

Creative Ways to Pay for a School Visit

By Mariana Llanos

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Here are some ways that you can pay for my visit to your school. And don't forget, when unsure of your budget, just let me know. I'm always flexible and willing to work with you!

- **Apply for grants:** some local arts organizations offer grants for libraries and schools. As a Teaching Artist with the Oklahoma Arts Council, I meet the criteria for arts education and learning programs.
- **Wish List:** Add "Author Visit" to your classroom wish list and let parents get together to cover the cost (or part of the cost) of a visit. Post on your school social media and let the community pitch in!
- **Bake Sale:** Ask your PTA to organize a bake sale during the book fair or other school-wide events. Sell tickets to play games like Musical Bake: Set a room with numbers on the floor arranged in a circle. All participants pay for a ticket to stand on a number. Play some music. As the music goes, they walk on the numbers. When the music stops, draw a number from a bag. Whoever stands on that number is the winner and gets to pick a cake/treat from the Prize Table.
- **School Wide Pajama and Favorite Book Day:** Children bring money to wear their pajamas and bring a favorite book to share with their class. Make it extra special by watching a movie at the end of the day.
- **Talent Show:** The audience pay admission price to see students compete in the talent show. (Pssst, you could also have a bake sale or sell popcorn the same day)
- **Loose Change Week:** Children bring loose change to school all week. Classroom that raises more money gets a special lunch with the author!
- **Kickstarter:** Start a Kickstarter campaign to cover all the costs associated with bringing an author AND purchase books for children.