



# SANTA BARBARA BOWL

SINCE ★ 1936

January 27, 2015

To the Grants Committee of the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Awards:

This letter of recommendation is written on behalf of AHA! (Attitude. Harmony. Achievement.), a non-profit organization that the Santa Barbara Bowl has awarded grants for the past three years. Specifically, we award funds to support their Sing It Out! after-school programming each Spring.

Our mission includes support for arts programming for Santa Barbara youth. Although many worthy organizations provide this for youth in our city, AHA!'s approach is unique. It uses music and musical performance as a way to impart social and emotional intelligence—particularly, instilling the confidence to give a great performance despite significant obstacles and lack of musical experience.

AHA! brings in amazing music and performance coaches and a seasoned professional band (Tina Schlieske and the B-Sides) to guide song choice, practice and performance. Skilled facilitators don't only offer support and encouragement to the teens taking this huge leap; they also participate as singers themselves, going on this often scary and ultimately exhilarating ride right along with the youth. The end result – the big show at the end of the 13-week session – is always inspiring.

We wholeheartedly recommend AHA! for national recognition through this NAHYP grant.

With best regards,

Graham Farrar  
Education Outreach Committee Chair  
The Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation

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