# Organization Information: Spartanburg Art Museum COLORS

*Author: Student D.G. in Spring 2017 section of English 371, Grant Writing*

Spartanburg Art Museum COLORs program was established as a 501 (c) nonprofit organization in 1993 by Laura Pinkley, who modeled the program after the Harlem Horizon Art Studio at the Harlem Hospital Center in New York City. The mission of the Spartanburg Art Museum is to provide underserved youth ages 6-18 with high quality art instruction in a safe environment during the critical after-school hours, free of charge. Giving students the vehicle to express themselves in a healthy manner with professional instruction by local artists and introducing them to professional grade materials. This program teaches students creativity, teamwork, problem solving, sufficient use of supplies, and taking care of studio space (COLORS).

Harlem Horizon Art Studio at Harlem Hospital Center in New York City was designed to offer therapy to pediatric in patients who suffer trauma as well as outpatients and community members of all ages. The primary goal of Harlem Horizon Art Studio at Harlem Hospital Center was to encourage children to express themselves by making art. Laura Pinkley brought this program to Spartanburg, South Carolina and with her help, Spartanburg has served over 3,000 youth in the community (The Horizon Art Studio).

Spartanburg Art Museum COLORs programs offers underserved youth ages 6-18 an outlet to become engaged in arts during the critical hours. With Spartanburg’s high crime and poverty rate, it is essential the youth receives a fun, safe structured getaway to allow their imagination to speak.

March 2017 Spartanburg Art Museum (Chapman Cultural Center) received a grant from Mary Black Foundation of an amount of: $21,500. Mary Black Foundation granted this amount to help develop and implement a professional development for early childhood providers to integrate creativity and the arts in their classrooms.

Youth in Spartanburg communities our program targets lack the opportunities, guidance, and quality family time compared to that of their surrounding counties. By providing these kids with valuable, informative access to art and media via Spartanburg Art Museum, we endeavor to empower these kids to learn and understand the values of art education, problem-solving, hard-work, and dedication that have a strong possibility of forever changing their lives. The primary aim of the program is to inspire children to explore their potential through art and give each child equal opportunity to retrieve numerous artistic skills.

The organization uses art to reach out to children who may be at risk of psychological disorders, gang affiliation, and unhealthy lifestyles. More than 3,000 youth have participated in its short history. Programs are delivered by two full time employees with a seventeen-member board of directors providing oversight and governance.