

# Latinitas

Non-Profit, Austin

## Type: Multi-City

Austin Latina youth org and open source community pair up to bring gigabit curriculum out of the lab and into the hands of impoverished communities.

## Project Team

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Latinitas is working with Open Austin developers to create some pre-activities that will introduce girls in their 16 after school programs at Austin elementary and middle schools to the Budget Party platform and purpose.

## Project Budget

**Total Budget:** \$45,000

**Requested Amount:** \$10,000

## Proposal Details

### Description

In the spirit of the "Hive," Latinitas is partnering with Open Austin to use their generated Budget Party curriculum in its after school clubs, workshops, conferences and camps at Austin East Side middle schools. Latinitas will work with the Open Austin team (Victoria O'Dell and Mateo Clarke) that authored the platform to tweak it for a slightly younger audience than intended (elementary and middle schoolers) with also the intention to replicate the pilot application in Mozilla Gigabit city Chattanooga, TN. Latinitas media and technology literacy based clubs, camps, workshops and conferences is an ideal venue to test a platform about recreating budgets to suit a specific community's needs. Latinitas serves some of Austin's most marginalized girls as the only thread of its kind in public housing and hosting all after school clubs at Title I schools, where 95% of children attending receive free or reduced lunch. Putting the control of a city budget in the hands of students facing some of the biggest challenges of a rapidly growing city sounds like the type of empowerment opportunities via media and tech that Latinitas is known for.

## Implementation

Budget party curriculum will be applied for 2-3 club sessions at a handful of Latinitas clubs and also during weekend workshop at public housing and the Ruiz branch of Austin public library as well as at Latinitas Media Chica Conference in the Spring and summer camps 2018. Partners at Open Austin would like to explore replicating this experience with Latinitas with a similar organization in Chattanooga, TN.

## Gigabit Innovation

Latinitas is excited at the opportunity to put Budget Party to work in its programs. The platform leverages gigabit speed in order to manage and rework a city budget according to specifications provided by Austin public school children. By creating a few more pre-activities and also monitoring and surveying students during and after use - Latinitas will be Open Austin's focus group for accessibility, relevance and eventually program replication to another city.

## Diversity and Inclusion Plan

Latinitas, an Austin-based nonprofit organization, is dedicated to empowering Latina youth using media and technology, providing direct digital media and technology training and esteem-boosting services to nearly 3,000 girls and teens across Texas annually, 2,000 in Central and 1,000 more in West Texas. Since 2002, Latinitas has been working with young girls of color to combat stereotypes in media and technology not only based in gender, but also in culture. We are not a one-off trying to "reach Latinas" with this program. Latinitas is not a one-off program to address the lack of or misrepresentation of Latinas in media, technology and startup industries - it was built with Latina youth in mind. Latinas are not an afterthought in Latinitas. We are not trying to "reach" young Latinas with initiatives such as this partnership - we are already a place defined as a strong voice for young Latinas.

We work with the city's poorest targeting the city's predominantly Hispanic elementary, middle, and high schools existing in the neighborhoods in East, Southeast, and Northeast Austin with a majority (90 percent) population existing at or below the poverty level. Girls will have opportunity to provide anecdotal reactions to using Budget Party to Latinitas and developers at Open Austin via video reactions, summaries and critiques. Latinitas is looking forward to working closely with Mateo and Victoria to put their project to best use with the young media makers and technology innovators in Latinitas existing programs.

## Questions & Comments