

Manatee School For the Arts Technical Theatre Advancement Project

The mission of Manatee School For the Arts (MSA) is to provide an educational environment that allows students to succeed and grow academically by acknowledging and accommodating different learning styles. This is accomplished by creating an educational program that infuses and integrates the visual and performing arts into core academic curriculum.

For students to acquire the skills needed to successfully produce their shows, concerts, and community engagement events, they need access to modern and advanced technology, especially in the theatre program, as proposed by their **Technical Theatre Advancement Project** initiative. The \$109,000 Impact100 SRQ grant would fully fund replacements for the MSA theatre program's failing lighting and broken sound equipment including overhead stage lighting, a lighting management console, and on- and off-stage sound equipment.

The high-tech vertical console tower, replacing older technology, will integrate software and advanced lighting features, giving students the power to design and execute unlimited color variations and template patterns and to precisely control designed stage illumination. The new microphones, receivers and headsets will allow students to produce quality sound, control amplification and superior vocal and track output, generating a state-of-the-art theatre experience for student technicians, performers, and guests. Students will gain valuable hands-on experience in use, proper maintenance, up-keep and repairs of the new hardware. And student stage performers will have more confidence in performing before a public audience, knowing the updated equipment will not fail during performances.

With 55% of MSA's 2,000 students from under-served and under-represented populations, many may not otherwise have exposure to the performing arts. MSA's environment allows students to successfully thrive and be engaged in a creative environment, thus creating a sense of belonging and accomplishment. By infusing the arts in all academic programs, teachers allow students to relate to their coursework through many of the multiple intelligences. Further, many MSA students continue in the arts and technical theatre after graduation. The new lighting and sound equipment will enhance the students' education, skills, and experience and directly impact their future success in a multitude of fields. It also provides MSA the ability to achieve industry theatre operations standards that adhere to the Florida State Standards of teaching and learning.

The impact of this initiative will be measured through continued curriculum enrollment, shows produced and events participated in, and tracking graduates who pursue the arts and technical theatre in college or as a career. These upgrades will be utilized for many years, and they transcend across multiple course curricula utilized not only in theatre performance, but in classroom educational settings. With upwards of ten thousand individuals annually experiencing MSA's shows, the impact will spread beyond the students into the community for years to come.