

Annual Report 2024

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STATE FISCAL YEAR 2024

ARTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND ANNUAL REPORT

HONG DE WU GUAN, INC.

Grantee: Hong De Wu Guan, Inc.

Grantee Contact: 651-528-0816, HongDeMN@gmail.com

Executive Director: Nickola Caiyun Zhou

Chair/Secretary: Qi Zi Rui Zhou

Treasurer: Ben To

Board Members:

Adrian Stockman

David Skaurud

Garrett Glaser

Kyle Sanford

Administering Agency: This grant is authorized through S.F. 2938 and H.F. 3061 and administered by the Minnesota Department of Administration.

More information from this agency can be retrieved from Sarah Hernandez, Business Unit Coordinator, sarah.hernandez@state.mn.us or Lul Osman, Grant Specialist, lul.osman@state.mn.us.





PROJECT: FREE AFTER SCHOOL LION DANCE PROGRAM

While Hong De Wu Guan, Inc. (Hong De), will continue and expand its current roster of cultural programs and classes through Fiscal Year 24/25, much of the organization's increasing efforts during this time period will be towards the launch of a 16 week after-school Lion Dance program. This pilot program will be a model upon which all subsequent programs can iterate and expand upon. The program will be available to youth participants free of charge and will serve as an introduction to the skills and tenets of Lion Dance for those enrolled, as well as an introduction of Hong De Wu Guan, Inc. to one of the many communities the organization hopes to impact.

This pilot program will require outreach in two forms; first, to prospective partner organizations in the community that will be host to the physical activities of the program; second, to the community itself to raise awareness of the program's existence and to attract youth participants. This outreach has and will continue to take the form of Lion Dance performances at community events, one-day introductory workshops at schools or community centers, or advertising in print or other media.

Each weekly class is led by two instructors with extensive experience in Chinese culture and performing arts. Classes are designed to be both educational and fun, with a focus on building skills such as teamwork, discipline, and creativity.

Participants will learn the history and significance of Lion Dance, as well as the physical techniques and skills required to perform. In addition to learning the Lion Dance movements, children will learn to play the accompanying instruments and work as a team to coordinate the dance. Giving the children the opportunity to be celebrated at performances is one of the key ways Hong De will demonstrate the importance of each child's effort and the beauty of teamwork, courage, and determination.

PROJECT FUNDING:

This project is partially funded by a State Fiscal Year 2024/25 appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund of \$24,000. This grant is supplemental to all other income streams and used solely for the reimbursement of costs direct and necessary for the implementation and operation of the after-school program. Additional funding sources include revenue from public and private performances and tuition fees for classes offered to the general public.

Additional information about the project can be found on the project's web page: hongdemn.com/traditional-chinese-lion-dance-after-school-program/

Legacy Grant Funding:

Some of Hong De's proposed outcomes were achieved in FY24, enabled by the use of \$7,750 of its grant funding. Those funds were used to reimburse the purchase of lion dance equipment (including lion dance costumes, drums, and drum stands) totaling \$3,410, and lion dance uniforms totaling \$4,340. This leaves \$16,250 of grant funds available for use through the end of Fiscal Year 2025. Further details regarding outcomes achieved in Fiscal Year 2024 are in the final section of this report.

Additional Sources of Funding:

In addition to Legacy Grant funding, Hong De received \$23,536 from other sources. Approximately half of that amount came from private citizens paying to learn, or have their children learn, lion dance and/or Chinese martial arts. Another roughly \$10,000 came from businesses or private citizens who paid Hong De to perform lion dance. Last, an additional \$1600 came from Independent School District 270 as compensation for Hong De hosting a weekly school program, covering lion dance, dragon dance, and Chinese martial arts.



Overall Fiscal Year 2024 Expenses:

Hong De spent \$31,795 in Fiscal Year 2024, \$27,070 of which was directly related to the Project. These direct expenses include instructor fees of \$19,320 and the aforementioned \$7,750 in equipment and uniforms. Administrative and other expenses not directly related to the project totaled \$4,725. Approximately \$4k of this amount was for rent. The remaining amount covered storage containers, business cards, first aid kits, hearing protection for performers and other supplies.

Project Duration:

Project began on January 1, 2023 and is ongoing. This report covers activities performed during State Fiscal Year 2024.

Project Full Time Equivalents:

No FTE were funded through this grant.

Outlook:

The After School Lion Dance Program project will continue to build and grow through Fiscal Year 2025, utilizing the remainder of grant funds available through the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund grant and their other funding streams.



PROJECT OUTCOMES:

As a project that is to be executed through Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025, Hong De has been extremely active in Fiscal Year 2024 pursuing the goals set out to establish a free after-school Lion Dance program. This included:

- Hong De performed Lion Dance at 15 different schools, senior communities and cultural festivals. These performances are Hong De's most effective form of outreach, displaying the pageantry and wonder of the art form. The example set by Hong De's youth performers at these events communicates the group's mission of reaching diverse communities, and after the excitement generated by the participatory, interactive demonstrations, what follows are discussions with school leaders and community groups about how Hong De Wu Guan can provide after school programs within their community.
- Hong De Wu Guan opened new avenues of outreach with demonstrations of Kung Fu and Tai Chi at 5 separate events in the region.
- Hong De representatives directly communicated and toured multiple area schools, exploring the logistics and planning to implement after-school programs. While no pilot program was feasible within Fiscal Year 2024, these meetings were instrumental in setting the stage for the programs that are up and running in Fiscal Year 2025.

Data-driven outcomes and quantitative outputs laid out in the project planning stage will be documented in Fiscal Year 2025 reporting.



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