Application: 33215 | General

CU Children’s Book Festival 2023

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Page: Project Title

Project Title
CU Children’s Book Festival 2023

Page: Contact Information

Has this project been funded in the past with a CU Boulder Outreach Award?
Yes

Has the faculty applicant received a CU Boulder Outreach Award in the past?
No

Primary Faculty Applicant First Name
Adam

Primary Faculty Applicant Last Name
Crawley

Primary Faculty Applicant Title
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Primary Faculty Applicant Preferred Pronouns (optional)
he/him

Primary Faculty Applicant Department
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College/School Dean UCB Campus Box Number
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Co-Applicant #1 First Name
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Co-Applicant #1 Last Name
Minger

Co-Applicant #1 Title
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Co-Applicant #1 Preferred Pronouns (optional)
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Co-Applicant #1 Department
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Co-Applicant #1 UCB Campus Box Number

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Co-Applicant #2 First Name
Emily

Co-Applicant #2 Last Name
Johns-O'Leary

Co-Applicant #2 Title
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Co-Applicant #2 Preferred Pronouns (optional)
she/her

Co-Applicant #2 Department
School of Education

Co-Applicant #2 UCB Campus Box Number
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Co-Applicant #2 Email Address
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(If there are more than 3 co-applicants, include the additional names and information in the "Faculty Member Roles" section.)

Co-Applicant #3 First Name
Stephanie

Co-Applicant #3 Last Name
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Co-Applicant #3 Title
Marketing & Promotions Manager, Boulder Book Store

Co-Applicant #3 Preferred Pronouns (optional)
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Co-Applicant #3 Department
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Co-Applicant #3 UCB Campus Box Number

Co-Applicant #3 Email Address

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Page: Proposal Narrative

Demonstrated Need

Children's literature is central to reading and other subjects. Texts not only support reading fluency, comprehension, and interest, but also foster children's cultural and literate identities. Building on four years of successful events, the Children's Book Festival (CBF) showcases CU and the School of Education (SOE), deepening and extending our relationships with school districts and the larger community. With the support of our SOE Dean, faculty, staff, and students along with community partners (e.g., the Boulder Book Store [BBS], Boulder Public Library), this event is becoming a SOE signature event.

Via in-person and virtual components, the 2023 CBF will incorporate past learning and successes while widening the opportunity to more schools and homes - particularly those of diverse students locally, in rural parts of the state, and beyond. With BBS support, we will secure five notable, diverse authors who will participate in 1) school visits in five partner districts [Day One], and 2) on-campus panels attended by youth from a local elementary school while also live-streamed for remote participation by other classrooms and families [Day Two]. Further and as part of their coursework, CU undergraduate students will read the authors' books, create open-access resources for teachers available on the festival website, and assist at the on-campus event.

The CBF responds to two needs: 1) schools' and libraries' requests to participate as the event becomes increasingly well-known, and 2) the documented, limited presence of culturally-responsive texts in K-8 curricular materials and children's book publication (Armstrong, 2022; Cooperative Children's Book Center, 2021).

Project Goals and Objectives

The CBF has three goals addressing various stakeholders and centering high quality, culturally-diverse children's literature: 1) connect children to authors and books to build reading motivation, 2) support teachers' and families' book integration to foster reading achievement, and 3) engage SOE preservice teachers in creating educational resources and participating in a literacy outreach event.

For goal #1, we will provide children in the partner schools with a copy of that author's book. The children will hear from the author about their writing process and have their book signed. In the panels at CU, children will hear from all of the authors and receive a signed book. Children participating remotely will watch the live-streamed panels and be invited to pose questions via the chat feature.

For goal #2, we will assist schools' preparation and implementation for their on-site author visits: providing books for advance reading, connecting to Colorado Academic Standards and curriculum, transporting the author, and attending the visit to engage and support as needed. For teachers and families participating remotely, we will provide open-access educational resources (e.g., discussion and author guides, book trailers) on our website to support reading and preparing for the festival.

For goal #3, we will incorporate the festival in two undergraduate courses (EDUC 2311 and 2050) required for elementary education majors and sometimes taken as an elective by other CU students. Students will read the focal books, explore research about similar events, create open-access educational resources for the website, and assist at the on-site events.

