



GRANT GUIDELINES

SPECIAL PROJECTS GRANTS

Special Projects grant applications are due by **September 15, 2024**. Grant guidelines to clarify the types of projects supported are below.* Reach out to Teresa Rodgers (trodgers@presserfoundation.org) or Rachael Gartner (rgartner@presserfoundation.org) with any questions.

- Pilot or new programs of music organizations that are intended to be embedded into ongoing programming
- First-time artistic collaborations that are intended to be ongoing (e.g., beyond a single performance or series) between existing music organizations or between an existing music organization and another artistic organization (a music organization must be the applicant and grant recipient)
- Initial general operating funding for newly established music organizations (up to 5 years in existence)
- With the mission and values of the Foundation in mind, Trustees of the Foundation may encourage or initiate other types of projects or efforts relevant to critical issues and priorities. For the 2024-25 fiscal year, the Committee will again consider proposals for planning grants of up to \$5,000 for efforts to center racial equity within music organizations. The grant aims to help minimize a financial barrier for organizations starting this important work.

**Please note that anniversary projects are no longer supported.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

The Foundation embarked on a **strategic planning process** at the beginning of this year to engage the Board and staff to develop common goals, objectives, and clear decision-making processes aligned with the Foundation's long-held, stated mission to provide philanthropic support for music and music education and to fund the musical arts in their many dimensions and manifestations while striving to serve a broad and diverse community of musicians, educators, and music lovers.

The Foundation selected **8 Bridges Workshop**, a consulting firm specializing in philanthropy that has partnered with several private foundations and arts-based organizations in the Greater Philadelphia Area, to lead it through the process. Thus far, 8 Bridges Workshop has conducted interviews with the Board, staff, and grantees, read through the Foundation's documents, and analyzed the Foundation's grantmaking over the past five years. Ahead will be more information-gathering meetings, a vision statement exercise, and strategy and implementation development.

The Foundation will continue grantmaking programs in their regular cycle through the next fiscal year. If you have any questions about the strategic planning process, please contact Teresa

GRANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

2023-24 ADVANCEMENT OF MUSIC

In February, the Foundation announced another round of general operating support grants totaling \$1,128,500.00 in new single- and multi-year grants to 114 music organizations in the Greater Philadelphia Area. In addition, the Foundation honored ten multi-year commitments totaling \$350,000.00. The number of music organizations given to is the most in the Foundation's history in this grantmaking area, and their focus and size vary greatly. The Foundation is proud to support music organizations working to make a difference in their community while significantly contributing to music and the arts in Greater Philadelphia. Learn more about the organizations that received grants in [the press release](#).

2023-24 CAPITAL SUPPORT

Announced in April, the Foundation gave new Capital Support grants totaling \$474,125 in single-year and multi-year grants to 16 music organizations. Grant payments made in 2024 for previous commitments totaled \$363,500. These grants are designated for capital projects of music presenting, music performing, and music education organizations in the Greater Philadelphia Area. Capital projects include constructing new facilities, renovating or expanding existing facilities, and organizations' equipment, technology, hardware, and software needs as they create innovative, uplifting, and diverse music programming. See which organizations received grants in [this press release](#).

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

NEW ORGANIZATIONS

The Foundation was pleased to fund 16 new music organizations in the Advancement of Music grantmaking area, which provides general operating support. These organizations, listed below, come from across Pennsylvania, from Philadelphia to Lancaster to Reading and down to Delaware. They perform for, present to, and teach people of all ages. Learn more about these organizations by clicking on their names and visiting their websites.

Berks Arts Council
Berks Sinfonietta
Black Pearl Chamber Orchestra
Chesco Pops
Concord Chamber Singers
Concordia Chamber Players
Crescendo Phoenixville
Cumberland Singers
Delaware Valley Lyric Opera Guild
Lansdowne Symphony Orchestra
Main Line Symphony Orchestra
Market Street Music
Mennonite Children's Choir of Lancaster
Philomusica Chorale
Southeastern Pennsylvania Symphony Orchestra
The Rainbow Chorale of Delaware

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 2024 NEXT MOVEMENT: PA CULTURECHECK

Join the Foundation, Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance, and PA Humanities on Zoom on **June 17, 2024** from 12:00 until 1:15 PM as we explore the findings of the **2023-24 PA CultureCheck** study.*

The PA CultureCheck is a study by PA Humanities and the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance that gathers the voices of Pennsylvania's cultural, arts, and humanities organizations and other nonprofits and community groups. The two primary goals were to continue tracking the post-pandemic recovery and regrowth and to look deeper at how organizations engage with their communities.

