

CANADA FUND PROJECT BRIEF

1. Project Title : Loboc Children's Choir Capability Development Program for Cultural Sustainability
2. Location : Bohol
3. Project Sector : Cultural Preservation/Development
4. Budget : Php 527,500.00
5. Implementing Organization : Loboc Music Foundation, Inc.
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6. Duration : August 25, 2005 - February 28, 2006
7. Project Description :

This five-month project is primarily a capability and cultural empowerment program for the elementary school children and teachers of the town of Loboc. It will focus on the skills development of the present members of the Loboc Children's Choir, the auditioning and training of new members of the choir and second-liners, and training and skills mastery programs for the projected expanded number of teachers—leaders for the choir. Assistance is also sought for the upgrading of LMFI's technical and musical resources. The project culminates with Christmas concerts in Bohol and outreach performances in detention centers and hospitals. These activities will showcase the new knowledge, skills and techniques gained by the choir for the past five months; generate funds for the LMFI and Choir; as well as advocate for the preservation of the eco-cultural wealth.

In essence, this project is envisioned to pilot the idea of developing gradually a Music School for the Loboc Children's Choir.

8. Beneficiaries : 65 children
9. Expected Results :
- Twenty-five (25) first line and 40 second line choir members with enhanced knowledge and skills in music reading and choir performance;
 - Two staff with enhanced knowledge and skills in music pedagogy/instruction, accompaniment and direction;
 - Sixty (60) children's music pieces reproduced;
 - Twenty (20) songs from heritage music repertoire recorded;
 - The LMFI is equipped with upgraded technical and musical facilities to support the Loboc Children's Choir and other musical group members of the Foundation; and,
 - Culminating activities (Christmas concerts, outreach performances) held

10. End of Project Results :

The project was given a month extension for the LMFI to procure the needed musical equipment and to finalize project implementation. In a span of one (1) month, the proponent was able to incorporate the Canada Fund's suggestions in order to fast track their implementation and disbursement and at the same time was able to comply with the requirements.

To enhance the knowledge and skills of 25 first line and 40 second line choir members

- Twenty five (25) first liners were given training after every class to develop their knowledge and skills in solfege and choir interpretation. Ten (10) of the members attained 75% mastery of skills in the training curriculum while the rest have attained 85% artistry and excellence in choir interpretation.
- The LMFI targeted to train 40 second liners by the end of the project. Out of the 51 who auditioned, 21 dropped out due to the rigorous training (ex. no cold drinks and candies which hamper the throat from functioning effectively to and from producing good tones), hard work and discipline needed from each member of the choir. At present, 30 second liners have developed pitch and tone consciousness and rhythmic sense.
- Invitations to the Choir (first liners) and requests for performances in and out of the province suspended some of the scheduled training activities. Originally, the training of the first and second liners was planned every Saturdays starting from August 2005 to February 2006. Since a lot of invitations and requests for performances were sent to the choir, they had to change the schedule of rehearsals and training to after every class. The change in schedule of training was easily adapted by the choir members since it was easier for them to practice right after class than once a week.
- Even after class has ended, the LMFI will continue their training to the first and second liners through a summer program. In this training, the LMFI will grab the opportunity to recruit more children who are interested in joining and staying in the choir.

To enhance the knowledge and skills of two staff in musical accompaniment, instruction and direction

- The LMFI was able to identify a group which will give the training for the Accompanist and the Musical Director. The training which was scheduled last October 2005 will now be held on March 28-April 2, 2006 at the Asian Institute for Liturgy and Music in Quezon City.
- The reason for this delay was due to the number of invitations for the choir to perform. They had to postpone the trainings so as to give more time for choir rehearsals.

To refurbish the technical resources of the choir by providing upgraded technical and musical facilities

- During the last project visit, it was found out that the LMFI was only able to buy a photocopier for them to be able to reproduce musical scores. It was brought to their attention that the procurement of the equipments stated in the project design should be fast tracked. It was also during this visit that a review of their request for equipment was made. It was decided that the synthesizer was really not needed by the choir. Instead, they requested that the budget for the said item be used to purchase a portable keyboard player and a new piano.
- Despite their lack of technical expertise, they had the initiative to ask for help from various contacts which were knowledgeable in the field. They have now procured the piano, recording equipment and accessories, condenser microphones and the portable keyboard player which they now can use during out of town performances.

To develop more programmed venues for both heritage and contemporary musical performances so as to elevate levels of creativity and artistic excellence, and more effectively promote cultural identity

- The Loboc Children's Choir performed for the inmates of Bohol Detention and Rehabilitation Center and patients of the Garcia Memorial Hospital as part of their promotion of cultural identity.
- A Christmas concert was held last December 24, 2005 to showcase the skills of the choir members. This activity gave the second liners the opportunity to show their talents to the community.

- The choir was supposed to be the anchor choir and main performer during the Arts Festival and Workshop to celebrate the National Arts Month to serve as model for other school choirs. But due to the hectic schedule of the organizers for this activity, it was reset to November, in time for the feast of St. Cecilia, the patron saint of music.

Target Beneficiaries

Number of beneficiaries originally planned to assist through this project:

Direct	Female	Male	Total
First Liners	11	14	25
Second Liners	20	20	40
Indirect*	120	70	190

* Includes LMFI, LGU Council Members, Tuburan Members, Loboc Band and other Loboc artists

Number of beneficiaries actually assisted through this project:

Direct	Female	Male	Total
First Liners	11	14	25
Second Liners	12	18	30
Indirect	30	40	70

Finances

The proponent has completely utilized the Canada Fund grant. This includes the advance payments made for the training of the Accompanist and the Musical Director which will be on March 28-April 2, 2006.