

# *Info & Frequently Asked Questions*

## MIKE WILEY PRODUCTIONS NC Arts Council's cARTwheels Residency Grant Program

For general information about the cARTwheels opportunities, funded through the North Carolina Arts Council, visit <http://ncarts.org/education/cartwheels>

For more information about Mike Wiley Productions, visit <http://www.goingbarefoot.com/> or <http://mikewileyproductions.com/>

Organizational recipients of the one-week cARTwheels residency grants with Mike Wiley Productions, funded through the North Carolina Arts Council, enjoy an opportunity to provide transformational learning experiences for participating students and teachers.

Components of the cARTwheels program include up to two 45-min. live performances by actor/playwright Mike Wiley plus a 2-to-3 hour in-depth teacher workshop, along with four days of exciting workshops and classes with student groups. The workshops introduce students to the world of creative writing, documentary storytelling and dramatic interpretation. Teachers gain training, insight and valuable tools for guiding their students on journeys of discovery into one's larger creative potential.

*"This is more than mere versatility... It's virtuosity."* American Theatre Magazine

*"I've never found any other artist who (1) delivers more valid educational content, (2) involves and connects with school audiences more successfully, or (3) is more pleasant to work with. He has a knack for taking sensitive and sometimes painful topics, and making them accessible in non-threatening – even humorous – ways. You will not regret bringing him to your school."*

Christian B. Rothwell, Apex Middle School

*"You helped our students uncover dimensions within themselves that some of them didn't even know they had. Thank you for being a window into what their future could be... We are changed a bit because of your visit."*

Chatham Elementary School, Pittsboro, NC

*"In my thirty-one years in education, I cannot remember any performance that matches his wonderful blend of humor, history, reflection, student involvement and lasting impact. Mesmerizing...truly a gift. In a matter of minutes, he won undivided attention and taught more history than could be taught in a week. He is doing very important work."*

Dr. B. Redmond, Supt., Newton Conover Schools, NC

**F.A.Q.**  
**MIKE WILEY PRODUCTIONS**  
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**Q: How does an organization apply for a cARTwheels grant?** Eligible organizations within NC should contact the North Carolina Arts Council for complete information on the requirements, application procedure, deadlines, and grant recipient selection details. Visit [www.ncarts.org](http://www.ncarts.org) or telephone (919) 807-6500.

**Q: How is the cARTwheels artist residency program funded? What is the amount of the grant received by an organization selected to host a residency with Mike Wiley?** Funding for the cARTwheels artist residency program sponsored by the North Carolina Arts Council is provided through state budget allocation to NCAC by the NC legislature and by support provided by the National Endowment for the Arts. Total grant offered to an organization selected to host the cARTwheels residency with Mike Wiley is \$8,000. Distribution of this amount is made to the grant-approved hosting organization, then from the organization to the artist through a standard contracting procedure with Mr. Wiley and goingbarefoot inc. as the official artist representative for Mike Wiley Productions. The hosting organization is not responsible for providing meals nor lodging for Mr. Wiley during his stay, as these arrangements are covered directly by the artist.

**Q: What happens on day 1 of the weeklong cARTwheels residency with Mr. Wiley?** Two 45-minute live performances are offered by actor/playwright Mike Wiley. Each of these Monday performances for student assemblies is followed by a Q&A/audience talkback with the artist. At the end of day one, after students have seen the performance, teachers convene with Mr. Wiley for an in-depth interactive workshop on teaching tools to enhance and expand one's creative abilities. This workshop extends from two to three hours.

**Q: What performance will we see?** Residency-hosting organizations will have chosen one of the following compelling documentary dramas performed by Mr. Wiley. The specific production selected by the grant recipient will have been part of the grant application process.

**JACKIE ROBINSON: A GAME APART**

Glimpse into baseball legend Jackie Robinson's life during a bygone era of separate and unequal locker rooms, whites-only hotels and restaurant back doors. Witness the hopeless humiliation of a star player showered with adulation on the field --but a second-hand citizen outside the stadium. Meet compatriots fighting the same battles between end zones, inside the ring, around the track. **JACKIE ROBINSON: A GAME APART** is a powerful lesson of courage through dedication, perseverance and leadership. Written & performed by Mike Wiley.

