

SAVE THE MUSIC FOUNDATION
D/B/A MTV SAVE THE MUSIC FOUNDATION
D/B/A VH1 SAVE THE MUSIC FOUNDATION
STATEMENT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS
For the year ended December 31, 2021

Mission Statement: Save The Music Foundation helps kids, schools, and communities realize their full potential through the power of making music.

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For the year ended December 31, 2021:

Total support & revenue \$8,884,876
Total program expenses \$4,444,708
Total fundraising \$1,085,004
Total management and general expenses \$332,248
Total expenses \$5,861,960
As of 12/31/21:
Net Assets \$4,768,674

Program Accomplishments

Save The Music Foundation ("Foundation") is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to creating systemic change in the American public school system by restoring instrumental music programs and by raising public awareness about the importance of music education. The Foundation was created to address the inequity in availability of music education for students in many of the United States' most challenged communities. Since its creation, Save The Music Foundation, working with local school districts, has restored music education programs in more than 2,290 schools in 286 school districts around the country – impacting the lives of hundreds of thousands of students. During that time, the Foundation has donated over \$63 million worth of new musical instruments, equipment, and technology to school districts across the country.

The Foundation values music as a critical learning tool that keeps students engaged in school, helps develop well-rounded individuals, and encourages skills that are vital for success in the 21st century.

Program and Policy staff members from the Foundation work closely with superintendents, school board members, principals, arts coordinators, and music educators in each school district to identify schools that are eligible to participate. The Foundation works with local policymakers and advocates to help ensure schools that are not currently eligible to participate in the Foundation's restoration of music education programs take the steps needed to become eligible. The Foundation works to enable every school within the district to have access to music education. The Foundation expands its reach in serving all public school students Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade.

The Foundation has developed a unique model to foster equitable access to comprehensive music education for all children. Through strategic partnerships with school districts, the Foundation provides brand-new musical instruments, equipment, technology, method books, professional development, and program support to public elementary, middle, and high schools, jump-starting dormant music programs across the country. To make certain that music programs remain a core part of the curriculum in public schools, and that the programs live on in perpetuity, the Foundation works with schools that have agreed to implement a sequential instrumental music program based on local, state, and national standards for music education.

Program Accomplishments (Continued):

Grant Offerings and Schools Served

The Foundation offers four different types of grant packages to public schools based on grade level, need, and the school's music program goals. The grant packages are decided upon with the input of district administrators, school leaders, and the Foundation's Program and Policy staff. A school must make the commitment to conduct their instrumental music program as part of the regular school day, provide a designated space for music instruction and instrument storage, and commit to hiring a full-time, certified music educator. By guaranteeing that each grant recipient school fulfills the schedule, space, and staff requirements, the Foundation fosters a sustainable music program.

In the 2021 fiscal year, the Foundation delivered grant packages (Core, Intro to Music, J Dilla Music Tech, J Dilla Jr. Music Tech, Save The Music + SongFarm Music Tech, and Keys + Kids) to 97 schools, totaling over 15,500 musical instruments and pieces of musical equipment, in 36 school districts (listed below) across 16 states. These grants impacted over 51,000 students and music educators by increasing their access to quality musical instruments, instructional books, equipment, technology, and resources. More information about each grant package to follow.

School Districts that Received Grant Packages in Fiscal Year 2021:

Anaheim Elementary School District, California

Atlanta Public Schools, Georgia

Avondale Elementary School District, Arizona

Baltimore City Public Schools, Maryland

Barbour County Schools, West Virginia

Cleveland Metropolitan School District, Ohio

Columbia Heights Public Schools, Minnesota

Dayton Public Schools, Ohio

Elizabeth Public Schools, New Jersey

Flint Community Schools, Michigan

Holly Springs School District, Mississippi

Holmes County Consolidated School District, Mississippi

Jersey City Public Schools, New Jersey

Kanawha County Schools, West Virginia

Leland School District, Mississippi

Los Angeles Unified School District, California

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools, Tennessee

Program Accomplishments (Continued):

