May 1, 2023

Greetings,

I hope this letter finds you well. As CEO of the Austin Empowerment Coalition, I am excited to extend the invitation to join us in supporting our AEC Scholarship fundraising efforts. This year we will gather to celebrate our youth and do our part in making significant strides in paving the way for positive change. Scholarship recipients will be announced during AEC Scholarship Basketball Game at Christ the King Jesuit College Prep on Sunday, August 13, 2023.

The socio-economic divide has been devastating in the Black and Brown communities, revealing grave inequities and disparities in healthcare, food resources, housing and most importantly education. The Austin community is Chicago’s largest demographic and populated of the seventy-seven neighborhoods that make up the nation’s third largest city. Unfortunately like many cities across the country, the Austin community has been in a state of despair and decline for too many years. The long-term disinvestment on the south and westsides accelerating and revealing such disparities as we continue to witness violence and crime exceeding all-time highs; and a record number of youth who are increasingly being left behind due to lack of educational resources and opportunities to fully equip and support them through these uncertain times.

Witnessing the widening of the learning gap and grappling with the many ways in which to best support our youth; we are, nevertheless, committed to be a part of the solution. Our goal is to continue promoting education, combatting urban violence, and disparities in urban communities. We seek your financial support. Please consider helping us reach our goal and bring about equity and change.

For over 23 years, we have raised nearly a half million dollars for scholarships that were awarded to financially challenged community youth. These scholarships have helped to empower young lives, enhancing their potential. This school year, graduating high school seniors and current college students are making life changing decision in the face of much adversity to pursue a higher education, and it is up to each and everyone of us to ensure that our most valuable resource, our youth has that chance.

The Austin Empowerment Coalition, a 501c3 organization in youth and family programming, is co-hosting this event. We hope that you will donate to this event and assist us in giving scholarships. It will not be a success without your help. Your sponsorship will help ensure the success of our youth.

Enclosed please find additional information on this event and its sponsorship levels. We ask that you provide us with a financial commitment on or before July 1st. All commitments will be due no later than August 1st.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. We are committed to making a difference. With partners like you investing in a “Better Austin,” we will significantly impact youth, families, and all of Chicago for decades to come.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ira J. Acree, CEO

**2023 AEC Scholarship Fundraiser**

“Inspiring peace, love and change in our community!”

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Company/Individual Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please send your art/logo as a pdf or jpeg file (in 300 resolution) to: AECsucceeds@gmail.com

*Or*

 Please indicate your selection below– **SPONSORSHIP DEADLINE: August 1, 2023**

 Check Sponsor Level

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Community Leader | $10,000 |
|  | Community Builder | $7,500 |
|  | Community Partner | $5,000 |
|  | Coalition Friend | $2,500 |
|  | Empowerment Friend | $1,000 |
|  | Scholarship Fund | $500 |
|  | Monthly Sustaining Friend – 12 months | $25/month |

Authorized by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Total Payment: $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
Method of Payment: \_\_\_\_\_Cash \_\_\_\_\_P.O. # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Check enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Credit card type: Amex\_\_\_\_ Master Card \_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Credit card number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**CHECKS SHOULD BE PAYABLE TO:**

**Austin Empowerment Coalition**

**PLEASE MAIL PAYMENTS BEFORE August 1, 2023 TO:**

**Austin Empowerment Coalition**

**1256 N. Waller**

**Chicago, IL 60651**

**2023 AEC Scholarship Fundraiser**

“Inspiring peace, love and change in our community!”

**SPONSOR LEVELS and BENEFITS**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Benefits of Sponsorship | Community Leader$10,000 | Community Builder$7,500 | Community Partner$5,000 | Coalition Friend$2,500 | Empowerment Friend$1,000 | ScholarshipFund$500 |
| Most prominent name/logo on all printed materials related to the event | X |  |  |  |  |  |
| Youth Violence Prevention school year sponsor – logo and mention through the 2023/24 school year promotional materials, and host sponsor for scholarship awards | X |  |  |  |  |  |
| Prominent name/logo on all press releases and interviews related to marketing the event  | X |  |  |  |  |  |
| Name/logo placement on event banners/signage | X | X |  |  |  |  |
| Logo placement and business link on AEC website | X | X | X |  |  |  |
| Name/Business name listed on AEC website |  |  | X | X | X | X |
| Preferred event placement for business/vendor table | X | X | X | X | X |  |
| Photo opportunities with celebrity guests | X | X | X | X | X |  |
| Logo or Business name on event staff and volunteer t-shirts | X | X | X | X |  |  |
| Logo placement on Step & Repeat banners, which will serve as backdrop in all press photo opportunities | X | X | X | X |  |  |
| Opportunities for Sponsor logo placement in PSA’s related to event, newspaper ads, community newsletters | X | X | X | X |  | X |
| Sponsor name/logo mention in all post event recognition ads, email, acknowledgement letters | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Permanent signage/name/logo inside the future Community Center  | X | X | X | X | X |  |
| Naming rights for various Community Rooms/public areas, etc. | X |  |  |  |  |  |
| Screen time – Displaying Logo | X | X | X | X | X | X |

Austin Empowerment Coalition

**Presents**

**AEC Scholarship Basketball Game**

**Sunday, August 13, 2023 at 3 p.m.**

**Table Request (Vendors)**

|  |
| --- |
| Organization |
| Contact Person: |
| Work Phone: | Cell Phone: |
| Email: |
| Mailing Address: |
| Description of items to distribute /promote:  |

**Any sponsor that contributes $500 (Scholarship Fund Level) or more will be provided a table to share information about your business and/or company. Please fill this form out if you would like a table. This is optional.**

*Acceptance: Entry in this festival constitutes an automatic waiver of any claim for damage or loss against the sponsors. Both parties agree that in the event of rain or other circumstances beyond human control, no refund will be given.*

[X]\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of authorized representative of organization

**RETURN BY August 1, 2023**

**TO:**

**Austin Empowerment Coalition**

**1256 N. Waller, Chicago, IL 60651**