Project Plans and Timeline

Jan-Oct 2023
CBF Committee meets to design and implement event (16 meetings)

Feb-March
BBS shares author list for consideration
SOE staff procure venues and technology

April-May
Committee invites schools for author visits and CU campus event (from SOE partner schools and interested others)
BBS and committee finalize author list to invite from national publishers (including one Colorado-based author)

June-Aug
Publishers confirm author participation
Committee continues to invite and confirm partner schools, as needed

Aug-Sept
Committee and schools collaborate for on-site visits and CU panels
Committee orders and distributes books (via BBS) to schools
SOE staff create marketing materials and begin publicizing
Committee invites public libraries, local family organizations, etc. to participate in the online panels
Committee contacts partner district leadership to attend in-person events and promote online events in their networks
CU undergraduate students read books and create educational materials

October
Educational materials posted on the festival website
Partner schools continue reading books and preparing for visits
Committee and schools continue communication
Continued publicizing event in SOE, CU, and beyond
Develop surveys for post-event feedback by schools, online attendees, and committee

Oct. 26-27
CU Children's Book Festival - 2023 (author visits, on-campus and online panels)
Distribute feedback surveys (online participants)

Nov
Committee debriefs about the event
Distribute and collect feedback surveys (schools, committee)
Send appreciation to authors, publishers, schools, and other stakeholders

Dec
Committee reads and discusses survey feedback
Begin writing CU Outreach grant report about the event

Jan 2024
Evaluation data summarized
Final report submitted to CU Outreach Office

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Accessibility Objectives and Goals

The SOE is nationally recognized for its commitments to democracy, diversity, equity, and justice. This mission is imbued in every SOE decision and outreach effort. It is actualized in the CBF by:

1) Selecting schools for in-person events: We prioritize schools identified as SOE partners for research, teaching, and outreach. Several are bilingual schools. We use economic and ethnicity measures (per the Colorado Department of Education website) to ensure diversity and equity.

2) Fostering relationships with other schools and sites for online events: While the online events are open to all, we will intentionally invite schools, libraries, and other organizations who serve diverse communities. For example, we will invite rural Colorado schools with whom committee members and SOE faculty have relationships for research and/or teaching.

3) Selecting authors and focal books: Diversity of authors and the books' characters is a key factor in the selection process. Of the past festivals, 17 of the 23 authors have identified as people of color; others have addressed diversity explicitly in their books (e.g. "The Proudest Color"). Cultural accuracy and authenticity is paramount in our selection.

4) Integrating in coursework: As part of their training to be justice-minded teachers, SOE students explore how diversity, culture, and language differences are supported in the classroom. These are required expectations in the educational resources CU students create for the festival.

5) Donating books: Any books that are not distributed as part of the CBF are donated to schools and organizations that primarily serve diverse students.

Primary Applicant and Co-Applicant Roles

Adam Crawley (Primary Applicant and Literacy Studies Assistant Teaching Professor) is the faculty project lead. He will facilitate author selection, coordinate logistics for the campus in-person and virtual event, make SOE publicity requests, and organize CU students' creation of educational resources. He brings external experience with children's literature events and awards to this project and serves as the lead instructor for two elementary education courses relative to this project (EDUC 2311-Children's Literature and EDUC 2050-Step Up for Social Justice). Adam's teaching, research, and service focus on children's literature and its use in elementary contexts. The CBF project extends this work, particularly via connecting with authors and collaborating with Colorado K-8 schools. Further, he will write articles about the CBF, including implementation processes and impact with various stakeholders.

Emily Johns-O'Leary (Co-applicant and Literacy Studies Doctoral Candidate) serves as the festival graduate assistant, a 0.25 appointment funded by the SOE Dean for Fall 2023. Although assisting with many festival components, her main responsibilities include supporting the CBF committee members' work with partner schools (e.g., creating and facilitating the completion of planning documents, obtaining student media permissions) and assisting the faculty project lead with CU students' creation and revision of educational resources for the website. Emily's work with the festival extends her teaching of the elementary education reading methods course (EDUC 3320) where she will promote festival attendance and involvement across sections. She will also be invited to co-author CBF-related articles with the primary applicant.

We describe external co-applicants in the next section.

External Partner Role

Judy Minger (Co-applicant #1, Women Investing in the School of Education [W.I.S.E] member) is a CBF committee member and serves as the event's community co-chair. Judy collaborates with the faculty co-chair, promotes the event throughout Boulder, and facilitates book ordering and distribution from Boulder Book Store (BBS) to partner schools.