Miami-Dade County School District, Florida

Mississippi Achievement School District, Mississippi

Morton School District, Washington

Newark Board of Education, New Jersey

New York City Department of Education, New York

Nicholas County Schools, West Virginia

Orleans Parish School Board, Louisiana

Pajaro Valley Unified School District, California

Passaic Public Schools, New Jersey

Paterson Public Schools, New Jersey

Preston County Schools, West Virginia

Putnam County Schools, West Virginia

San Francisco Unified School District, California

San Marcos Unified School District, California

Wake County Public Schools, North Carolina

Wayne County Schools, West Virginia

Wetzel County Schools, West Virginia

Wood County Schools, West Virginia

Wyoming County Schools, West Virginia

Core Grant

The Core Grant – in the form of Band, String or Mariachi – has been the cornerstone grant that the Foundation provides to school grant recipients across the country. Each Core Grant is valued at approximately \$62,000 and jump-starts a new instrumental music program at a school. The Core Band Grant includes 36 musical instruments - woodwind, brass, and percussion. The String Grant includes up to 36 string instruments - violins, violas, cellos, and basses. The Mariachi Grant includes 52 musical instruments – brass and string instruments. All Core Grants include music stands, instructional method books, at least one professional development session, and Foundation program support for 10 years. In fiscal year 2021, the Foundation delivered 35 Core Band Grant packages and four Core Mariachi Grant packages, impacting over 18,500 students and music educators.

Program Accomplishments (Continued):

Intro to Music Grant

The Intro to Music Grant was developed in 2018 and includes everything a music teacher needs to provide elementary students PreKindergarten through grade 5 with sequential, standards-based general music instruction, focused on active music-making and engagement. The grant is valued at approximately \$25,000, including developmentally appropriate and culturally relevant instruments and resources: digital piano, acoustic guitar, Orff Instruments, world drums, recorders, hand-held percussion, Boomwhackers, a classroom set of ukuleles, instructional method books, and Foundation program support for 10 years. In fiscal year 2021, the Foundation delivered 44 Intro to Music Grant packages, impacting over 19,000 students and music educators.

J Dilla Music Tech Grant

The J Dilla Music Tech Grant was developed in 2018 and focuses on delivering the future of music learning through innovative music tech tools and curriculum for high school students. Our goal is to bring out students' inner creativity, talent, and confidence by teaching the fundamentals of electronic music creation, recording, and production. In 2019, the Music Tech Grant was named after the late, influential industry rapper and hip-hop record producer J Dilla. The grant is valued at approximately \$73,000, which includes hardware and software to support instruction in audio recording, audio engineering, DJ-ing, beat-making, along with in-depth training for music teachers, including a one-on-one mentorship with an Arizona State University professor of music education, and Foundation program support for 10 years. In fiscal year 2021, the Foundation delivered eight J Dilla Music Tech Grant packages, impacting over 8,800 students and music educators.

J Dilla Jr. Music Tech Grant

In addition to the J Dilla Music Tech Grant for high school students, the Foundation has created a music technology grant package for middle school students, grades 4 through 8, with similar goals. The J Dilla Jr. Music Tech Grant is valued at approximately \$28,000 and includes music creation software, technology, and equipment, along with a one-on-one mentorship with an Arizona State University professor of music education, and Foundation program support for 10 years. In fiscal year 2021, the Foundation delivered three J Dilla Jr. Music Tech Grants, impacting nearly 1,000 students and music educators.

Save The Music + SongFarm Music Tech Grant

In 2020, the Foundation launched a partnership with SongFarm, a nonprofit organization working to *build recording studios in underserved high schools, so kids have equal access to creative opportunities*. The SongFarm Music Tech Grant package is similar to the J Dilla Music Tech Grant with the same mission. In fiscal year 2021, the Foundation and SongFarm delivered three Music Tech Grant packages, impacting over 3,800 students with access to quality musical instruments, equipment, technology, and contemporary audio production software.

