



# THE PRESSER FOUNDATION

## *A Message From Jeffrey Cornelius, President of the Board of Trustees*

**Greetings to you all and, on behalf of the Trustees of The Presser Foundation,  
every good wish for the new year and beyond!**

This edition of our Newsletter is the first of four planned for this year. A significant initiative of the Presser Board has been moving toward greater transparency and closer communication with our grantees and among ourselves. It is hoped that this Newsletter, along with an evolving and improving website, a dynamic and comprehensive communications plan, and greater clarity in all our materials, will enable applicants, grantees, and the public to have as accurate an understanding of our processes as possible.

The dedication of the members of the Presser board and staff, particularly during these challenging times, has been inspiring. It has manifested itself in improved outreach to those we seek to serve not only as we always have, but in new ways to provide special support now, when it is needed most. All of this has been enhanced by the Board's passionate embrace of the principles of Social Justice as demonstrated by our Centering Racial Equity initiative and our efforts to bring the community of non-profit organizations together.

I have regarded it as an enormous privilege to serve The Presser Foundation during a period of significant change and challenge, and I know you join me in the hope that the new year will bring increasing good health both on the medical front as well as to the musical culture we strive to support and which needs us now more than ever.

**We welcome your feedback at every turn and  
hope you will be in touch as the need arises.**

## GRANT GUIDELINES

### 2021-22 Capital Support Grant Guidelines

After reflection and discussion, the Capital Support Committee has decided to extend

guidelines from last year that were updated as a response to COVID-19.

*Last year in the midst of COVID, the Capital Support Committee considered proposals including the capital needs of music organizations to support music programming efforts.*

*As COVID is still prevalent and the environment for music organizations still uncertain, the Capital Support Committee is extending last year's revised grant guidelines to this year, and will again consider proposals including the capital needs of music organizations to support music programming efforts. These capital needs include (but are not limited to) hardware, software, equipment, and supplies.*

**Applications are due by February 1.**

Please reach out to Teresa Rodgers at [trodgers@presserfoundation.org](mailto:trodgers@presserfoundation.org) with questions.

## GRANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 2021-22 Special Projects

Special Projects applications were due by September 15, 2021, and the Foundation funded a 24 proposals totaling \$235,000. These proposals cover a wide range of anniversary celebrations, first-time collaborations, pilot programs, general operating support for newer organizations (up to five years of existence), and planning grants that will help center racial equity within organizations.

Read about who received project funds in this [blog post](#).

### 2021-22 Undergraduate Scholar Award & Graduate Music Award

The Foundation supports 221 undergraduate schools and programs of music through the Undergraduate Scholar Award program. This fiscal year, each higher education institution received \$4,000 to give to a selected outstanding music major.

In addition, 16 graduate schools of music are chosen by the Scholar Award Committee to participate in the Graduate Music Award program. Each institution selects a graduate student and their proposal for funding at \$10,000.

In total, The Presser Foundation will give \$1,044,000 to exceptional undergraduate and graduate music students this year. The Foundation eagerly anticipates learning how the awards will contribute to the study and practice of music by students dedicated to the field.

## Social Media

The Presser Foundation is on social media! Like and follow us on [Facebook](#), and follow us on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#). We're excited to share regular updates with you, and we welcome updates from you that we can also share via our platforms.

## Newsletter

We will also be sending out our newsletter four times a year, up from two. We will be spotlighting grantees, past and upcoming events, relevant board and staff news, and other tidbits about the Foundation and philanthropy in general.

## Board & Staff Updates

### Board

Congratulations are in order for board members Susan Lewis and Melinda Whiting! Weekly broadcasts of WRTI's [The Philadelphia](#)



[Orchestra in Concert](#) will now be hosted by [Whiting](#) and produced by [Lewis](#), who also serves as lead interviewer. They will continue to bring you two-hour programs each week, but in a slightly different format than used previously.

Check out [this WRTI link](#) for more information.

### Staff

You may have met her already - Abby Rolland is the Foundation's newest team member, and moved to Philadelphia in October. She works as the Grants & Communications Manager, and part of her focus will be to build on and expand the Foundation's communications platforms and outreach.



### Board of Trustees

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### Committee Members

Heather Landes

She has a background in both communications and philanthropy and is eager to get to know you and your organization through working at Presser!

She may be reaching out to ask questions about your organization or grants you've received. If you have any questions for her or would like to share any organization updates, feel free to email her at

[arolland@presserfoundation.org](mailto:arolland@presserfoundation.org).

Phillip Lian  
Mary Ellen Poole  
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### Staff

**Teresa Araco Rodgers**

*Executive Director*

**Abby Rolland**

*Grants & Communications Manager*

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