BBS has successful relationships with children's book publishers and attracts notable authors. Thus, Stephanie Schindhelm (BBS Marketing & Promotions Manager) is our primary liaison with authors and publishers - providing a list of authors for committee consideration, extending invitations to publishers, coordinating with publishers on travel logistics, ensuring availability of books for schools and festival participants, and providing a 20% discount for all CBF book purchases.

Additional external partners include:

Boulder Public Library: The library publicizes the event. Further, they might host an extra author event that would be free and open to the public (Application pending with a particular author.)

Partner schools and districts for author visits at schools and/or on-campus: St. Vrain, Adams12, Boulder Valley, JeffCo, Denver Public Schools

Authors and publishers: The authors travel nationwide to Boulder to share about their books and writing processes. Publishers coordinate and fund their travel.

Community members: The CBF committee members work with partner schools and publicize the festival. Members are volunteers, and most are retired educators and current members of CU-SOE advocacy and advisory groups.

Norlin Library: Orders CBF books for their collection and use by CU students creating CBF educator resources. They also help promote the event.

Audience Served

There are varying types of participation that engage different audiences:

Day 1: School Visits – Five schools (one per partner district) will host an author visit. The schools are invited based on their current CU-SOE partnership and/or interest. Many of these are Title I and/or bilingual schools. The audience includes children, their teachers, other school staff (e.g., administration, support staff), and families. We will also extend invitations to district leadership (e.g., literacy directors). We will provide copies of the author's featured book to the school to build enthusiasm and support reading and preparation for the event. Pending book availability, each child will receive their own copy of the book signed by the author.

Day 2: Author Panels on CU campus - Two grade-range author panels (PreK-3; 4-6) will occur on campus. The in-person audience will include children from an invited BVSD partner school (separate from the author visit schools but with similar demographics), their teachers, and chaperones. Children will select which book they prefer for their own copy and will have their book signed following each panel. We will also invite community partners, school district leadership, and members of the SOE community.

Day 2: Live-streamed Panels - The author panels will be broadcast for remote participation, including a chat feature for questions. Registration is free and open to all. Further, the committee will extend invitations to rural schools and past participating schools. For context, 450 adults (serving 2,000+ K-8 students) registered in a past year.

Student Involvement (if applicable)

CU undergraduate and graduate students will be involved in event preparation and implementation.

Undergraduate students: Approximately 180 students (enrolled in EDUC 2311-Children's Literature and Literacy Engagement in Elementary Schools and EDUC 2050-Step Up for Social Justice) will participate as part of coursework. Participation will include 1) reading the focal authors' books, 2) creating educational resources that will be open-access on the festival website along with book-related displays for the on-campus event, and 3) supporting at the on-campus event with set-up, greeting, general hosting, and take-down. Students will discuss the focal books with their course instructor and be supported in their creation and revision of resources by their instructors along with the faculty project lead and graduate assistant. Students unable to attend the in-person events will be encouraged to watch the live-streamed panels. Through their participation, the undergraduate students will read and discuss books from diverse authors, explore the importance of such books for youth and in schools, and connect to the Colorado Academic Standards for reading.

Graduate students: In addition to the graduate assistant, approximately 5 doctoral students will participate. Some of these students are GPTIs for EDUC 2311 and 2050 who will incorporate the books and festival in their classes (with support from the faculty primary applicant) along with attending the festival themselves. Additional doctoral students from the Literacy Studies program will be invited to attend the event to support on-site logistics as needed and to consider possibilities for similar literacy engagements in other, future contexts.

Contingency Plan

Our past festivals provide us experience implementing the event - in part or full - virtually. Specifically, all author visits with schools (Day One) and the author panels (Day Two) could move from in-person to Zoom with authors and attendees joining remotely. To ensure children could still receive a copy of the author's book, CBF committee members could pick-up books from the BBS and deliver them to each school for distribution. As needed, we could explore funding the books' shipment to schools - likely with SOE donor support.

For virtual events, attendees could read and prepare for the online visits in advance. CU students would still create open-access educational resources available on our website to support teachers' and families' preparation. In addition, teachers, families, and children could submit questions in advance for discussion with the authors.