Program Accomplishments (Continued):

Keys + Kids Grant

The Keys + Kids Grant supports any type of music education program, including vocal/choral, general music, musical theater, or instrumental. The grant is valued at approximately \$22,000 and includes a contemporary digital hybrid piano, keyboards, instructional method books, and Foundation program support for 10 years. In fiscal year 2021, the Foundation did not deliver any Keys + Kids Grant packages as school districts had needs for other types of grant packages. In fiscal year 2022, the Foundation looks forward once again to delivering Keys + Kids grants to schools who need access to a quality classroom piano for their music program and keyboards for student everyday practice and performance.

Additional Donations

In addition to the aforementioned grant packages, the Foundation also donated personal protective equipment (PPE) as well as supplemental instruments and equipment to selected schools.

In response to COVID-19 and school safety protocols, it was safest to return to playing instruments in the music classroom with PPE for their brass and woodwind instruments (instrument bell covers). The Foundation partnered with Sony Music Group to deliver 6,822 pieces of PPE to 11 districts (listed below) across the country impacting students in over 130 schools in fiscal year 2021.

School Districts that Received PPE Donations in Fiscal Year 2021:

Atlanta Public Schools, Georgia

Baltimore City Public Schools, Maryland

Boston Public Schools, Massachusetts

Chicago Public Schools, Illinois

Danbury Public Schools, Connecticut

Denver Public Schools, Colorado

Miami Dade County Public School District, Florida

Houston Independent School District, Texas

Shelby County Schools, Tennessee

Orleans Parish Public Schools, Louisiana

Zion Elementary School District 6, Illinois

Program Accomplishments (Continued):

The Foundation donated supplemental instruments and equipment in the form of 90 analog synthesizers and 90 pairs of headphones donated by audio equipment company Behringer in fiscal year 2021. The Foundation distributed units consisting of one synthesizer and one pair of headphones to 24 schools that have received a music tech grant. Schools were located across 14 school districts (listed below) that collectively represent over 24,000 students. The Foundation also provided units to two music education programming partners: Jail Guitar Doors (Los Angeles, CA) and Young Musicians Unite (Miami, FL).

School Districts that Received Supplemental Donations in Fiscal Year 2021:

Atlanta Public Schools, Georgia

Detroit Public Schools Community District, Michigan

Los Angeles Unified School District, California

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools, Tennessee

Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Florida

Morton School District, Washington

Newark Board of Education, New Jersey

New York City Department of Education, New York

Orleans Parish Public Schools, Louisiana

Roanoke Public Schools, Virginia

San Francisco Unified School District, California

Sterling Unified School District 376, Kansas

The School District of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Wake County Public Schools, North Carolina

Program Support

A grant of instruments, equipment, and resources provides the impetus for music programs to be restored, but this is only the beginning of the Foundation's partnerships with school districts nationwide.

Grant recipient principals are provided with hands-on guidance in building an instrumental music program. The Foundation's Program and Policy staff assists principals in developing their music program through workshops, personal meetings and the Foundation's *Guide To Building An Instrumental Music Program*. The Guide provides information to principals on getting started, next steps on how to grow the school's music program, national music education standards, research attributing music education for positive childhood development, and other resources of additional information. Every new principal in the Foundation's network is provided an electronic copy of the guide once they are confirmed as a grant recipient.

Program Accomplishments (Continued):

There have been cases of Save the Music Foundation grant recipient communities where school programs that had been jump-started by the Foundation were threatened to be eliminated. In each case, a letter was sent to the principal of the grantee school, school board members and superintendent from the school district stating concern about the pending elimination and stating the original agreement maintaining the program made by the school district and meetings were set up to follow up with senior leadership in the school districts. In most cases, the programs were not eliminated.

The conversations that take place while advocating in local communities prove most effective when decision makers, community members, stakeholders, and funders are already familiar with the importance of music education. For this reason, the Foundation employs several strategies on a national scale to lay the groundwork for successful local advocacy.

