Young People’s Music Initiative

Inspiring young musicians is of great interest to the JCS Fund advisors and is the impetus behind the creation of the Young People’s Music Initiative (YPMI).

Since its launch in 2013, 107 schools have been awarded grants to support master classes, guest clinicians, instrument purchases and repairs, facility improvements, music composition, and technology. These investments have helped foster the love and appreciation of music for thousands of children in preschool through high school.

The following received YPMI grants during the 2017-2018 school year:

- Addison Elementary Schools
- Addison Trail High School
- Community Consolidated District 89
- Community Consolidated District 93
- Edison Middle School
- Glenbard East High School
- Glenbard North High School
- Glenbard South High School
- Glenbard West High School
- Glenn Westlake Middle School
- Hadley Junior High School
- Hubble Middle School
- Indian Trail Junior High School
- Jackson Middle School
- Jefferson Middle School
- Leman Middle School
- Lombard Elementary Schools
- Monroe Middle School
- Queen Bee School District 16
- Salt Creek District 48
- Villa Park Elementary Schools
- West Chicago Community High School
- West Chicago Elementary Schools
- Wheaton North High School
- Willowbrook High School

“I learned that I should play with my heart and not my fingers.”
- Monroe Middle School Student

“The impact of the grant was far greater than I imagined. The students’ motivation to perform, create, and play instruments was astonishing. The variety and amount of instruments led to student choice, leadership, and engagement.”
- Kristine Brokos, Elementary General Music Coordinator, Addison School District #4
Arts DuPage, a county-wide arts council launched in 2016, was formed under the umbrella of the DuPage Foundation with funding from the JCS Fund to promote engagement and investment in the arts.

In its second year, Arts DuPage strengthened its online presence throughout the community. Residents can now easily discover the arts activities that surround them—plays, concerts, exhibits, tours—via Facebook and Instagram, as well as artsdupage.org.

Building the capacity of regional artists and arts organizations is an Arts DuPage priority. With direct input from participants, workshops were offered to fill specific needs. From July 2017 to June 2018, six programs were hosted on topics including community engagement, social media, board development, and grant funding. Attendees were enthusiastic. Feedback included “What a great way to help the non-profits in our area continue to thrive and enhance the overall diversity of the community!” and “This is exactly what our organizations need.”

“Artists, organizations, and local representatives who populate the site with upcoming events reported increased attendance at them. They’ve attributed this upsurge to Arts DuPage’s online presence, their go-to guide for all things art.”

- Debbie Venezia, Director of Arts DuPage, DuPage Foundation
Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO)

The JCS Fund has been a major supporter of the CSO’s western suburbs initiatives for the past five years, establishing meaningful connections with local audiences and developing key long-term partnerships with organizations, academic institutions, schools, and residents.

A grant supported three full CSO concerts at Wheaton College and myriad music education activities that benefited hundreds of DuPage County students.

The Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO worked with six middle and high schools in Lombard, Addison, Villa Park, and West Chicago. Musicians also performed in chamber concerts, led masterclasses, and hosted school groups at rehearsals and concerts.

Civic Fellows also collaborated with the Western DuPage Special Recreation Association on a unique project to match classical music with emojis, assisting children who don’t use verbal communication as their primary mode of expression to express emotions and creativity. An intensive week of workshops culminated in a collaborative “Emoticoncert” performed by the Civic Fellows.

Chicago Sinfonietta

With a grant provided by the JCS Fund, the Chicago Sinfonietta (CS) implemented a pilot program combining performance and educational experiences for Jefferson Middle School students in Villa Park. CS is a professional orchestra dedicated to modeling and promoting diversity, inclusion, and racial and cultural equity in the arts through the universal language of symphonic music. Jefferson was a natural fit for the first DuPage school project because of its demographic make-up and the strong level of support district leaders have for music education.

CS chamber musicians coached multiple sessions for each band and orchestra instrument group. Additionally, students visited Chicago Symphony Center to watch a CS orchestra rehearsal.

“Our first year with Jefferson Middle School was an unqualified success. As we suspected, the kids were able to relate to, and be inspired by, professional musicians who had similar backgrounds to their own.”

- Jim Hirsch, CEO, Chicago Sinfonietta

Wheaton College CODA Program

The JCS Fund supported the Community School of the Arts at Wheaton College to sustain its Community Outreach for Developing Artists (CODA) program. More than 1,700 low-income preschool through 8th grade children benefitted this past year from visual arts, general music, and the Suzuki violin and recorder programs.
**Picture This Mini-Grants**

To enrich DuPage County’s creative landscape, the JCS Fund supports painting and drawing projects. Organizations can apply quarterly. The following organizations received grants:

**Immigrant Solidarity DuPage**
To teach drawing and cartooning to Latino students.

**Lisle Park District**
To support a professional art teacher to lead classes for senior citizens.

**People Made Visible, Inc.**
To support a Mexican artist to teach summer art classes.

**Ray Graham Association**
To support young people with disabilities to create original art.

**Village of Bensenville**
To support free mixed media art classes.

**Western DuPage Special Recreation Association Foundation**
To provide art therapy for adults with mental illness.

**Wheaton College Artist Series**

The Artist Series has been awarded multi-year grants from the JCS Fund to engage a wider, more diverse audience with programs that reflect its long-standing tradition of excellence.

This year, significant emphasis was placed on middle and high school students, through programs in which young leaders had the opportunity to develop arts management and customer relationship skills while also experiencing live concert music.

Funding also enabled the Artist Series to secure more prestigious performers, such as the Canadian Brass, which attracted new audiences and increased attendance.

**Community Needs Grants**

As part of its Community Needs grant program, the DuPage Foundation shares applications with donors to ensure the greatest number are funded. This year, the JCS Fund helped boost program support by recommending grants to:

**Addison Center for the Arts**
To support Arts Alive: An After School Art Program for students at Indian Trail Junior High School covering creative writing, music, theater, and visual arts.

**Elmhurst Art Museum**
To support the Art is for Everyone Program in providing school-aged children and teens with direct exposure to art and engaging learning opportunities.

**Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra**
To support school outreach by bringing professional string musicians into approximately 20 schools in Elmhurst and nearby communities.

**Glen Ellyn Children’s Resource Center**
To support after-school and summer academic programming for low-income students at three sites.

**Senior Suburban Orchestra**
To support orchestral concerts for seniors and innovative workshops for school children.
JCS Arts, Health and Education Fund Mission

To support music, cultural, health, educational, artistic, and other charitable organizations serving the needs of residents of DuPage County, Illinois.

The JCS Fund is particularly interested in programs that provide long-term benefits.

The Fund has the discretion to support charitable organizations serving other communities if it determines that the goals of those organizations are consistent with its charitable interests.

The JCS Fund is a fund of the DuPage Foundation.