For context, we hosted the 2020 and 2021 festivals in fully virtual formats. In 2022, one of our authors was unable to attend in-person. However, the author conducted a webcam visit with the partner school and sent autographed stickers that children could adhere in their books. For the panel, the remote author engaged in conversation via webcam with the other on-site panelists.

As we have learned, we excel in creating alternatives when needed. Further, the authors have been extremely generous in accommodating this need and gave willingly of their time via Zoom. Based on our experiences, we could easily make these adjustments (if needed), with limited impact on the project plan, timeline, and budget.

Continuing or Previously Funded Applicants (if applicable)

JUSTIFICATION FOR CONTINUED FUNDING:

Our goal, shared by Dean Schultz, is for CBF to become a SOE and CU signature event. Each year, we grow in scale - addressing targeted population needs, increasing SOE community participation, improving the quality of preparation and learning, and strengthening connections with schools and communities.

2023 is a transition year in CBF leadership. The previous co-chairs were retired faculty who remain active and vital to the event's success. A new faculty member is now the primary applicant following Fall 2022 CBF involvement.

Because of past years' format shifts due to COVID and growth, we are strengthening and streamlining our existing format. Further, we are seeking ways to become more financially self-sustaining for future years of this event.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROJECT OVER TIME:

After two virtual CBFs (2020, 2021), we added on-site school visits in 2022. Per schools' feedback and our on-site observations, we learned this was a hugely successful and desired component.

This year, we are applying for a visit from the Library of Congress current National Ambassador for Young People's Literature (Meg Medina). If accepted, we will include another event: free, open to the public at the Boulder Public Library, and further increasing in-person audiences.

EVIDENCE OF IMACT TO DATE:

In past years combined, thousands participated via in-person or virtual events as documented through on-site attendance and virtual registrations.

Survey feedback and on-site observation reveal teachers' appreciation of the event, alignment with Colorado Academic Standards, and impact on students' reading enthusiasm and comprehension.

Page: Assessment/Evaluation Impact

Assessment/ Evaluation Plans

Via multiple types of assessment (e.g., surveys, informal feedback, registration database), we evaluate the following aspects:

* The quality and effectiveness of the event: A survey sent immediately following the author panels (in-person, live-streamed) captures participants' spontaneous feedback. A more detailed survey will be sent to teachers of partner classrooms and their principals from the in-school author visits.

* The scope of the event: The registration database provides rich and detailed data including the number of registrants, their role (teacher, parent, CU student, etc.), connection to CU (staff, alumni, donor, etc.), location (district, state) and grade level, and how many K- 8 students will be viewing the event.

* The quality of the learning experience for CU students: Students and instructors in children's literature courses will offer informal feedback regarding the event.

The CBF Committee debriefs at least twice following the event. The first debriefing session occurs within two weeks following the festival. The purpose is to reflect on our own observations and experiences from the in-school author visits and the on-campus author panels. Committee members are also invited to share their feedback via a survey. The second debriefing session occurs after we have received the survey data, online registration data, and other feedback from various stakeholders. Committee members read and discuss the feedback together to highlight what worked well and what needs improvement for future planning.

All of this assessment data assists us with the preparation of the final Outreach Grant report (and informs this current proposal).

Provide a breakdown of the estimated number of those who will be involved and directly affected by the project. (Note: This is not to suggest that more is better; the committee understands that some outreach work may go deeper but serve fewer people.)

CU Boulder Faculty

5

CU Boulder Staff

5

CU Boulder Graduate Students

6

CU Boulder Undergraduate Students

180

External Constituents

2070

Page: Budget Information

Budget Narrative

Providing books to participants has been well-received. Teachers' appreciation and children's in-the-moment reactions when receiving books for author signing is palpable. Further, funding books benefits our BBS partner and draws publishers' attention, thus increasing award-winning authors' interest to participate. Specifically, the budget supports book purchase and distribution as follows:

Author visits in schools: For each school, we aim to provide enough books so all participating teachers and students (approximately one or two grade levels) can receive a book for reading and signing.

Author panels on CU campus: A BVSD school will be invited to bring two groups of students (one per panel) to CU. Before the event, children will select which book they prefer for their own copy to read prior and have signed at the event. The school will also be provided a set (one copy of each book) to aid teachers' preparation and continued use.

Online registrants: Limited books will be available for online registrants, ideally for one or more books to be sent to remotely participating classrooms or schools.