**ONE NOBLE JOURNEY: A BOX MARKED FREEDOM**

This is the true story of three slaves who overcome seemingly insurmountable odds to gain a life of freedom. Wiley becomes Henry "Box" Brown a black slave who sees no alternative but to mail himself to freedom in a small crate. Brown's life unfolds like a Mark Twain adventure, perilous and somber at times while humorous and heroic throughout. Audience members join Wiley on stage, quickly becoming characters helping propel the historic action. Written & performed by Mike Wiley.

**TIRED SOULS: THE MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT**

Montgomery, AL, Dec. 1, 1955: Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat to a white man on a city bus. This action inspires the black citizens of Montgomery to abandon all travel on city buses until they are no longer forced to sit in the back or stand when a white person boards. There were more who came before, brave visionaries who laid the groundwork for this pivotal moment. **TIRED SOULS** introduces audiences to Jo Ann Robinson, Claudette Colvin and others instrumental in the Civil Rights Movement, changing the course of U.S. history. Written & performed by Mike Wiley.

**Q: Are study guides provided to support these performances? What grade levels are recommended for each of these plays?**

Study guides are provided for all of Mike Wiley Productions' touring performances. His cARTwheels productions of **JACKIE ROBINSON**, **ONE NOBLE JOURNEY** and **TIRED SOULS** are appropriate for grades 3-12.

## **Q: What happens at the teacher workshop?**

Teachers are introduced to innovative and engaging methods for exploring the creative process with their students. Tools for teaching and developing projects within the areas of documentary theatre, storytelling, creative writing and theatre arts are examined.

## **Q: How many teachers may participate in the teacher workshop? What type of room or setting is best for the teacher workshop?**

A minimum of five participating teachers is required for this important component of the cARTwheels residency. There is no maximum limit on the number of participants, however, and school administrators and other staff are also encouraged to participate. The teacher workshop will last from two to three hours. Participants should arrive with paper and pens or pencils. The room should also be set up with a white board & markers. A library or similar space proves to be a very workable setting for the teacher workshop.

**Q: Is a teacher workshop required?** The cARTwheels teacher workshop is not an “optional” component for cARTwheels grant recipients. Grant funds may be rescinded if this workshop is not scheduled. All participating teachers and other school personnel are expected to have seen the performance earlier in the day, as it will become a central building block for the teacher workshop experience.

## **Q: How are the student workshops scheduled?**

From Tuesday through Friday, the artist will meet with participating student groups. A school may schedule up to four 55-min. workshops each day or three 90-minute sessions daily. It is preferred that the workshops with students be tightly sequenced and begin as early as possible in the daily class schedule. Completing all three or four student sessions by midday is ideal, though classes may be scheduled in the afternoon if necessary.

## **Q: Where do the student workshops occur?**

Regular classroom spaces are utilized for the student workshops. In the event that the cARTwheels-hosting school or organization needs to accommodate multiple school sites, the schedule should be organized in the most efficient way in order to minimize the teaching artist’s travel time between sites.

## Q: How many students can be accommodated in a workshop group? Do teachers participate?

Maximum number of students preferred for any given workshop session is 25. There is no minimum number required for the workshop to take place. The responsible teacher is required to be in all student workshop sessions.

## Q: Does each day's schedule involve the same three or four student groups or can the schedule permit a larger overall number of students to participate?

The hosting organization has the option of rotating a different set of students into each session on each of the four days of the residency, or to schedule only three or four specific student groups who would participate in the workshops for all four days of the residency. Rotating through a larger number of classes or student groups enlarges the overall number who will benefit from the cARTwheels experience. However, concentrating the week's activities with the same four daily groups for the duration provides them a deeper, more intensive immersion. The hosting/grant-recipient organization is required to provide the detailed daily schedule for all residency-related events no later than two months prior to the cARTwheels experience.

## Q: What technical requirements are involved for the live performances and/or the student workshops?

The performance requires an adequate sound system that enables the audience to clearly hear. Mr. Wiley will provide a lavalier microphone but will need to be able to tie in to the venue's system. Media projection can be used in the performance when the hosting venue's capability allows, but is not required. The performance space must have safe and clear access from the audience to the stage, as students in the audience sometimes are brought onto stage and involved in the story being portrayed. There are no technical or production requirements for the student workshops for the remainder of the week. Each classroom space should have a chalkboard or white board and markers. Some student workshops may be team-led, with noted NC playwright Howard Craft or NC choreographer Aya Shabu participating in the sessions. On some occasions, sessions may be taught solo by Mr. Wiley or Mr. Craft or Ms. Shabu.