



Arizona Women's Partnership 2022 Grant Report

January 2023

Dear Paula,

Please accept this letter as our report for the 2022 Women's Partnership award.

Our organization, Ballet Folklórico Quetzalli-AZ, a dynamic 501c3 celebrating the colorful tradition of Mexican folkloric dance in the Valley of the Sun since 2008, received \$1500 from your foundation to help us thrive during the financial hardship caused by Covid-19 and made a huge difference as a business to open back up to have in-person classes again. This award helped compensate staff who were working without pay or benefits, but still stayed engaged to keep the organization afloat. It provided financial support to rebuild and resume activities. The full amount was utilized to compensate our Executive Director, Vanessa Ramirez, who has not been added back to our payroll as paid staff in order to ensure that the organization's operational costs are prioritized.

Some of BFQ-AZ's accomplishments in 2022 that you supported by funding part of our Director's compensation to keep this organization running include, an international performance in Cartagena, Colombia representing Arizona in August 2022, a current roster of over 80 students (majority of them BIPOC youth and adults), a new apprenticeship program to encourage advanced youth students from BFQ-AZ interested in teaching and passing on this cultural treasure to the younger generations, and numerous performances around the Valley as in-person events resumed (for example, First Friday events at the Herberger Theater, BFQ-AZ Presents Recorrido Mexicano at the Chandler Center for the Arts, El Puente at the Tempe Center for the Arts, the Annual Chandler Mariachi and Folklorico Festival and the Dia de los Muertos Festival at the Desert Botanical Gardens and St. Mary's Basilica in Phoenix.

BFQ-AZ is also celebrating its 15th Anniversary this year and funding opportunities like yours have been crucial for us to make it this far. A special performance at the Chandler Center for the Arts will take place in June 2023. If you are available, we invite you to attend or schedule a visit to any of our dance classes to learn about our cultural education program. Classes take place Monday-Thursday evening in the City of Mesa. If you are interested in any of these, please email liz@bfq-az.org.

Thank you again for your support and the important role you play in our community.

Sincerely,

Liz Alonso
Interim Board President
& Grants Coordinator
Ballet Folklórico Quetzalli-AZ

1829 S Horne St., Suite 15
Mesa, AZ 86204

info@bfq-az.org
480.579.3800