



Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:
Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra

Address:
11065 5th Ave NE, Suite A
Seattle, WA 98125

Contact:
(206) 362-2300
<https://syso.org>

Organization's General Goals:
Founded in 1942, Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra (SYSO) is the largest youth orchestra training program in the United States. The organization serves over 1,893 diverse students each year with five orchestras, two summer festival programs, and extensive partnerships with local public schools. By awarding financial aid annually, SYSO ensures that every talented student can participate in our programs, regardless of financial resources.

Date of Award:	Level:
2021 Q4	\$500 to \$2,500

For more information, please read the attached report from Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra.

8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip, WA 98271
TulalipCares.org

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Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra

October 5, 2022

Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions
Marilyn Sheldon, Director
8802 27th Avenue NE
Tulalip, WA 98271

Dear Ms. Sheldon,

From all of us at Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra, we are grateful for Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions' generous \$█████ grant in support of the SYSO in the School's educational programs. Through this gift, SYSO provided profound, long-term arts experiences for over 780 public school students during the 2021-22 school year. We are thrilled to submit this 2021-2022 final report (Q4 2021 14.2) with you to share the impact of your ongoing support to SYSO and the SYSO in the Schools programs.

2021-2022 ACTIVITIES: SYSO IN THE SCHOOLS

Returning to in-person rehearsals and performances allowed SYSO in the Schools (SITS) musicians to come together with peers and coaches. SYSO in the Schools (SITS) included in-person public activities for the Musical Pathways Project (MPP), a free school-based music program that builds teacher capacity and student access to music education in inequitably funded public schools. Our other SITS program, Endangered Instruments Program (EIP), which creates opportunities for students and teacher to discover less-commonly-played instruments, was on hold due to COVID-19 in the 2021-2022 year. SYSO is excited to be in plans with Seattle Public School District on restarting the EIP program later this year.



Throughout the year, SYSO offered free orchestra instruction through the SYSO in the Schools program, distributed youth orchestra scholarships to students from low-income households, provided free and discounted tickets for all events, and launched a new community-led ensemble.

Within SYSO in the Schools (SITS), SYSO moved forward with our ongoing partnership with Seattle Public Schools at Aki Kurose Middle School, Cleveland STEM High School, and Rainier Beach High School. SITS also served students from an additional eight public schools through the Cadenza Afterschool Orchestra program for elementary students, helping SYSO reach more youth musicians and partner with educators. In 2021-22, SITS served a total of 103 young people. Within SITS participating schools, students represented 69% of youth from low-income backgrounds and 92% of students of color (41% Black/African American; 0.4% American Indian/Alaskan Native; 15% Hispanic/Latinx; 26% Asian; 1% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander; and 9% Two or More Races).

In 2022, SYSO also launched a **new youth orchestra program, Music Youth Southeast (MY Southeast)**, alongside community members of Seattle's Southeast neighborhoods. MY Southeast is a free program designed to remove barriers to music education for our students. Since the start, the central idea of the MY Southeast ensemble has

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been to create space for artistic growth and community support in Southeast Seattle's vibrant and diverse neighborhoods. This community-led ensemble serves 6th through 12th graders from the Southeast community and low-income backgrounds. In 2022, the ensemble meets weekly and features 44 young people from more than 15 Seattle Schools who play the violin, viola, cello, bass, and percussion.

COMMUNITY SERVED

SYSO in the Schools supports the larger community's goals to make Seattle schools more equitable for all students. Many of the schools we supported in FY21 (particularly the MPP schools) were located within Seattle's Southeast and Southwest regions, representing some of Seattle's lowest-income neighborhoods. Within MPP, 68% of students qualified for the Free and Reduced Meal Program (FRMP). The generosity of Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions allows us to increase access to quality music instruction for inequitably funded public schools, helping schools develop sustainable and vital music programs that will last for years.

SITS & MY SOUTHEAST ORCHESTRA EVALUATION & OUTCOMES

Through the support of this grant, SYSO made the following impacts in 2021-2022:

- Served 573 students through instrumental music programs: MPP (100 students), Cadenza (18 students), Youth Orchestra (407) Seattle Chamber of Music (48 students).
- Served approximately 30 elementary students through Cadenza After-School Orchestra.
- Served 20-30 middle and high school students through MY Southeast Orchestra.
- At least 90% of students agreed that working with a coach increased their confidence in their ability to play an instrument.
- At least 80% of students demonstrated growth in 21st Century Skills, which are the skills and learning dispositions critical to success in School, career, and life: creative thinking, critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and perseverance skills.
- Expanded the teaching capacity and curriculum for at least three music teachers and their music programs by providing them with professional development tools and techniques. (Aki Kurose Middle School, Cleveland STEM High School, and Rainier Beach High School)



"[The best thing about working with a coach is] the different techniques taught to play. Teaching rhythms and dynamic control. Overall teaching me how to better perform on my instrument." —MPP Student

"I liked how good their advice was and how nice they were. Even when you made a mistake" —MPP Student

Family, Parent & Teacher Feedback

- Teachers also agreed that SYSO's music coaches **"positively impacted the students' growth mindsets, ability to focus and accomplish goals, collaboration skills, and future potential."**
- 100% of surveyed public-school teachers reported **overall satisfaction**.



- Families shared that the SYSO coach's lessons and encouragement **motivated the students and increased their confidence.**

"The conductor and the other adults who run the program were all great! My musician had a very positive experience and will definitely join again this fall!" —MY Southeast Orchestra Parent

"You've created a great program; unifying the southeast community in the arts is a noble and much needed undertaking. YOU'RE awesome!" —Aki Kurose Public School Music Teacher

"I love MPP and the resources that the program provides our students and the knowledge that is provided to the teachers." —Public School Music Teacher

SYSO ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

In early July, SYSO's Board of Directors began hiring SYSO's next Executive Director. To devote the time needed to do a comprehensive search for the next permanent Executive Director, the SYSO Board hired an Interim Executive Director to help keep our programs and operations running smoothly over the next several months.

We are thrilled to announce that we have hired Marcia Isenberger as SYSO's Interim Executive Director. Marcia brings industry knowledge and experience with her, having recently completed eight months in a similar role at Bellevue Youth Symphony Orchestra.



Marcia Isenberger brings 33+ years of nonprofit executive leadership to the team at SYSO. She joined Loveall Price & Associates as a consultant in 2021. Having worked in the nonprofit sector since 1987, Marcia's expertise includes strategic planning, board development, fundraising, community development, public/private partnerships, staff development, and business operations.

Marcia will work hand-in-hand with the artistic staff until the permanent Executive Director is hired and onboarded in early 2023. We will continue to share updates on this search process, including application information for interested persons, with the SYSO community as more information becomes available.

CONCLUSION

Once again, thank you and the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions for your essential support for the SYSO in the Schools programs. It would not be possible to offer these free and affordable programs to students, teachers, and schools without supporters like you. We hope to continue growing our partnership in music, arts, and culture collaborations with you as we make music instruction accessible for all students across the Puget Sound region. If you would have any questions or would like to join us at our upcoming opening 2022-2023 Concert with SYSO, don't hesitate to get in touch with me at Julia.eagan@syso.org or 425.818.4765.

Sincerely,

Julia Eagan

Julia Eagan, Director of Development