

THE PRESSER FOUNDATION

385 LANCASTER AVENUE, #205

HAVERFORD, PA 19041

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

(610) 658-9030

Music Education Initiative

Forward

The Presser Foundation was established by the late music publisher and philanthropist Theodore Presser of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to promote the cause of music and music education.

Historically, the Foundation has provided funds for scholarships for undergraduate and graduate music students, capital improvements to provide musical venues and teaching spaces, supplemental pensions and housing for needy retired music teachers, and operating support for music organizations.

In recent years, the Foundation has become concerned that basic music education opportunities for elementary school children in Philadelphia (and, indeed, in other urban areas) have been constrained by fiscal and other pressures on school systems.

The Foundation recognizes that the entire structure of the musical community – in higher education, in professional organizations and in the community – rests on a public that has had increasingly fewer opportunities for first hand experiences in music making and for developing music literacy.

The Foundation also believes that the innumerable studies conducted over the last several years demonstrating the positive benefits of music education on general educational achievement and personal development make a self-evident case for the importance of this training for all children, not just for those with special ability, special interest or professional aspirations.

Finally, the Foundation recognizes that this is a problem beyond the scope of the Foundation to address comprehensively, but of such importance to the purpose of the Foundation that it cannot be ignored.

This request for proposals, therefore, is meant to stimulate and support school-based efforts at selected Philadelphia elementary schools in order to encourage schools to include meaningful music education programs in their curricula.

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Request for Proposals

The Presser Foundation requests proposals from Philadelphia elementary schools interested in establishing or enhancing a music program in their school or in collaborating with other elementary schools to provide such programs.

Schools are eligible to apply for one-year planning grants or up to three-year implementation grants.

Planning Grants

The Presser Foundation may select promising proposals for planning grants that may be used for hiring project consultants, travel to observe innovative music programs in operation and/or staff time to research and develop programs. The specific use of planning funds for each selected school will be subject to approval by the Presser Foundation. The Foundation will consider planning grant requests of up to \$5,000.

Implementation Grants

Implementation grants of \$10,000 to \$50,000 per year for up to three years may be available to a limited number of schools that have completed a planning grant or have independently completed planning for a proposed music program.

Grants will not be available to replace private or public funding for an existing program, although the expansion or improvement of an existing program will be considered for support.

Presser Foundation funds may be used only for direct program expense.

Proposals will be judged on the quality of proposed program; the professional credentials of proposed program staff; the scope of the program within the school and the degree to which the program impacts the curriculum of the school; the availability of other sources of support for the program; and the plan for perpetuating the program beyond the grant period. The Foundation believes that the most successful programs will include a professionally trained and credentialed music teacher.

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Applications

Applicants for planning or implementation grants should submit no more than a three-page letter, signed by the school principal, that describes:

- The location and population of the school
- The history of music programs in the school
- The existing music program, if any
- Existing resources that would be available to the proposed program
- The school's vision of the proposed music program, including types of courses and activities proposed as well as desired outcomes
- Likely sources of support for the music program in addition to the Presser Foundation
- Community or organizational partners, if any
- A strategy for continuing the program beyond the first several years

Applicants for planning grants should detail:

- The proposed planning activities
- The role of administration, faculty, parents and community in the planning process
- An estimate of planning expenses

Applicants for implementation grants should detail:

- The proposed program activity and desired outcomes
- The professional credentials of proposed program staff
- The scope of the program within the school and the degree to which the program will impact and be integrated in the curriculum of the school
- The number and grades of students who will participate in and benefit from the program
- The availability of other sources of support for the program
- The plan for perpetuating the program beyond the grant period
- A project budget for the complete grant period showing committed and anticipated sources of support and all direct program expense

Proposal Timetable

For the 2009-2010 grant cycle, Planning and Implementation grant proposals will be due in the Foundation offices, attention Mariel Frank, Executive Director, at the address above, by January 15, 2009. Notification of grant awards for projects beginning the following September 1 will be made in early May 2009.