

The Encore Project

Of the Palm Beaches



.....A grant proposal made to the TeamWork USA Education Foundation

North Palm Beach Elementary
U.B. Kinsey Elementary School of the Arts
Egret Lake Elementary
Grove Park Elementary

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The **Encore Project of the Palm Beaches** began with the idea to bring instrumental music to all students in Northern Palm Beach County. Much of the inspiration for the program comes from Venezuelan ‘**El Sistema**’ model. This world-wide model with the orchestra at its heart, creates a musical anchor for young musicians. The schools’ administration, music faculty, and the regular academic faculty embrace the many social benefits of an orchestral program, so critical for young learners. Beginning in the fall of 2013, four schools are proposing to begin a partnership in The Encore Project.

The schools:

North Palm Beach Elementary

Already a founding member of the Alliance of El Sistema Inspired Programs, North Palm Beach Elementary formed the **Children’s Orchestra & Performing Arts Project @ North Palm Beach Elementary** began with an idea to bring instrumental music to students who did not have the financial means for private lessons as well as a sense of community to a school with a declining enrollment. Scheduled within the regular school day, this program expanded schedules and adapted facilities to provide space and time for the music program that would launch with more than 60 participants. In the fall of 2010 a grant from the Mary and Robert Pew Public Education Fund supplied the needed \$25,000 seed funds for instruments, music books and stands to get the program started. Teacher salaries came through regular PBCSD budget funds and Title I funding. Teaching artists for strings and band were hired to team with the instrumentalist music teacher already in place. The outstanding quality of the teaching artists selected added a solid musical base to the work ahead.

After 2 ½ years, over 200 students in the COPA Project are playing musical instruments. Students in grades K-5 experience high quality instrumental music instruction each week. Much of the inspiration for the program had come from Venezuelan El Sistema model. The school’s principal and music faculty studied El Sistema frameworks and models closely, and recognized the impact that such a program could have on the underserved communities in our district. North Palm Beach Elementary is home to students where 89% of families are eligible for subsidized meals. The concept of the COPA Project is fully supported by the school’s administration.



Grant request for North Palm:

North Palm Beach Elementary will benefit from the leadership of a Sistema Fellow trained program developer. In addition, our Children’s Orchestra & Performing Arts project desires to extend our instrumental music instruction beyond the school day for grades 2-5. Our goal is 10 hours per week of instrumental instruction for participating students. At this time the COPA project has 106 students in grades 2-5 who play musical instruments.

UB Kinsey School of the Arts

U.B. Kinsey/Palmview Elementary School of the Arts has been an Arts Magnet School for almost 20 years. The Fine Arts Faculty is one of the finest in the county. Each member of the Fine Arts Faculty is an active “professional” in their art area. When the opportunity to begin an “El Sistema” program became available, the Music Department was very honored and excited for this wonderful realization for the children in our school. We believe that Music Education is a most important part of educating the whole child; academically, socially, as well as culturally.

One of the first steps to take is to evaluate our current Fine Arts schedule, specifically the Music department’s schedule. One of the goals was to make sure our students who have already chosen a Music “Speciality” be involved in that department of music; chorus, band or orchestra, every day of the week. A change to the schedule will affect all the teachers, not just the Music Staff.

The next step was to visualize what our El Sistema program should look like. After researching other El Sistema programs, and speaking with teachers who teach in El Sistema Programs across the country, we chose to begin with a small group of students in Kindergarten and a slightly larger group of students in the second and third Grade. We would also like to include our students in fourth and fifth grade who are already playing in band and orchestra. These students will participate by coming to band and orchestra rehearsals every day of the week for 45 minutes instead of 2 days a week for 50 minutes. This group of students will benefit from Private Lessons, sectional rehearsals and small group instruction from Artist in Residence Music Instructors during this time. The other Art Area Studios will also benefit greatly from this change in the schedule. Students in second grade are already given the choice of studying a string instrument or the keyboard during their Fine Arts music class. However, this class only meets on one day of a 5-Day rotation for 45 minutes. This is not enough time to properly learn to play either keyboard or violin. A group of current second grade students are already learning to play string instruments. We would like to include a group of second and third grade students to participate in the after-school Program. This program will have two 40-minute periods of music every day. Students will have a daily band/orchestra rehearsal, daily Music Theory class, and weekly private lessons/sectional lessons/small group instruction.

