

The Leonardo/Student "Mind Riot" Program

Description: "Mind Riot" is a program for high school students, which is in its 9th year. The funding would allow six Utah cities to be added to the program: Logan, Ogden, Park City, Orem/Provo, St. George, and Price. Students design and build products that solve every day needs.

Agency: Heritage and Arts

Funding for: \$200,000 One time

Private Not-for-Profit

“MIND RIOT” – A HIGHSCHOOL PROGRAM AT THE LEONARDO

Description of Current Program:

The Leonardo’s Mind Riot program teaches 100 high school students annually from across Utah how to cultivate and apply 21st century skills, across multiple disciplines, to find innovative solutions for problems that are relevant to their lives. In addition to solving problems and working collaboratively, students are able to learn vital skills that will help them throughout their career and their life.

Over the course of three-days, Mind Riot brings together high schools students and leaders from industry and the community to accomplish the following:

Develop 21st century thinkers. We believe that the most productive individuals approach problems from multiple angles and using the tools inherent to specific subject areas like science, technology, engineering, art and math. Mind Riot, by design, develops creative critical thinking skills in our participants, who will become our future leaders.

Build a Future Workforce. Mind Riot is a unique opportunity for industry leaders to come together and directly inspire and mentor their future workforce. Better yet, it gives students real-world skills that will be invaluable to their college education and professional careers.

Teach Entrepreneurship Skills. Most students who participate in Mind Riot take their ideas to the next level. The Leonardo and our partners are actively providing on-going resources including mentors that can evolve their ideas into a practical real-world solution. Mind Riot is the ultimate catalyst for young entrepreneurs which leads directly into a mini-incubator experience – teaching invaluable skills while providing solutions to some of our toughest challenges.

The future we are facing – and building together - requires the next generation to think differently and more productively. Our Mind Riot program supports a generation of Utah-based high school students who will directly impact our community – and world – for the better.

Proposed State-wide Expansion:

Due to the impact and success of Mind Riot, now in its 8th year, we seek to expand these important teen learning opportunities to SIX regional hubs: Logan, Ogden, Park City, Orem/Provo, St. George and Price or Four Corners.

Especially rural youth do not often have opportunities to engage in these kinds of opportunities, and this expansion would allow The Leonardo Education Team to increase the number of students served from 100 to 220 per year. According to the 2018 Economic Report to the Governor by the Utah Economic Council, Utah's economy remains healthy. However, it's no secret that Utah has a shortage of skilled tech workers. According to an article published in the Salt Lake Tribune in January 2018, Governor Herbert, in Utah, there are 4,000 unfilled technology jobs. This does not bode well for the future of Utah's burgeoning science and technology economy.

Furthermore, as Utah struggles in 2018 with social problems including homelessness, poverty, climate change, education disparity, and more, social entrepreneurship offers a framework for how businesses can find success in the pursuit of helping others.

Along with the demand for technically educated and socially responsible students, there is a need to provide students with the learning and innovation skills necessary to succeed. As globalization increasingly impacts and changes our culture, these skills are increasingly accepted as the critical skills necessary to succeed in the 21st century. Creativity, innovation, critical thinking, problem solving, communication, and collaboration are not simply traits inherent to a student's personality, but skills that can and must be taught, fostered, and supported.

Quote:

"It is a fantastic opportunity that is seldom other places that encourages creativity in the goal to make a difference or change the world." Joshua, age 15

DELIVERABLES:

1. Deliver a Mind Riot high school program for (up to) 40 kids each in six regional hubs: Logan, Ogden, Park City, Orem/Provo, St. George and Price or Four Corners; in addition to the three-day Salt Lake City program
2. Set up online resources for Mind Riot participants to allow year-round mentoring

3. Work with companies to provide industry mentors for the students in each regional hub
4. Establish a Mind Riot Lab space at The Leonardo for Mind Riot students to use year-round

BUDGET

Item	Amount	Number	Total
Salt Lake City program cost	\$82,850		\$82,850
Teaching supplies per venue	\$1,500	6	\$9,000
Travel, accommodation/year	\$6,000		\$5,000
Mind Riot Van (one-time)	\$30,000	1	\$30,000
Venue rental in cities	\$2,000	6	\$12,000
Mentor fees/city	\$1,000	6	\$6,000
Education staff	\$32,000	4	\$128,000
Student awards/city	\$1,500	6	\$9,000
Sub- Total for regional expansion:			\$200,000
Total Proposed Budget			\$282,850

SUMMARY: In its 9th year, Mind Riot is an annual competition The Leonardo provides to Utah high school students that combines innovation, collaboration and entrepreneurship skills. This is a public-private endeavor that brings leaders from government, education, technology, funding and other private-sector entities together to give young people a forum to create a compelling business plan that addresses a real-world challenge. The funding request would create six regional hubs, enabling the program to reach 120-200 additional students with more comprehensive opportunities across the year, deepening the impact on students' academic performance and helping inform their career paths. The hubs will be located in Logan, Ogden, Park City, Orem/Provo, St. George and Price.