



**WACO ISD EDUCATION FOUNDATION
COVER SHEET – PART II
Application for Grant:
2025-2026 Funding Cycle**

Assigned Grant Proposal #: _____

Project Title: _____

Grade Level(s): _____ **# of Students DIRECTLY involved:** _____

Subject Area(s): _____

Amount Requested: \$ _____

Grant Focus Area(s): In order to be considered, Waco Education Foundation Innovation Grant proposals must fall under one or more of the E4 focus areas: early childhood development, enhanced programming for advanced students, extended education for staff, and emphasis on student performance. NOTE: In addition to meeting one of the E4 focus areas above, grant readers are especially interested in creative and innovative grant requests that target fine arts, STEM, literacy, or enrichment.

(check all that apply)

Early Childhood Development

Enhanced Programming for Advanced Students

Fine Arts

Literacy

Extended Education for Staff

Emphasis on Student Performance

STEM

Enrichment

Proposal #62

Open Mic!

Project Description: Poetry is experiencing a new popularity and appreciation among students with Instagram and other social media platforms, and students are requesting poetry books. Not only do our students have an unprecedented desire to read poetry, but they are writing their own poetry more than ever. Fact: Students who read and write score higher on standardized tests. The Open Mic! Grant would allow us to conduct poetry workshops, attend community poetry events, and host our own “Poetry on the Patio.”. These events would allow students to showcase their writing talents, connect with professional writers, and earn accolades.

Rationale: Open Mic! focuses on literacy and enrichment. Students will always benefit from additional reading and writing; both require critical thinking skills. Poetry can significantly contribute to critical thinking by requiring readers to actively analyze complex layers of meaning within a poem, including imagery, language choices and structure, which forces them to interpret and evaluate on multiple levels. Reading poetry allows an emotional connection; writing poetry allows an emotional outlet. This grant aligns with our Campus Improvement Plan by providing opportunities to engage families and the community at the campus level (poetry workshops and Poetry on the Patio events). Community involvement lets our students know that literacy is valued. Open Mic! also supports our goal to continue Social Emotional Learning (SEL) strategies campus wide, as students can foster their own SEL, as they are provided an outlet to process their own emotions.

Goals: The goal of Open Mic! Club is simple: we will foster reading, writing and performance of poetry, conduct poetry workshops with volunteer and/or paid professional spoken word poets in the community, attend and host poetry events. Students will be expected to read/performance one piece of original poetry each semester (either at a school sponsored event, or an outside community event).

Plan of Operation: We have already begun recruiting these readers and writers, with a goal of 50+ students.

Once a week:

- Students meet with teachers before/after school to dedicate time to read, analyze, and write poetry.

Once each semester:

- spoken word poets will be invited to conduct workshops for students and parents
- we will attend a local coffee shop “open mic” night to participate in reading our poetry in a public forum
- Host a Poetry on the Patio/Open Mic event at our campus
- Select students will read poetry at Waco Community Race Relations Coalition events

Additional Spring semester activities

- Participation in Black History Program
- Readings @ Cinco de Mayo celebration
- select students invited to attend the Beall Poetry Festival @ Baylor

Communication & Dissemination: Waco Education Foundation will be invited to observe workshops, invited to our Poetry on the Patio events, and invited to photo opps. We will invite local news stations to share the accomplishments of these students. I am also willing to share grant details and results with the district. A student volunteer (with teacher supervision) would be responsible for maintaining a social media page to promote the poetry of our students, as well as invitations to our community events.

Evaluation: We will use several methods to determine the success of this project.

- Each student will be expected to write and polish one piece of poetry to publish on our Instagram page, and/or recite/perform that piece in a public forum (one per semester).
- Students will be encouraged to submit poetry to various contests throughout the state and beyond.
- Student data will be tracked and compiled (grades, attendance, STAAR scores where applicable)
- Student survey at end of year
- Feedback from parents and community members

Long Term Implications: This grant can easily be sustained after the 2025-2026 school year. The purchase of the books allows us to build a unique and lasting “poetry library,” and the microphone and speaker will last several years. Teachers can learn from guest poets how to facilitate workshops, so going forward costs should be minimal to zero. This grant could also be easily replicated at other campuses with a few dedicated teachers.

Key Personnel: ELAR Teacher, 17 years of experience, with experience promoting poetry and entering students in poetry contests and facilitating reading in public forums. ELAR Teacher, 3 years of experience, with a passion for reading and writing, poet, event organizer.

