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Student Affairs Fee
Advisory Board
DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Funding Request Form FY2026

Department should complete one form for each individual request

Department:
MSC Programs

Program, Service or Operation Requested:
James R. Reynolds Gallery – Security guard wages

General Description:
Covers an annual cost of 25% of the security guard wages for the James R. Reynolds Gallery, managed by the MSC Visual Arts Committee. Security guard costs are outlined via a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the University Art Galleries (UART).

Request Type:
 Full
 Increase
 One-Time
 Partial/Matching

Type of Funds Requested:
 UAF
 Other

General Questions

How does this address an important need and/or positively impact students?

The mission of the MSC VAC is to “provide Texas A&M students the opportunity to connect to visual arts with their personal, professional and academic lives through art exhibitions (including student work), gallery programs, artist residencies and travel.” These exhibitions take place primarily in the James R. Reynolds Student Gallery located in the Memorial Student Center. MSC VAC procures insurance coverage for each MSC VAC exhibition in the James R. Reynolds Gallery through the Texas A&M University fine art insurance policy. As such, individual exhibits in the Reynolds Gallery may require special conditions for the preservation and safety of the works, and the VAC gallery coordinator works through the UART staff to ensure the guards are aware of such needs.

What department/Division strategic plan item does this support?

Department: Program with Excellence – Programming with excellence includes supporting and producing purposefully designed, high impact-high visibility events and activities that are mission-driven and mission-aligned.

DSA: Inclusive and Caring Communities - Ensure DSA programs, services, and facilities are welcoming and accessible for all. If guards are not able to be funded, services will not be guaranteed and may result in reduced hours of the Gallery.

Please provide data, evidence, and/or input (student faculty, staff, other) you gathered to help you determine the need for additional resources.

In previous years, UART has charged approximately \$6000/year as VAC's portion of wages (equal to 25% of total wages paid at \$8.25/hour). However, the following was recently shared in response to the FY25 MOU language: "The costs for hiring student workers has increased in recent years and some of our guards earn more than \$8.25/hr. Therefore, setting a cap <of \$6000> on the 25% is not feasible on our end." While it is agreed that student guard wages should be increased to stay competitive, a move to an estimated \$10/hour wage increases VAC's portion of wages (25%) to approximately \$7300/year.

What actions have you implemented or discontinued internally to address the identified need?

MSC Programs has supported the MSC Visual Arts Committee over the years as a departmental entity. With their move to RSO status, the department is allocating funds differently than in previous years. For FY25, MSC Programs has allocated over \$110,000 to the 17 MSC Council organizations to assist with their operating expenses. Since VAC does not have any source of revenue (due to offering free admission to the Gallery), we are covering these wages as a supplemental allocation given our belief that the Gallery plays a valuable role in highlighting the arts at Texas A&M, including showcasing student artwork.

If funding is granted, what metrics will you use to evaluate success of this program/service/operation?

VAC will continue to track the number of visitors to the Gallery, as well as fulfill their obligations related to the safety and security of the artwork being displayed.

Have other sources of funding (fundraising, sponsorship, reserves, etc.) been considered? Please explain.

As mentioned above, support for this need has come primarily from the MSC Programs reserve budget and will continue to do so for FY25. However, MSC Programs is looking to reduce its annual spending out of reserves, given that we no longer have EOY committee balances being rolled up into our accounts. If guards are not able to be funded more long-term, services will not be guaranteed and may result in reduced hours of the Gallery.

Total Estimated Cost

Funding Description	Amount
25% of wages at \$10/hour	\$7,300
<i>Less Estimated Partial/Matching Funds (if Applicable)</i>	
TOTAL INCREASE REQUESTED	\$7,300