

Rosenson, Valerie

From: Joyce DiCamillo <joycedicamillo1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 07, 2014 1:23 PM
To: Gildea, Lorraine C; Board of Representatives
Subject: Stamford Young Artists Philharmonic - PROJECT MUSIC
Attachments: PROJECT MUSIC - A BUSINESS PLAN.pdf; SYAP 2013-14 Brochure.pdf; Project Music Budget.xlsx; SYAP-El Sistema Program-1 year scale back.xlsx

To members of the Stamford Board of Finance and Board of Representatives,

As Lorraine Gildea and I spoke about in her phone request for information, I am the Executive Director of *Stamford Young Artists Philharmonic*, the regional youth symphony orchestra organization based in Stamford for the past 54 seasons. We are a resident company of *Stamford Center for the Arts*, presenting our concerts at the *Palace Theatre*. We have been in the business of music education for talented area students since founded by Salvatore Princiotti in 1960. He stepped down from the podium 2 seasons ago after 52 years at the helm and handed the baton to our new Music Director and Principal Conductor Christian Capocaccia; there is a *long-standing* tradition of musical excellence and community service at the core of *SYAP*.

With such a long history in Stamford of high quality music education, we are planning to fill a void in Stamford by launching *PROJECT MUSIC*, an exciting initiative based on the principles of *El-Sistema*, the Venezuelan model which is exploding worldwide in many forward-thinking communities, and which has lifted hundreds of thousands of children out of poverty by teaching them symphonic instruments. *PROJECT MUSIC* will be based on these principles, using the eminently successful Baltimore *Orchkids* program as our direct model; *Orchkids* director Dan Trahey, who is seen in the attached video link, has consulted with us on the formulation of our financial model. Our project director, Garrett Mendez, is an experienced *El-Sistema* educator with close ties to Dan and the Baltimore program; he will report to me. Please take a few moments to watch this compelling short video which is an overview of the program we will replicate in Stamford - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IYUJ4dcjLs>.

This is a game-changing program for Stamford's inner city children, one we will begin with *Yerwood Center* as primary launch venue, hoping to expand to the east side of Stamford in Year 2. Our plan is for *PROJECT MUSIC* to be a public/private partnership which addresses the income disparity in Stamford between the comfortable and the struggling, and puts all children on an even playing field, with access to this program which elevates and not only teaches children the basics of music and how to play an instrument, but also has a homework component and engages them 4 days a week after school, building self-esteem and giving them purpose and pride as an agent of social change. (You may have read about the high school senior who was accepted into 8 Ivy League schools last week, but you may not have read his college essay, which further validates the power of music to spark excellence. <http://www.businessinsider.com/college-essay-high-school-senior-into-every-ivy-league-university-2014-4>)

As an organization which already sponsors many ensembles (*Young String Ensemble*, an elementary string program, *Young People's Symphony*, an intermediate full symphony orchestra, our flagship advanced orchestra *Young Artists Philharmonic*, a Wind Ensemble, 2 Jazz Ensembles and a *Summer Jazz Workshop*), these young musicians will be able to transition into our programs when they are ready, giving them a goal. They will also continue to receive private lessons, which are all-important, as currently our scholarship students do not have access to private lessons, which inhibits their continued success.

Please find attached several additional items - the **PROJECT MUSIC** business plan, the comprehensive **PROJECT MUSIC** budget, a scaled-down budget for launching in Year 1, and our **SYAP** season brochure to familiarize you with our organization and management team.

Thank you so much for taking a little time to understand this innovative and proven model which will put Stamford 'on the map' along with over 40 other US cities such as Baltimore, NYC, Los Angeles, Cincinnati, Atlanta, Miami, Chicago, etc. <http://elsistemausa.org/>

All my best,
Joyce

P.S. To avoid confusion, I want to clarify that the **SYAP PROJECT MUSIC** has *no* relationship to the **Project Music** which was cut from Mayor Pavia's budget several years back and had morphed to something unrecognizable from its original incarnation. Our revival of the name and goal of the program is in tribute to **State Senator Anthony D. Truglia**, who had originated Stamford's **PROJECT MUSIC** in the late 60's with the exact principle we espouse now - of **offering free music lessons to inner city children within walking distance of their home** – in effect creating an '*El-Sistema*' program for Stamford 40 years before it came into vogue worldwide!

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