Budget & Budget Narrative/Justification: please see itemized budget form which includes:

Consumable supplies \$300

Light snacks/drinks for hosted events (workshops, Poetry on the Patio)

Long term Supplies/Equipment

- *Books \$1000*

We will build a dedicated Poetry Library with a wide variety of poets for students to read, study, emulate, and use for inspiration. 64 books will be ordered. See itemized list attached with Budget Form

- *Supplies \$200*

Microphone, stand, speaker to be used for practice and Poetry on the Patio events

Workshops \$200

April Neal, spoken word poet, writing workshop facilitator

Waco Education Foundation

Grant Budget Form

Assigned Proposal #	62
Project Title:	Open Mic!
Number of Students Served by Grant:	50

Qty	Budget Item	Verify Vendor (Y or N)	\$ Requested from the WISD Foundation	Other Secured Source	\$ from Other Source (if applicable)	Total Amount
Consumable Supplies						
1	Food and Drink	Y	\$ 300.91			\$ 300.91
	(campus hosted poetry events/Poetry on the Patio)					\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
total Consumable Supplies			\$ 300.91		\$ -	\$ 300.91
Technology						
						\$ -
						\$ -
total Technology			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Long-Term Supplies / Equipment (items that will last beyond the grant year)						
1	microphone + stand + speaker	Y	\$ 200.00			\$ 200.00
64	Books (poetry and various collections)	Y	\$ 999.09			\$ 999.09
	see itemized attached list					\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -

						\$ -
total Long-Term Supplies			\$ 1,199.09		\$ -	\$ 1,199.09
Contracted Services						
1	April Neal Poetry Workshop	Y	\$ 200.00			\$ 200.00
						\$ -
total Contracted Services			\$ 200.00		\$ -	\$ 200.00
Personnel						
						\$ -
						\$ -
total Personnel			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Travel / Other						
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
total Other			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Totals		Total Requested from the WISD Foundation		Foundation Cost Per Student	Total from Other Sources	Total Cost of Project
		\$ 1,700.00		34	\$ -	\$ 1,700.00

Title	Author	cost	shipping	total	copies	Total	
Healing Through Words	Rupi Kaur	9.25	3.00	12.25	2	24.50	
Milk and Honey	Rupi Kaur	7.83	3.00	10.83	2	21.66	
The sun and her flowers	Rupi Kaur	10.00	3.00	13.00	2	26.00	
Writing Cards: Balance	Rupi Kaur	7.00	3.00	10.00	3	30.00	
Writing Cards: Gratitude	Rupi Kaur	12.00	3.00	15.00	3	45.00	
Writing Cards: Self Love	Rupi Kaur	23.25	3.00	26.25	3	78.75	
For Everyone	Jason Reynolds	6.38	3.00	9.38	2	18.76	
Inward	yung pueblo	7.75	3.00	10.75	2	21.50	
Clarity & Connection	yung pueblo	10.64	3.00	13.64	2	27.28	
Flowers on the Moon	Billy Chapata	12.75	3.00	15.75	2	31.50	
Stitches	Rudy Francisco	7.00	3.00	10.00	2	20.00	
Excuse Me While I Kiss the Sky	Rudy Francisco	15.69	3.00	18.69	2	37.38	
Helium	Rudy Francisco	13.00	3.00	16.00	2	32.00	
I'll Fly Away	Rudy Francisco	14.88	3.00	17.88	1	17.88	
No Gravity	Rudy Francisco	8.00	3.00	11.00	2	22.00	
Scratch	Rudy Francisco	7.00	3.00	10.00	2	20.00	
The Carrying: Poems	Ada Limon	14.88	3.00	17.88	1	17.88	
Cool Salsa: Bilingual Poems on Growin	Lori Carlson & Oscar Hijuelos	19.60	3.00	22.60	1	22.60	
Red Hot Salsa: Bilingual Poems on Bei	Lori Carlson & Oscar Hijuelos	18.66	3.00	21.66	1	21.66	
The Complete Collected Poems	Maya Angelou	49.99	3.00	52.99	1	52.99	
The Best of Rudyard Kipling: A Collecti	Rudyard Kipling	15.00	3.00	18.00	1	18.00	
Healing is a Gift	Alexandra Vasiliu	15.25	3.00	18.25	2	36.50	
Dare to Let Go	Alexandra Vasiliu	15.25	3.00	18.25	2	36.50	
Stronger Than Anxiety	Alexandra Vasiliu	13.50	3.00	16.50	2	33.00	
Time to Heal	Alexandra Vasiliu	14.00	3.00	17.00	1	17.00	
The Dark Between the Stars	atticus	10.00	3.00	13.00	2	26.00	
The Truth About Magic: Poems	atticus	10.50	3.00	13.50	2	27.00	
The Poet X	Elizabeth Acevado	10.00	3.00	13.00	2	26.00	
Instagram Poets You'll Want to Follow	Joseph D E Phillips	10.00	3.00	13.00	2	26.00	
Instagram Poetry for Every Day	National Poetry Library	12.50	3.00	15.50	2	31.00	

Reunion Songs	Amanda Cooke	20.00	3.00	23.00	1	23.00	
A Collection of Love Poems	Christopher Pointdexter	15.00	3.00	18.00	1	18.00	
In Her Light	Christi Steyn	17.00	3.00	20.00	1	20.00	
What the Moon Gave Her	Christi Steyn	8.00	3.00	11.00	1	11.00	
Chasers of the Light	Tyler Knott Gregson	10.00	3.00	13.00	1	13.00	
The Hill We Climb	Amanda Gorman	15.50	3.00	18.50	1	18.50	
Call Us What We Carry	Amanda Gorman	9.00	3.00	12.00	1	12.00	
Bluff: Poems	Danez Smith	14.25	3.00	17.25	1	17.25	999.09
					64		