



Program: GiVE 365

12/18/2018 4:37 PM

Application #: 225373

Organization Legal Name:

Levitt Shell

Grant Admin Name:

Pitts, Anne E.

Grant Admin Email:

anne@levittshell.org

Application / Project Name:

Levitt Shell's 50 Free Concerts Series - 225373

In keeping with the grant requirement, does your organization have an updated, reviewed WHEREtoGIVEmidsouth profile?

Yes

To date, what is the amount of GiVE 365 grant funds used?

\$10,000.00

What progress has been made to date in reaching the goals set forward for the above referenced grant? If applicable, include the number of people served and any relevant outcomes.

The Levitt Shell received a grant of \$10,000 in support of the Memphis Music Series. This series featured 10 local/regional musicians and music. The project was designed to bring people from the surrounding communities together. The project planned 13 events with two events being rescheduled due to rain. The project saw a total of over 40,000 people in attendance. The artists presented in this project were: (1) Harlan T Bobo; (2) Mike Farris; (3) Patriotic Pops featuring the Memphis Symphony Orchestra; (4) Paul Thorn and the Blind Boys of Alabama; (5) Stax Music Academy featuring over 50 kids ages 13 - 18 enrolled in the Summer Music Experience at Stax Music Academy; (6) Rev Sekou; (7) Joyce Cobb; (8) Those Pretty Wrongs; (9) Memphis Renaissance featuring New Ballet Ensemble; (10) North Mississippi Allstars; (11) Opera Memphis; (12) Memphis Hepcats; (13) Squirrel Nut Zippers. Using the music that reflects the sights and sounds that are familiar to us, we sought to build a bridge that connects the people of our surrounding neighborhoods. From Binghampton with high poverty levels and a diverse cultural history to



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Each artist was intentionally chosen because their music reflects the diverse tastes, interest and cultural experiences of the surrounding neighborhoods. The music draws us all in together for a shared community experience.

Through this experience, everyone feels welcome and included because the music is familiar and resonates. We are brought together in a place where we are not divided by income - everyone has the same access.

This shared experience is the bridge. This feeling that everyone belongs in this place and can have the same level of experience and access. From here, this place of belonging, we have created a magnetic for people and communities. We become more connected and committed to a shared purpose and a shared community when we all can see our place in it.

Have there been any unexpected roadblocks or challenges? If so, what adjustments have you made to the scope of work and/or timeline?

Weather was our biggest challenge. With 2 concerts rained out/rescheduled, it presented a roadblock. However, knowing that weather was a potential factor, we scheduled additional concerts within the Memphis Music Series and were able to meet our minimum ten events within the scheduled timeline.

Please note any important changes to board membership or key staff that could affect this project.

The Levitt Shell has a new Executive Director - Natalie Wilson. Natalie comes from Shelby Farms where she has served as the Director of Visitor Experience for 10 years. Anne Pitts, the Executive Director from 2008 - 2018, made the decision to retire from the Shell at the end of 2018. After an exhaustive search, Natalie Wilson was chosen for her long-standing commitment to parks, strong advocacy for livable communities and outdoor experiences, experience with outdoor events management and fundraising. We are thrilled to welcome Natalie Wilson to the team and look forward to the continued success of the Levitt Shell under her leadership.

Are there any upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, wish list items, or organizational milestones you would like to share with GiVE 365 members?

The Levitt Shell has completed its 10th year, a great milestone. Over 500 free concerts presented, two renovations that helped secure the sustainability of the facility and its free programming, and further strengthening the financial growth and stability of the organization. At the end of this milestone year, Anne Pitts - our current Executive Director - will retire and turn over the future stewardship of the Levitt Shell's mission to a new director, Natalie Wilson.



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REMINDER: Please provide any articles or other media notices about this grant by uploading it in the Application Uploads table once you have submitted this report or paste in any relevant URLs to media coverage below.

Full Name of Executive Director or Authorized Signer:

Anne Pitts

Date:

2/1/2018

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