

**Ferris State University
Faculty and Staff Diversity Mini-Grant Application**

I. Identification

Name of Primary Applicant Carrie Weis
Members of Team Yolanda Barnes
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II. Event Title (25 words or less)

Fred Weston: Living With HIV
an artist's retrospective

III. Specific core value, strategic initiative, or goal related to diversity that the event will address. (See the University Strategic Plan and the Diversity Plan)

The specific core value that this event will
address is goal 2 as outlined in the University
Strategic planning goals and initiatives; develop a
University community where all are valued, welcomed, and
informed.

IV. Abstract (150-200 word, use additional paper if necessary). If the application is approved the abstract will be posted on the Diversity Office's website.

V. Event Narrative (up to 4 pages single-spaced)

- a. The conceptual framework that explains how the event will augment Ferris's long-term commitment to diversity.
- b. The goals and intended outcome(s) of the event.
- c. A statement on how the event relates to the curriculum or a specific discipline, if appropriate.
- d. A timeline.
- e. Description of the target audience, including the estimated number of participants.
- f. The expected impact that the event will have on Ferris.
- g. A specific plan to assess the impact of the event on the University.

VI. Budget

- a. Anticipated expenses (itemize and briefly explain).
- b. Funds anticipated from other sources (please list).
- c. Total amount requested from Faculty and Staff Diversity Mini-Grant.

VII. Final Report

A final report is required and it will appear on the Diversity Office's website. That report is due no later than three months after the funded activity. The final report should address:

- a: A self-evaluation
- b: Results of the event assessment
- c: Attendance figures
- d: Final budget

Applicants' Signatures:

Carrie Weis
Yolanda E. Barnes
Maura Sullivan

Submission Date: _____

Submit applications to Patty Terry, Diversity Office, CSS 312. Review of applications will begin upon receipt and continue contingent on available funds.

IV. Abstract

Fred Weston, a Detroit native, is an artist, a Ferris Alumni and an African American living with HIV. The Rankin Art Gallery will invite Fred Weston to exhibit his artwork on our campus in an effort to showcase the works of an artist who is living with one of the most misunderstood and stereotyped diseases. This exhibit will act as an educational tool with the intention to help dispel the myths and stigmas of the HIV virus. Through honest and informative discussions led by health care professionals, counselors and professors, our students can learn the truth about this disease. By viewing the artwork and interacting with the artist, our students will be given an intimate view of the emotional and physical reflections of Weston's personal journey.

V. Event Narrative

The HIV/AIDS virus can only be described as one of the most frightening diseases to develop in the twentieth century. It is surrounded by stigma and discrimination such as racism, homophobia, degeneracy and sexual transgression. These stereotypes can result in people living with HIV/AIDSs being rejected, shunned and feared. AIDS-related stigma leads to discrimination towards people living with the virus. This type of discrimination, as any other, means that people are treated negatively and denied opportunities on the basis of their status.

This event has the capacity to address the University goal and the Diversity plan strategic goal to create a University that is welcoming to diverse populations. By providing information and open discussions we have the ability to dispel the myths and stigma related to a virus that affects over 33 million people globally. According to the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation every 9 ½ minutes someone in the U.S. is infected with the HIV virus. If Ferris is to create an environment that is inclusive and sensitive to a diverse population it must embrace addressing every arena in which discrimination takes place. Through visual imagery created by an artist living with HIV, a personal and emotional connection can be made that reinforces the humanity of one victim of this disease. Through presentations by health care professionals and counselors we can provide our University community with tools to help fight the discrimination associated with HIV. This exhibit will reinforce the commitment of the University in its mission to create an environment in which everyone is valued, welcomed and informed.

The main goal of the event will be to educate and open the minds of our students to be more accepting and knowledgeable about a disease that is affecting millions. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention approximately 33 million people globally were living with HIV/AIDS in 2007. The exhibition is a body of work that focuses on an artist's personal experience with the HIV virus. The works of Fred Weston, an accomplished artist will be on display in the Rankin Art Gallery. The artist is currently living in New York. He attended Ferris from 1965-1971 and stayed in Miller Hall. He is the original founder of the Alpha Phi Alpha group, the first Black Greek Fraternity on campus during the 1970's. The Alphas had a sit-in in

the 1970's during the race riots. Weston is HIV positive and gives speeches to students in secondary and post secondary schools about living with AIDS. He is an artist, a painter, and a poet. He also is a designer and is now on disability unemployment due to AIDS. Weston is an easily identifiable persona as we have many students from or familiar with the Detroit area. Another goal will be to dispel the stigma surrounding HIV so that our students will be more accepting and knowledgeable about living, working or interacting with anyone infected with the virus.

It is also our goal to work collaboratively with other departments on this event such as the Department of Language & Literature, Social Sciences, and the Office for Multicultural Student Services, the Diversity Office and the Health Center.

Timeline: The exhibit will be scheduled for December 2009. All contracts to be confirmed prior to September 2009. Artwork will be transported in November 2009 and installed the last week of November. Fred Weston will arrive on campus the first week of December for his presentation and the artist reception. During the second week of the exhibit a presentation by the counseling center will be given in the Dome Room. Local High School groups will be invited for this presentation and viewing of the work. The final week of the exhibit the winners of the writing contest will be announced and awards will be presented. Throughout the exhibit we will schedule private viewings for all appropriate classroom tours.

Dec. 1	exhibit opens
Dec. 3	artist lecture/reception
Dec. 10	presentation by health professional
Dec. 17	presentation of writing awards
Dec. 23	exhibit closes

Our target audience will be the entire Ferris and local community. This is a message that needs to be shared not only with our students but with faculty, staff, administration and local residents. The gallery is an open forum for the local community and regional school systems as well and I believe we can offer valuable information to the community in which we live through this venue. As part of this exhibit we will ask for support through a commitment made by professors in our psychology and social work departments as well as through the art programs offered at Ferris. Language & Literature students will have the opportunity to compete in a writing competition in response to the material and art presented. Outreach groups will be targeted such as local high school art and poetry students in an attempt to bring our community members on campus for a presentation of the work. According to gallery records approximately 700 viewers visit the art exhibits on a monthly basis. I submit that with increased promotion and support from professionals on campus that we could engage a large number of viewers.

An event such as this can have far reaching impacts. Through the visual imagery and personal presentation by Fred Weston our audience can achieve a personal connection with an individual that is struggling with a disease that touches a huge percentage of our global population. Through the exhibit and educational programming we have the opportunity to touch the lives of our student population as well as our regional community in a venue that is not being addressed in our area. By making this connection with Weston and learning about the disease there will be the opportunity to share knowledge, defeat stereotypes, and to become a more unified community.

Assessment will be measured by attendance of the exhibit and associated events. A carefully designed survey will be dispensed in an attempt to measure the expansion of a person's understanding of the HIV virus. It will also try to measure the impact the information presented had on dispelling stereotypes and a general response to the clarity of the message of the artists work. Specific data will be recorded in an attempt to identify the demographics of our viewers. A report will be submitted on the level of participation of local high school groups and the writing competition.

Budget

Newsletter	150.00
Artist Honorarium	400.00
Awards for competition	500.00
Invitation (show ca	80.00
round trip flight	550.00
Rental Car	102.00
Hotel (3 nights)	229.50
meals (31.00/day 3 days)	93.00
Shipping of work	1000.00
reception/lecture/music/catering	750.00
writing competition publication	300.00
Total	4154.00
Funds:	-1500.00

The Rankin Gallery will provide \$ 1500.00 from the gallery budget towards expenses related to this exhibit.

Total Grant Request: 2654.00