

Name: Aspire Performing Arts Academy

Mission and history (2,000-character limit): Aspire Performance Academy of the Arts is on a mission to strengthen our community and edify its artists by providing a safe place for growth, professional instruction, challenging curriculum, and quality performance opportunities. Serving any age, any ability. In our rural county we are passionate about creating quality, accessible and affordable arts education and performance opportunities. Our wide range of classes in music, theatre and rhythmic gymnastics give our students an inspiring space for personal and academic growth. Our brilliant staff plan multiple performances throughout the year that allow our students to show what they've learned and to increase their confidence and self-worth. Our dedicated board members organize family and community centered events to uplift, educate and support our neighborhood. At Aspire, our purpose is to empower our students, staff and community through the arts to always aspire for more.

Description of contribution to Utah communities and individuals (2,000-character limit): Along with our classes and performance opportunities for our able-bodied students, we are committed to create the same learning and growth experiences for students and adults with disabilities. Aspire's ARK, (Aspire Resource Kids) and ARISE, (Adult Resource Instruction for Special Education) programming allows for our differently-abled students to have additional support and one-on-one instruction. Aspire believes an accessible arts education greatly benefits individuals with special needs by improving their soft skills, communication, employment placement and most importantly their self-worth. We are able to accomplish this with generous community support to fund ARK & ARISE scholarships. We've also partnered with our local LINC's group, (Life-Skill and Individual Needs Center) to assist their clients with special needs through our resource theatre classes. Aspire advocates for anyone who desires to create, learn and perform. Any age and any ability.

How has COVID19 impacted your day-to-day operations? (2,000-character limit): Following Bear River Health Department guidelines, Aspire temporarily closed mid-March. While we were able to move some music classes online, the majority of our classes have been cancelled. The result was a loss of 88% income for payroll, rent and utilities. Community partnered events and concerts scheduled for April and May were also cancelled. Aspire's partnership for our special needs students with LINC is temporarily on hold while their center is closed until further notice. Since March we have lost 10% of our students and anticipate a 30-50% loss of students this summer.

How has COVID-19 impacted your nonprofit's funding streams? Please identify any gap areas that other secured funding may not cover. (2,000-character limit): In addition to loss of income, Aspire's temporary closure disrupted our annual fundraising campaign. Many of our previous donors have paused their giving to sustain their own business. Aspire has been in operation for only two years and has yet to build a cash reserve large enough to support these sudden and dramatic decreases. The loss of income in April and May also coincided with the opening of our summer enrollment during these months, which under normal

circumstances would financially sustain Aspire through our summer season. While we have received emergency federal funds it will not maintain us through the month of August. Due to these combined factors, we ask for additional local assistance in order to sustain our programming through the summer and into our fall season. This would give Aspire adequate time to recover, gain more students with fall enrollment, and once more become financially stable to continue serving our students and community.