

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Amanda Lane and I have been an elementary school theatre arts teacher for nineteen years. During my time as an educator, I have seen the evolution in students' social emotional needs and how they are affected by the challenges that society places upon them. Fortunately, I have had the pleasure of working alongside Mr. Scott Pacitti and together we have been able to address this very important area of growth for our young adolescents.

I began working with Scott and Planet Improv Inc. nearly ten years ago and have had nothing but wonderful experiences. The areas of improvisation and theatrical expression are Scott's strong suits, and early on we were able to design learning experiences for students that focused around these skills. As our collaborations continued, we began realizing how impactful his workshops and in-services could be in teaching both theatre skills and healthy responses to the social-emotional needs of children. Together we were able to create experiences that used improvisation as a tool for how to respond to real issues our youth face such as bullying, recognizing their self-worth, and discovering their own voices. Students were able to use the safe space of a theatrical setting to learn how to address difficult issues and build a strong foundation for their social-emotional well-being. Through Scott's facilitation of such activities, I can happily share that I have noticed an improvement in our students' overall social growth.

The success Mr. Pacitti experienced through both large and small projects at our school has allowed him to use improvisational theatre as a gateway for teaching lifelong inter- and intrapersonal skills. Here at First Ward Creative Arts Academy, we are happy to participate as a collaborating school if Mr. Pacitti's grant for "Choices" is awarded. As a Title I school, our students tend to face more challenges socially, educationally, and in their personal home lives. Finding community support is key to giving our students the best chance at overcoming those obstacles. Scott Pacitti and Planet Improv are helping to make this happen with generous funding so graciously provided by corporations such as your own.

Thank you for your time and consideration of Mr. Pacitti's proposal. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (980) 343-5485 or at amanda.fousek@cms.k12.nc.us

I look forward to hearing your approval of this project! Thank you!

Amanda Lane
Drama Educator
FWCAA