

Auntie Karen® Foundation

"empowering, enlightening & educating through the arts"

ORGANIZATIONAL RESUME

The Auntie Karen Foundation, a South Carolina based global charity, creates and implements community outreach programs designed to empower, enlighten and educate through the arts.

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Mission and Programs

Mission

The Auntie Karen Foundation is a global, 501 c 3 charitable corporation certified by the state of South Carolina on October 31, 2001. The foundation's mission is to create and implement a series of reproducible community outreach programs that will empower, enlighten and educate through the arts.

Population Served:

The Auntie Karen Foundation creates and pilots a series of reproducible community outreach programs. The core programs benefit youth aged 3 through 22. The pilot programs include participants from area schools, churches, and community organizations. These programs are being documented so that other communities across the globe (South America and Africa) can duplicate them.

AUNTIE KAREN FOUNDATION
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Programs:

Auntie Karen's Artpreneur/ Technopreneur Classes (Ages 7 – 22)

The purpose of the Artpreneur /Technopreneur classes is to “inspire a new generation of business leaders”

Students interact with artist and community leaders in an effort to:

- ❑ Learn a step-by-step approach to creating and managing a business
- ❑ Increase knowledge for saving & investing
- ❑ Foster creative ways of making money through the arts & technology
- ❑ Promote team building & project collaboration
- ❑ Develop a head start towards economic empowerment
- ❑ Promote and encourage technology skill building
- ❑ Learn business fundamentals
- ❑ Meet entrepreneurial role models

The Auntie Karen Foundation's Artpreneur Pilot was implemented at Burton Pack Elementary School during the spring of 2003. Students received drum lessons, guitar lessons and art lessons from renowned South Carolina artists. In 2004, the program was expanded to include three elementary school and three middle schools. Fourteen artists taught art, guitar, bass, keyboards, spoken word, etiquette, dance and cooking classes to over 200 students in the Richland School District One's Connections Afterschool Program.

Young Entrepreneurs Conference

The Auntie Karen Foundation Young Entrepreneurs Conference's purpose is to nurture entrepreneurship in young people by undertaking, creating, coordinating and acting as a catalyst for the development of entrepreneurial knowledge and enthusiasm. The foundation believes this event will serve as a world-class conference to bring children from across South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia together to gain skills in areas not traditionally afforded to underserved groups.

Attendees have an opportunity to:

- ❑ Meet and learn from the state's successful entrepreneurs
- ❑ Meet & learn from other young entrepreneurs
- ❑ Develop leadership skills
- ❑ Sell their products
- ❑ Have exposure to the Arts & Technology

The 3rd Annual Young Entrepreneurs Conference is scheduled for October 8, 2005 at Benedict College. Again over 250 young people from across the region will come together to foster economic empowerment.

Legends Of ...

Concert Series

The Auntie Karen Foundation created the Legends of..series to keep the legacy of African American music alive. Each year during Black History Month, the series profiles a jazz, rhythm and blues, gospel or blues artist who has made a lasting contribution to the history of music.

The inaugural concert featured four time Grammy winner Roberta Flack at The Koger Center for the Arts in Columbia, SC on February 26, 2004. The second annual concert was held on February 24, 2005 and featured Grammy Award Winner Dianne Reeves. *This event serves as the foundation's signature fundraiser.*

In addition to international entertainers, the foundation highlights local and regional entertainers. In 2005, The Auntie Karen All Stars Band was created to highlight some of South Carolina's best musicians and vocalist. The newly organized band amazed the audience as the opening act for Legends of 2005.

Legends of In the Schools (Black History Month Outreach with The Columbia Museum of Art)

Every Saturday in February, the Columbia Museum of Art partnered with the Auntie Karen Foundation provided free dynamic programs to observe African-American History Month. The programs were developed to empower, enlighten and educate the community through the arts. The Auntie Karen Foundation included visual arts, dance, literature and music in the schedule of programs developed specifically with the Columbia Museum of Art to celebrate African-American History Month.

Results

- ❑ The success of the Artpreneur pilot at Burton Pack resulted in collaboration with Richland School District One's Afterschool Program. The pilot has been extended to include three middle schools and three additional elementary schools.
- ❑ The Auntie Karen Foundation created "Successville", a youth business expo and showcase, to give the public an opportunity to have a hands-on experience with the free enterprise system. While visiting this fictitious town, attendees met young entrepreneurs and small business owners from across the Southeast Region. Karen Alexander, the founder, has been selected to participate on the South Carolina Jump Start Coalition.
- ❑ Ten Young Entrepreneurs under 25 are showcased each year at the Annual conference. In addition, Young Entrepreneurs were showcased on South Carolina Educational Television; in Imara Woman magazine; WACH TV 57, Columbia Black Expo.

Self Assessment

The Auntie Karen Foundation has done an excellent job in collaborating to implement the various programs. In kind support and community volunteers are the lifeline for this organization. Our biggest opportunity for improvement is in our fundraising efforts.

Chief Executive Profile

Karen Alexander, Founder

Karen Alexander left an eleven year corporate position with Xerox Corporation to pursue her passion to educate utilizing music. Prior to working for Xerox, she spent six years as a first grade teacher at James B. Edwards Elementary School.

Entertainment and the arts has always been a part of her life! As a child, she sang often in the church with her family in her hometown of Charleston, South Carolina. Karen is a graduate of the University of South Carolina where she was an active member of the school's pop singing group, Carolina Alive. As her performances shifted into the professional arena, she has toured the United States, Europe and South America. Her audiences have greeted her enthusiastically in places as diverse as Greece, Romania, Brazil, Venezuela and Jamaica. In August of 1995, Karen organized the Contemporary Jazz and R&B Band Straight Ahead.

Her vision is to use the arts to educate and empower children across the globe.

Board Members:

Karen Alexander, *President*
Dr. Phyllis Sanders
Janet Johnson-Whipple, *Assistant Secretary*
Dr. Linda Rochell Lane, *Secretary*
Valerie Goodwin
Dr. Norma Jackson
Gwen Jordan
Debora Lloyd
Tavia Murphy
Linda Wilson
Tony Wise
Deborah Woodard

Board Meetings:

Board meets the second Thursday of every month, except July.. Board Members work without compensation

Incorporated, State of SC October 31, 2001

The President is currently acting as Treasurer. The Foundation has hired Sherrie Martin Prince, CPA to handle financial services.

Funding: This organization is seeking funds from contributions and grants. These funds will be used for unrestricted operating expenses, special projects, building improvements and endowments.

NTEE Codes

A20 Arts, Cultural Organizations – Multipurpose

A60 Performing Arts

A90 Arts Service Activities/ Organizations

Year Founded: 2001

Full Time Employees: 1

Part Time Employees: 11 – 20

Volunteers: 21 – 100

Board Members: 12