Our Kindergarten students presently have Violin Class on one day of a six-day Fine Arts Class Schedule. This breaks down to them going to Violin Class for 45 minutes once every other week. Selected Kindergarten students will participate in our after-school El Sistema Music Program much in the same manner as the Second and Third Grade students. The class “Music Theory” is called “General Music” for Kindergarten.

The El Sistema Program will give us the opportunity to affect many young lives by allowing them the time to learn to play and appreciate playing beautiful music.

Egret Lake Elementary

As an Art Integration School, Egret Lake will be able to continue the pursuit of exposing students to the Arts. The El Sistema program would support the existing Egret Musical Arts (EMA) program by improving society through the Arts. **Curriculum:** Strings, Woodwinds, Percussion, Choral/Vocal.

Student Participation

- Select 18 Kindergarten Students and 18 First Grade Students to participate in an intense strings instruction.
- Special Education – Deaf and Hard of Hearing Chorus
- Nurture and grow the choral program 3rd, 4th and 5th graders.

Instructional Time

- School Day Instruction - Add Humanities to the Fine Arts Wheels for the selected students.
- Wavier on PE/L for all students to allow time in the students schedules to ADD musical instruction.
- After School Instruction – Work with the afterschool program to support the 36 instrumental students.



Instructors

- Current Music Teacher is Vocal Trained to support choral
- Part – Time Teaching Artist to support the instrumental students.
- Afterschool Grant to obtain a instrumental instructor
- Staff Members volunteer for comp-time to support program.

Grove Park Elementary

The Encore Project will be the first expanded arts program for Grove Park Elementary. With 93% of students eligible for free or reduced price lunches, this school has both demonstrated need and a desire for an intense instrumental music program. For the first year, Grove Park Elementary proposes to begin with students in grades K and 1, 20 students at each grade. The schedule would be built to allow for 30 minutes of music instruction, 5 days per week, during the school day. Further instruction would be available after school for an additional 4 hours of instruction weekly. The faculty and administration is in full support of this project and is committed to its success.

The Encore Project Key Overall Goals:

- Improved school attendance
- Improved academic performance
- Improved self-concept
- Improved social connection to school and community
- Improved family participation in school and student activities
- Improved problem solving capacity
- Improved empathy and social awareness
- Character development
- Inspiring children to discover their passion for music and the arts

Program Goals:

Primary Students at the 4 Encore Schools:

By June of 2014, Reading Running Record data for grade K-2 students participating in the COPA Project at North Palm will demonstrate that 80% or more are reading at or above grade level expectations.

Intermediate Students at North Palm Beach Elementary:

BY June of 2014, FCAT Reading and Mathematics data for grades 3-5 will demonstrate that 65% or more are scores at grade level expectation or higher on the Spring 2014 FCAT assessment in Reading and 70% or more meeting expectation in Mathematics.

Intermediate Students at U.B. Kinsey School of the Arts:

BY June of 2014, FCAT Reading and Mathematics data for grades 3-5 will demonstrate that 65% or more are scores at grade level expectation or higher on the Spring 2014 FCAT assessment in Reading and 60% or more meeting expectation in Mathematics.

All Students at the 4 Encore Schools:

By June of 2014, students participating in the COPA Project will demonstrate improved attendance of less than 5 absences in the school year.

By June of 2014, post-project interviews and surveys will reveal an increase in parent involvement with the school and an increase in involvement in musical events, both school-based and community.

Student participation goals; Students playing instruments:

North Palm current students playing: 229

Projected goal: 250, 63% of all students at North Palm

Egret Lake current students playing: 0

Projected goal: 36 strings, 40 in chorus

Grove Park current students playing: 0

Projected goal: 40



Gaining momentum...

What elements would boost our original El Sistema inspired program and help spread it across the county?