CU instructors: To support their inclusion of the books in their courses, each children's literature instructor will receive a set of the books. After the festival, the books will be housed in the SOE children's literature collection.

Additionally, the author panels on the CU campus incur costs for physical space (e.g., Williams Village Conference Center) and live-streaming technology. As the budget allows, we will fund bus transportation for the BVSD school to attend the author panels at CU.

Other Funding Sources

We are most fortunate to have support from SOE Dean Schultz, CBF committee members, and other donors who generously donate time and financially.

* Dean Schultz funds a 0.25 graduate assistant for the fall semester for this event. (2023 will be the second year of this support.)

* Dean Schultz and the SOE Literacy Studies program provide the primary applicant (instructor-track faculty) course release to support festival work.

* Publishers fund all authors' costs, including transportation, hotel, and meals.

* BBS serves as the primary liaison with the CBF committee, publishers, and authors. BBS shares authors for consideration, extends invitations and confirms with publishers, and coordinates all travel logistics. Further, they provide us a 20% discount on books purchased for partner schools and online registrants.

* CBF committee members (many of whom are retired educators and serve on the SOE Women Investing in the School of Education [W.I.S.E.] and/or Development Advisory Board [DAB]) volunteer countless hours to plan and implement the event. Additionally, they deliver books to partner schools in advance; transport authors to partner schools for visits and remain on-site to engage with children and teachers; and donate snacks, water, appreciation gifts, etc. for the authors and SOE staff.

* SOE staff support the event in numerous ways, including but not limited to campus venue reservation, publicity (e.g., poster creation, website updates), and live-streaming technology.

Such financial and in-kind support make the aspects funded by the CU Outreach grant increasingly possible and impactful.

Funding Requested

11000

Provide a breakdown of the project budget.

Project Expenses

Budget Expenses

4500
Books for five partner schools - author visits
materials/supplies/equipment

1875
Books for one BVSD school - author panels
materials/supplies/equipment

1575
Books for online registrants and schools
materials/supplies/equipment

150
Books for CU instructors and SOE collection
materials/supplies/equipment

300
BVSD buses to campus author panels, four buses
travel expense

650
Williams Village Conference Center for on-campus author panels
other direct costs

1000
Live-streaming hosting and technology
other direct costs

115
Spanish translation of event items
other direct costs

833
GAIR @ 8.19%
GAIR

Page: Endorsement and Final Report Upload

Share the draft of your proposal with your department chair/director in advance of submission and obtain a one-page endorsement letter that includes details on how the program will be supported and is tied to the outreach and engagement mission of the department/campus program. This is an important part of your application.

Note: if the faculty applicant is also a chair/director, the applicant cannot endorse their own project. Please have a dean or associate dean submit a letter on the applicant's behalf.

Chair/Director Endorsement Letter

Download File (https://cuboulderoutreach-engage.secure-platform.com/file/40310/eyJ0eXAiOiJKV1QiLCJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJtZWRpYUlkIjo0MDMxMCwiYWxsb3dOb3RTaWduZWRVcmwiOiJGYWxzZSIsImlnbm
4C51wccH4XezbDDoy9tQq5SlE?Dean-s%20letter_CU%20Outreach%20Grant%20Proposal_Children-s%20Book%20Festival_2023.pdf)

If you were awarded outreach funds in the past, you are required to submit a Final/Status Report, even if you have not yet completed the current project.

Only applies if continuing the same outreach award project or are building on previous work for a new project. A final/status report needs to be submitted even if the continuing project has a new faculty applicant.

You do not need to submit a report if the project was funded with a community impact grant or micro grant received from the Office for Outreach Engagement.

The final report form can be downloaded from the Office for Outreach and Engagement website (https://www.colorado.edu/outreach/ooe/outreach-awards/individual-award-application-process).

Final/Status Report

Download File (https://cuboulderoutreach-engage.secure-platform.com/file/40311/eyJ0eXAiOiJKV1QiLCJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJtZWRpYUlkIjo0MDMxMSwiYWxsb3dOb3RTaWduZWRVcmwiOiJGYWxzZSIsImlnbm
oUhKQ_nBpLkCyjWu6_0nD-mjOAzCFgt-Yp0L1nP_vI?fy22_23_Children-s%20Book%20Festival_Final%20Report_April%202023.docx)