In this free session, the presenters will summarize the study and its implications for Pennsylvania and Greater Philadelphia's arts and culture community. We value your input, so there will be ample time for a Q&A session after the presentation, where you can share your thoughts and ask questions.

REGISTER HERE

**Grant funding from The Presser Foundation is not contingent on attending this session. The Foundation simply seeks to provide a platform to amplify expert voices on specific topics.*

SEPTEMBER 2024 NEXT MOVEMENT: CALL FOR PRESENTERS

The Foundation received many requests to support Customer Relationship Manager (CRM) systems in the 2023-24 Capital Support grantmaking area. Based on the interest in the topic, the Foundation will host a Next Movement Idea Forum on how to engage audiences, donors, and other stakeholders with a CRM and why having an effective system matters.

We are looking for a panel of four presenters. If you would like to present at this virtual Forum, please email Abby Rolland (arolland@presserfoundation.org) with your name, organization, and a brief synopsis of how you're using your CRM to engage your audiences, donors, and other stakeholders. Your organization will receive an honorarium of \$250 for your participation if selected. To learn more about Next Movement, visit our website. The deadline to submit is **August 1, 2024**.

NEWS & INFORMATION

YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA

We want to learn more about your use of social media! As part of the Foundation's efforts to highlight its grantees' efforts, we've been sharing your stories and highlighting past programs and performances. We want to better understand if this is an effective way to highlight your work. Please take **a short survey** to share your insights and feedback. Reach out to Abby (arolland@presserfoundation.org) with any questions.

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA VIA CANDID

We encourage our grantees to complete their GuideStar profiles, including sharing information about their Board and staff demographics. You can read more about why this is important in Candid's blog, but the quote below summarizes the impetus for this work. "By **better understanding the demographic profile** of those organizations that are—and are not—receiving funding, we can more closely track if they are representative of the communities they serve and whether they are getting the support they need to deliver on their missions."

BLOG POSTS

- **Guest Blog Post:** Remember that your organization can submit a guest blog post about your efforts

and receive an unrestricted honorarium! Check out the guest blog post guidelines on our website. Three organizations – **Wilmington Concert Opera**, **Music for Everyone**, and **Susquehanna Chorale** have submitted guest blog posts - read them to learn more about their work.

- **Grantee Blog Post:** The Foundation may also contact you directly to feature your organization based on our review of a Grant Follow-Up Report. Foundation staff will write the post and share a draft with you before publication. The first post of this type featured **OperaDelaware** and its innovations during its 2021-22 season. Publishing a post on your organization is completely optional. It is another way for the Foundation to feature your efforts. Please reach out to Abby (arolland@presserfoundation.org) with any questions.

BOARD AND STAFF UPDATES

Fellow Reflection:

The Foundation is grateful for the work of Graduate Music Fellow Sepehr Pirasteh, who concludes his time with the Foundation this month! During his Fellowship, he attended 27 different organizations' performances, six of which focused on music education, ten on music presentation, and 11 on music performance. Sepehr shares his final thoughts:

“The Fellowship pushed me to seek out performances and events I never would have considered on my own. This journey opened my eyes to the vibrant network of music organizations in Philadelphia, from the established institutions to the passionate grassroots initiatives. All of these organizations, big and small, are doing phenomenal work promoting music and culture, and there are many educational organizations that particularly support students from lower-income families. Meeting the directors of these groups wasn't just about exchanging pleasantries; it was an opportunity to delve into their inspirations and the challenges they faced in keeping the music alive. Their dedication was truly inspiring.”

We wish him well and look forward to hearing his many compositions in the future!

Summer Interns:

The Presser Foundation is also pleased to welcome two undergraduate summer interns, Chris Dolich and Kayleigh Howard!

Chris is an undergraduate majoring in studio music and jazz at the University of Miami. As a trumpeter, he has been a member of the University's X Jazz Band and the Latin Jazz Orchestra. He is looking forward to learning more about the corporate side of music and exploring The Presser Foundation's philanthropic mission.

Kayleigh is an undergraduate majoring in business administration at Fordham University. She serves on Fordham's Student Government Marketing Committee and tutors in Bronx high schools. She is eager to gain administrative experience while working with a team to achieve charitable objectives.

Chris and Kayleigh will be working on various projects, including contributing to the Foundation's work on the Undergraduate Scholar Award program, updating the Foundation's Trustee handbook, supporting efforts related to strategic planning, sharing observations and providing suggestions for the Foundation's communications and social media, and more.

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