In fiscal year 2021, the Foundation Program and Policy staff offered new grant recipients the opportunity to learn more about their grant and how to successfully start their music programs in the new school year beginning August 2021. 65 music teachers and school leaders took part in these virtual informational sessions.

School Leaders

The Foundation targets school leader conferences to spread the word about the vital need for music education. Each year, school administrators gather to share information that will enable them to make important decisions about the curriculum in their schools. Both the School Superintendents Association (AASA) and the National School Boards Association (NSBA) have granted the Foundation and other music-education advocates a section of their convention spaces to be used as special pavilions devoted to spreading the word about the importance of music education. Since 2005, Save The Music has been joined by instrument manufacturers, retailers, and the NAMM Foundation' Support Music Coalition in the music pavilions.

The Foundation honors – in front of thousands of school district leaders and administrators from around the country – those school district officials who have been supportive of music education at AASA's Annual National Conference. In the 2021 fiscal year, this award was presented to Roger León, the superintendent of Newark Board of Education schools in Newark, New Jersey. The Foundation has provided 46 grants to the district since a major partnership began with the school district in 2017. In total, the Foundation has delivered a total of 61 grants to the school district since 1999. Music education continues to be a priority for the district.

Educational Workshops

The Foundation often provides workshops on the benefits of music education at national and regional conferences including Arts Education Partnership (AEP) and National Association for Music Education (NAfME) Eastern Region Conference. Workshops and conferences in 2021 took place virtually.

Program Accomplishments (Continued):

Professional Development

Music educators from grant recipient schools have the opportunity to attend professional development workshops that focus on growing their skills and building their music programs.

The Foundation and their manufacturing partners present professional development workshops for the music teachers in all active grantee school districts as budget allows. The clinics are planned and tailored to each school district's individual needs. Expert clinicians present topics such as music education pedagogy, education funding and policy, and social emotional learning (SEL). In fiscal year 2021, Save the Music partnered with music supply company West Music and nonprofit education organization Arts Ed Newark to present 20 professional development workshops for seven school districts impacting nearly 130 educators.

As teachers and students returned to music classrooms nationwide in fall 2021, the Foundation launched a free, public, professional learning program for music teachers geared toward recognizing the social and emotional impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on students and actively building student resilience via music education. The Foundation partnered with the Center for Arts Education and Social Emotional Learning to offer monthly webinars in a series named "Student Empowerment Through Social Emotional Learning in Music Education" featuring experts in the field and music educators currently using strategies and tools to embed social emotional learning into the music classroom. The webinars are offered for free and tailored to music educators but are also relevant for student musicians, parents and families, as well as music education advocates. In fiscal 2021, the Foundation delivered four public webinars impacting nearly 300 educators, school administrators, nonprofit leaders, and education advocates. The webinar series continues into fiscal year 2022.

Virtual Gatherings

In fiscal year 2021, Save The Music Program and Policy staff members conducted 34 video conference calls in addition to the virtual professional development with school district arts leaders, music educators, and students, all who had received, or will receive, a Save The Music grant. Administrators and teachers who were invited to participate to share challenges, successes, curriculum ideas for remote learning, and education policy as a group. Save The Music hosted guests from partner organizations to present during the calls to share their expertise with participants. Fellow educators shared their own talents with virtual classrooms in Peer-to-Peer learning sessions.

The Foundation hosted public sessions for music educators approximately once per month in early fiscal year 2021. Each session, called a Music Teachers Masterclass, featured experts speaking about a topic in music education or fellow music teachers presenting a peer-to-peer learning session. In fiscal year 2021, the Foundation delivered five sessions impacting nearly 100 music educators. In fall of 2021, the Music Teachers Masterclass was replaced by the aforementioned public webinar series focused on social emotional learning in music education.

