

Delaware Symphony Orchestra
Education Committee Meeting
Community Service Building, Room 9 (main floor)
January 24, 2017 * 5:30-6:30pm

Purpose: Focus on the future: 2017-2018 – budget, priorities; 2016-2019 - strategic plan initiatives

Desired Outcomes:

Capture the Committee's input for education's strategic plan initiative activity

In Attendance: M. Acero, S. Babcock, G. Kwon-Kubacki, M. Murray, C. Nichols, M. Ripsom

A roll-up of proposed activities and associated budget for 2017-2018 was presented. New initiatives included adding:

- An Explorer Link Up! Performance downstate (\$63,000)
- One new Build the Orchestra school (\$2,300)
- Two new Math & Music schools (\$4,700)
- A soloist to perform a duet at the DE All-State Orchestra concert (\$500)
- Community orchestra reading project (\$5,600)
- Pre-K Music program (\$3,250)
- Ferris African Drum Therapy program (\$27,350)

The **Ferris School** received the most discussion. Questions were raised by the committee wondering how this related to the Symphony, especially when the plan involved hiring an outside musician to conduct the classes. The cost listed is for a full year (3 sessions), so it was suggested it should just be piloted for 1 session at most. The initial cost to purchase the drums is not included in the estimate, however there is money included to give students who participated in the program and are graduating from Ferris to receive a drum and case (\$450 value each). The committee did not support this, feeling the drum could too easily be sold for cash. The committee recommended it would be better to target kids before they get to Ferris; many public schools would love a set of African drums. If Ferris is a desired partner, is there a way to approach this with instruments that the DSO plays instead? If there is a Music Therapist at Ferris, we should be working with them to develop a program. The majority of the committee felt this cause was noble, but not relevant to the DSO; we should spend \$ on other projects ie. going downstate.

Marjie provided an update on meetings with the Music School of Delaware and the UD Community Music School about their **Pre-K Music Programs** and possibilities for partnerships. The Music School of DE has submitted a request for grant money to help support musician visits to the Red Clay public preschools where they have active programs. DSO musicians are more than double the cost, so any money would more than likely not go to our musicians. The Community Music School has different goals and it was decided our best avenue of partnership was supporting each other's programming by sharing information with our respective contact lists. The Education Committee agreed any money allocated for hiring outside musicians would be better spent elsewhere and did not support keeping this in the budget.

As both items under "Underserved Student Population" (Ferris School Project and Pre-K Program) were not supported, the committee brainstormed different program ideas. It was suggested to look

into “Tune Up Philly”, and other after school programs. Unanimous support was given to focusing on string programs.

Visiting Ensembles, though on FY17’s budget, will essentially be starting in the next school year. The Committee would like to see an increase in this for next year’s budget– to support moving it past the pilot stage during the year. Teachers on the committee advised we might be optimistic to have schools pay money for it. The first visits may have to be DSO funded. A recommendation was made to vary the type of schools we approached – public/private/Montessori. Montessori schools may be a good place to start with the added caveat that they may have students who seek lessons, and that could carry over to Classics/Chamber attendance.

The two Explorer Concerts featuring Carnegie Hall’s Link Up! The Orchestra Rocks, the further expansion of the Build the Orchestra and Math & Music programs were supported.

Strategic Plan Initiatives – RACI activity

- Discuss the format of the report: timing and accountability
- Discuss sequence of implementation
- Any additional people/groups share in the responsibility?
- Role of the Education Committee going forward (check out mission and purpose below)

Questions/updates on current initiatives – Marjie/Grace

- New staff: Development Director, Patron Management Associate
- Explorer Concert
- School District Contacts throughout the state = pillars of light
- Pre-K programs
- Small Ensembles

NEXT MEETING: February 23, 2017; Grand Opera House, Wesler Room, 5:30pm.

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Education Committee Purpose and Mission

DSO Education Committee Purpose

To be a voice and an ear to the community and drive the educational components of the Delaware Symphony programming to excellence, resulting in the DSO becoming a valued partner with schools and organizations in the region, and maximizing benefits to students of all ages.

DSO Education Committee Mission

To help create a strategic vision of where educational efforts by the DSO can lead, and through various activities, optimize the educational and outreach programming of the DSO to have maximum impact on area schools, colleges and other institutes of learning.