

Getting Involved with FUNDRED + Fanning the Flames!

Classroom by Classroom

Contact art, science or social studies teacher(s) and ask for some time to give them brief overview of the project and discuss how they can implement it in the classroom. Be sure to let them know that this can be a 20-minute lesson plan or a more extended session. Perhaps you can volunteer to help them out that day in the classroom. You may be able to work with teachers directly to initiate a strategic approach to getting a majority of students involved in the project (see below).

Note: We have found when FUNDREDS are given as homework assignments, they are rarely returned.

School-wide event

Set up an appointment with the principal to brief them on the project; this can be a casual conversation that gives the story of FUNDRED, or you could show the PowerPoint, and/or videos. It may be appropriate to invite a key teacher(s) to this meeting or ask a teacher or parent to set up the appointment. In this meeting with the principal you may determine an effective way to get the school involved. For example:

- If the art teacher sees all of the students, and is willing, he/she could coordinate scheduling so that all students have the chance to create their own FUNDRED. In many schools, not every student has an art class, so this won't work to get full participation.
- In that case, coordinate with English, Social Studies, or Homeroom teachers to do the project in their classrooms (perhaps all on the same day).
- School assemblies are great ways to introduce the project to the entire student body, hand out FUNDRED templates, and get the finished creativity turned back in *right then and there*.
- After school workshops and summer schools are great venues too.

School District

Once you see how simple the project is, and how well the students respond, consider helping other schools get started.

- Work with those in your networks to contact other schools in your region or beyond.
- We find the "direct transmission" is most effective in getting people excited, but sometimes you just need text to draw from when sending out a-mails to set up meetings. Try sending out the "blurb" as it has many key links to the website, lesson plans, and videos. Nothing sacrosanct about the text, feel free to change it as fits the bill!
- You might consider an introduction to the blurb with a personal experience and words of encouragement.
- We have found that presenting at county or district principal or art teachers meetings is a great way to get multiple schools signed on at once. Get FUNDRED on the agenda for the next meeting and provide lesson plans and templates for schools.

Regional Participation

- After-school programs are also great partners for the project. Beyond schools, reach out to after-school organizations, summer school programs, and youth clubs (such as Girl Scouts, Boys & Girls Club of America, YMCA, etc)

Partnerships + other Venues

- Partnerships between museums / art centers / community centers / after school programs are a great way to have fun and camaraderie with the project! These institutions often have pre-existing relationships with schools and communities and can be a great help in getting the word out and following up with individual schools or teachers.
- A simple exhibition of FUNDREDS, created locally and displayed publicly, is a powerful statement. There have been numerous FUNDRED shows around the country, in places such as the Queens Museum of Art, the Contemporary Art Museum Houston, and high school display areas and shopping malls. We have seen that having a local display is a great way to get area schools motivated in a timely manner, and seeing hundreds and thousands of bills at once is truly amazing!

Service Learning

Students initially learn about the project by participating in the classroom.

- Student Service Learning: Students (with initial help from teacher) can present the FUNDRED project and activity with other grade levels and classes within their own school. Set a timeline and strategy to get all classes involved.
- More Student Service Learning: Students share the FUNDRED project and activity with 2 siblings, neighbors and/or friends that go to different schools with information about the FUNDRED activity for their teacher.
- Community Outreach: Students can set up info tables and drawing stations at community events, art fairs, parent/visitor events, retirement homes, hospitals, etc.

Essential Resources

- The FUNDRED project has printed up templates in bulk and can provide them to schools as requested. Simply go to fundred.org and click “order blank templates” on the homepage. Here you can order as many templates as needed, and you will find the option to assist with the \$. 04 per template shipping costs or have that cost waived if it is a burden.
- If you will be in charge of distributing templates, make a simple sign-out sheet as templates are distributed, have an expected return date, and then follow-up