

## HOW CAN I POSSIBLY PAY FOR AN AUTHOR VISIT?

I am committed to offering a variety of programs that fit most budgets; however, I do recognize that in today's economy; and really much of the time, many schools, libraries and organizations simply do not have readily available funds to pay for author visits.

When I visit a school, library, or community, my goals are to share information, encourage people to read, think, and perhaps engage in their own writing or community projects. I do not want lack of funding to get in the way of those goals. So, with our mutual goals in mind, here are a few ideas for funding author visits:

### Reach out to the community

- **Work with a local organization to sponsor the event.** Parent-teacher organizations, service and writing organizations often have discretionary funds they may use for school-related or arts-related events.
- **Work with other schools, colleges, home schools or public libraries in your area to share costs.** Some schools and libraries have money budgeted for arts-related programs. Libraries may even be willing to donate "overdue fines" or monies from used book sales to cover the cost of programs that promote literacy.
- **Contact a church in your community.** Community churches and other faith-based organizations are often willing to collaborate with local schools, libraries or organizations to share costs for an inspirational message.
- **Contact local businesses.** Businesses are often willing to sponsor an author visit if you provide some sort of advertising or promotion for them either before or during the author visit.
- **Have students or attendees pay a fee for the author visit just as they would for a field trip.** An author visit is much like a field trip to visit an author—the main difference is that the "trip" and author come to you.

### Fundraising

- **Have fundraisers.** Traditional options include, but are not limited to read-a-thon, bake or candy sales, a car-wash, a dinner or a used book sale. One school has an "Author Visit Juice machine" – all profits from that vending machine go directly to author visits (they raise \$2500 a year).
- **Sell the author's books/ Host a book sale.** Most authors can arrange for schools to purchase books at a discount. Schools can resell books to students, parents and other interested parties for a profit.

### Apply for grants

- **Contact local author and arts organizations.** Many organizations offer grants to schools, libraries and organizations for author visits. Please check online for arts and book-related organizations in your area. Here are several links to get you started:
  - [www.leeandlow.com/p/administrators\\_grants.mhtml](http://www.leeandlow.com/p/administrators_grants.mhtml)
  - [www.arts.endow.gov](http://www.arts.endow.gov)
  - [www.scbwi.org/Pages.aspx/Amber-Brown-Grant](http://www.scbwi.org/Pages.aspx/Amber-Brown-Grant)
  - [www.barbarabushfoundation.com](http://www.barbarabushfoundation.com)
  - <http://sites.target.com/site/en/company/page.jsp?contentId=WCMP04-031819>
  - <http://walmartstores.com/CommunityGiving/238.aspx>
  - [www.donorschoose.org/](http://www.donorschoose.org/)
  - [www.kiwanis.org/ServiceProjects/ReadAroundtheWorld/tabid/284/Default.aspx](http://www.kiwanis.org/ServiceProjects/ReadAroundtheWorld/tabid/284/Default.aspx)

Before you decide you absolutely cannot afford an author visit, please check into joint sponsorship with a library, community group, historical society, PTA, arts council, local businesses and foundations, newspapers, or colleges. Then, see if you can apply for a grant; or try a traditional fundraiser such as a bake sale, car wash, dance, etc. With creativity and determination, author visits are always possible.