Program Accomplishments (Continued):

The Foundation hosted roundtables for district arts leaders approximately once per month during the school year (August through June) to gather school district-level music and curriculum coordinators and supervisors nationwide who have received, or will receive, a Save The Music grant. Attendees exchanged ideas and advice with each other and heard from experts about national education policy and music education advocacy. In fiscal year 2021, the Foundation delivered eight sessions impacting nearly 50 district leaders.

The Foundation hosted roundtables for music teachers who have received a J Dilla Music Tech Grant, J Dilla Jr. Music Tech Grant, or Save The Music + SongFarm Music Tech Grant approximately once per month during the school year. Sessions were led and curated by the Arizona State University professor of music education mentor. Attendees shared success and challenges from the classroom as well as ideas for curriculum and lessons. In fiscal year 2021, the Foundation delivered nine sessions impacting nearly 25 music teachers.

The Foundation hosted sessions for students, music teachers, and school administrators who received a J Dilla Music Tech Grant, J Dilla Jr. Music Tech Grant, or Save The Music + SongFarm Music Tech Grant approximately once per month during the school year. Each session, called a Music Industry Masterclass, featured music industry professionals and recording artists speaking about their school backgrounds, careers, and current job roles. The goal is to illuminate career pathways and jobs in the music industry. In fiscal year 2021, the Foundation delivered eight sessions impacting nearly 250 music teachers and music students.

The Foundation hosted sessions for students and music teachers who received a Save The Music + SongFarm Music Tech Grant to connect recording artists with students interested in the music industry. Students learned about the career of a singer/songwriter and engaged in master classes about composing their own songs and remixes. In fiscal year 2021, the Foundation delivered four sessions to three schools impacting nearly 40 students and teachers.

Convenings

A convening is an event over the course of one to three days where stakeholders, speakers, and special guests are gathered together to discuss the future of music education in their community. Stakeholders include public school educators, local community music programs, foundations and national funders, city leaders, cultural institutions, arts service organizations, universities, and local musicians. Stakeholders build relationships and networks, sharing resources and committing to a shared vision of strengthening music education in their community. In 2021, convenings were not scheduled due to COVID-19 precautions, but the planning continues for Convenings in New Orleans and the Mississippi Delta in fiscal year 2022.

Program Accomplishments (Continued):

Social Communications

The Foundation shares grant recipient updates and stories of impact on its social media platforms and in email communications with Foundation stakeholders. Stories include interviews with students, teachers, and principals, pictures and videos of students playing instruments in school or in performance, and events that occur around the Foundation's investment of instruments at a school. In these communications, funders and partners are often acknowledged as well as the district's continued support of music education in their community. Sharing stories of impact shows the Foundation's constant relationship with its grant recipient schools and advocates for continued music education in public schools. Social Communications also include research on how music education positively impacts children and support for music education from musical artists, community leaders, and local or state lawmakers. Hundreds of posts are made each year to thousands of users and followers.

Online Teaching & Learning Resources

The Program Team has taken action in response to school building closures during the COVID-19 pandemic. All Save The Music partner schools experienced at least a moderate change in learning environment, for example, virtual classrooms and asynchronous learning. In fiscal year 2020, the Foundation's Music Education Resources page on its website significantly expanded by listing over 100 resources including advocacy organizations, digital curriculum and lessons, free music classroom apps and software, and virtual concerts and tours offered by world-renowned cultural institutions. In August 2020, the Music Education Resources page was relaunched with a new, user-friendly design. Email communications and social media have been used to promote this page. The Music Education Resources page continues to evolve and in 2021, it featured links to nearly 200 online platforms, apps, tools, websites, and articles for educators, students, and families.

Honors

Chiho Feindler, the Foundation's Chief Program Officer, received the Honorary West Virginian Award on June 29, 2021, presented by the state's Governor, for outstanding achievement and meritorious service. The Foundation has delivered grants to schools in all 55 county school districts in West Virginia, a total of 112 grants since 2009. West Virginia continues to be a priority, state-wide partnership for the Foundation.