I Our first consideration would be the addition of a full-time **Sistema Fellow** to our school district. With a year of preparation at the New England Conservatory of Music, this professional musician gains a wealth of knowledge from the unique design of this fellowship. Their practical experiences during fieldwork at long-established nucleos both here and abroad will help grow our programs as we learn about the teaching artistry and programmatic elements of El Sistema inspired programs. The pinnacle of their training is a month-long visit to Venezuelan nucleos, a training that will help the Sistema Fellow guide our program to keep it

as close as possible to the original design of El Sistema's social change mission.

The **Expert-In-Field (EIF), El Sistema** is charged with facilitating successful implementation of the Encore Project's El Sistema. The EIF is responsible for Instructional staff mentoring/coaching and the overall launch and teaching practices deployment of the Encore Project, ensuring effective El Sistema classroom teaching program execution, teaching and modeling El Sistema methods assuring the program's sustainability and growth to the greatest areas of need across the county. The EIF will also cultivate various income sources from private foundations, individuals, corporations, government grants, among others. Other areas of responsibility include supervision of schedule planning and evaluation of program needs, guiding teaching artists, community engagement and public relations. This is a full-time, salaried position with benefits. It is hired by and directly accountable to the School District of Palm Beach County. This position is grant funded.

II The element we see as a need for increasing students' musical capacity is the addition of **part-time teaching artists to our faculties**. The additional teaching artists would allow our students to have more individual attention during large group instruction, and would allow our program to begin to offer sectionals for specific instruments. In an orchestra setting where students can join at any time, having a teaching artist available to bring new-comers along in their learning is critical.

III The element that would allow us to mirror the Venezuelan El Sistema model and increase our students' musical abilities includes **expanding our program into the after-school hours**. This supplemental time would eventually include students at all grade levels K-5 and all orchestral levels.

Budget:

Total Grant Request from TeamWork USA Education Foundation: \$69,000

Grant Budget:

Budget need/ Sources	TeamWork USA	Egret Lake	Grove Park	NPBE	UB Kinsey	School District Contribution	Total Project Funds
*Expert in Field, El Sistema music position	\$51,580 Salary + Benefits	0	0	0	0	0	Matching & Project
40 Extra Duty Days @ \$194.00	\$9,700 – Daily rate + benefits						
Teaching Artists	\$7,720 including Benefits To be shared by the four schools	10,000 School based budget, other grants, fundraising donations	10,000 School based budget, other grants, fundraising donations	17,000 School based budget, other grants, fundraising donations	9,000 School based budget, other grants, fundraising donations	0	
Musical Instruments						10,000 in-kind value of re- allocated musical instruments for Grove Park and Egret Lake ES	
Total funds from source	\$69,000	10,000	10,000	17,000	9,000	10,000	
Total project	\$69,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	\$125,000
Total matching from schools and district in-kind		10,000	10,000	17,000	9,000	10,000	56,000

Salary (196 Duty Days)	38,000
Fringe Benefits (@16% of salary)	6,080
Life/Health Insurance	<u>7,500</u>
Position Salary+Benefits Subtotal	\$51,580

Extra Duty Days @ \$194/day x 40 days	7,760
Fringe Benefits on Extra Days @ 25%	<u>1,940</u>
Extra Duty Days Subtotal	\$ 9700
Position Grand Total	\$61,280

Timeline:

March/April 2013	Seek and interview candidate for Program Developer/Artistic Director
July 1, 2013	Program developer begins work at the four schools, meeting with the principals and music staff to plan schedule and tasks required before the start of school. Program developer interviews teaching artists along with school principals, for each site.
August 2013	Student participants are sought out at Egret Lake and Grove Park Elementary schools. Parent meetings are held at all four schools to discuss the program, El Sistema model, and expectations. Students are measured for instruments and instruments and materials are ordered.
September 2013	After-school classes begin at all four schools.
September 2013	Base-line academic data is gathered for all participating students.
September 2013	Parents at all Encore programs begin lesson visits. Professional development for music staff at all schools provided by the Program Director.
October 2013	First 'carpet concert' at all schools.
November 2013	Volunteer orientation for visiting musicians desiring to volunteer
December 2013	Winter Concert for all schools.
January 2014 – May 2014	Continue with student lessons, professional development and program development.
June 2013	Conduct parent and student post-surveys. Complete academic data gathering.
July 2014	Complete program report for Teamwork USA Foundation.