46th Ct Apt 1605  
Ocala FL 34474

Telephone: 352-214 5656 Email: Carasco1377@gmail.com

Contact Person: Judith Carasco

Discipline Category: ☒ Performing Arts (i.e., dance/drama)  
☐ Visual Arts  
☐ Literature  
☐ Music  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Recipient, individual or authorized agent of the designated organization warrants and guarantees to the City of Ocala that the funds will be used only for the purpose herein specified, at and on the time, dates and location as herein specified, or, if not so used, will be returned to the City of Ocala.

Recipient also agrees to defend, indemnify and hold harmless, the City of Ocala and all officers and employees of the City of Ocala from and against loss, damage, demand, liability or expense by reason of any damage or injury to property or persons which may be claimed to have arisen as a result of or in connection with these services.

Nehyssa Turenne  
Applicant Signature

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Name: Nehyssa Turenne

Program Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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**OFFICE USE ONLY**

Date Application Received \_\_\_\_\_

If this organization/individual previously received OMAC funding, has all follow-up documentation been received? ☐ Yes ☐ No, Explain \_\_\_\_\_

**OMAC Action:**

☐ Approved Date of Approval \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Approved \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Not Approved for Funding

Date Paid \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_