



Over 16,000 Students Served Since 2013

www.YoungMusiciansUnite.org

MIAMI BEACH

Our Partnership

Young Musicians Unite is thankful for the generous support of the City of Miami Beach. Over the last 6 years, YMU has impacted over 2,500 students in four Miami Beach schools through the City's STEAM+ Arts Programs, has successfully implemented over 90 youth concerts for Miami Beach residents and has partnered with the city to run and redevelop the Miami Beach Senior High Rock Ensemble. As you may know, the Rock Ensemble was founded by the late Doug Burris in 1972 and was the first school rock ensemble in American history.

My name is Sammy Gonzalez and I am the CEO/Founder of Young Musicians Unite, founder of the Wynwood School of Music, and current Director of the Miami Beach Rock Ensemble. I personally attended North Beach Elementary, Nautilus Middle School and Miami Beach Senior High School. At Miami Beach Senior High School, I was a member of the Rock Ensemble, The Classical Guitar Ensemble, and was a Silver Knight Nominee for the school. Doug Burris was like a father to me and over the last 3.5 years I have been focused on revitalizing the Rock Ensemble, increasing its relevance to the students and our community. Over the years, we have been successful in partnering and performing with The City of Miami Beach, The North Beach Bandshell, The Bass Museum and New World Symphony.

REQUESTS:

1) STEAM+

- a) Young Musicians Unite has been working with the City of Miami Beach on the STEAM+ program for the past 6 years, 2018-current.
- b) Our programs are located at Nautilus Middle School, North Beach Elementary, Fienberg Fisher K-8, and Miami Beach Senior High School
- c) An issue with the program is that funding doesn't kick in until November, which provides issues with the schools and students not having a teacher for August, September, and October. North Beach Elementary, Nautilus Middle School, Feinberg Fisher, and Miami Beach Senior High School have a 30 year history of strong guitar teachers and programs. Currently the only guitar teacher is at North Beach Elementary and the rest of the schools depend on Young Musicians Unite to come in through STEAM+ funding to provide programming.
 - i) Students at Miami Beach High School and Feinberg had to wait until November before they were able to actually use their guitars in their class due to the funding starting late into the semester.
 - ii) Due to this issue, the teacher at Nautilus decided to cut the 200 student guitar program for the first time in 30+ years. He wants the program to return but needs the program to start when school starts.
- d) Our budget for this 23/24 school year is \$72,000 with 515, 1.5 hour classes this school year.
 - i) If we were able to start programming on the first day of school our budget would have been \$91,904 for 704, 1.5 hour classes. So for an extra \$19,904 we would be able to give students the consistency in their programming they deserve and also add in an extra 189 classes of music across Miami Beach schools.
- e) We recommend that funding goes from November to October 31st to account for the budget terms.

2) **The Miami Beach Rock Ensemble - We are looking for an increase in funding due to an increase in surveys and inflation. Funding currently stands at \$30,000 per year and our budget is \$129,517 per year.**

- a) The Rock Ensemble, founded by the late Doug Burris in 1972, is the first school based ensemble of its kind in our nation's history. The student-led musical group is a combination of musicians, stage crew and a sound engineering team. The Rock Ensemble comes together to play classic and modern rock and lends vocational experience to its students through engaging them in professional environments at a young age. Many professional musicians and sound engineers have passed through the ranks of the Rock Ensemble over its 52 year run. I'm proud to note the achievement and success of the group and our partnership

between The City of Miami Beach, Miami Beach Senior High School, Young Musicians Unite and MDCPS.

i) **Sammy Gonzalez - Director**

(1) Founder of the non-profit Young Musicians Unite, The Wynwood School of Music, The Bull Productions Recording Studio, and Miami Music Productions. Sammy is a past Rock Ensemble Alumnus of the program under the late Doug Burris and Michael McNamee.

ii) **Michael McNamee - Assistant Director**

(1) Guitarist and Vocalist for The Macsters. Mac has led as Assistant Director for the last 24 years and was an alumnus of the program under the late Doug Burris.

iii) **AJ Hill - Artistic Director** - Saxophone player of the world renown Spam Allstars.

b) **Funding Supports:** It costs approximately \$129,517 to fully fund and train the ensemble for a full school year, perform in a minimum of 20 performances, and compete nationally.

(1) 70, 3 Hour Classes with 3 teaching artists who specialize in engineering, vocals, and instruments.

(2) Student participation in over 20 concerts across our city

(3) ACT Prep

(4) College Readiness Prep (Counselors and Private Lessons for Auditions)

(5) Venue rentals

(6) Production Manager, Van, and stage hands for 20 concerts

(7) T-shirts and Marketing

(8) Professional Equipment

(9) Professional music recordings and video in a grade A studio

ii) We have taken the ensemble to new heights and with these rounded services and the cost to run this program has gone up due to pay increases.

iii) **Funding Breakdown:**

(1) City of Miami Beach \$30,000

(2) Children's Trust \$39,000

(3) Young Musicians Unite \$60,517

3) The Expansion of the Fienberg Fisher Rock Ensemble and Creation of the Nautilus Rock Ensemble

a) The Feinberg Fisher Rock Ensemble has been around for 30 years under former teacher Mr. Pasero. Once Mr. Pasero left Young Musicians Unite and took over the ensemble to make sure the program didn't cease to exist. This program is an important feeder and pipeline into Miami Beach Senior High School.

b) The current program operates one day a week for two hours.

c) Proposal - We are proposing

- i) Fienberg Fisher Rock Ensemble takes place 3 times per week, for 2 hours, with two teachers working with the students.
- ii) We create the Nautilus Rock Ensemble, with the ensemble taking place 3 times per week, for two hours with two teachers.
- iii) These two ensembles will create a pipeline and consistency from Nautilus and Feinberg into Miami Beach Senior High School. This pipeline will also keep schools within the feeder pattern and slow attrition to schools such as MAC and New World School of the Arts.

iv) Funding Supports: It costs approximately \$95,086 to fully fund and train the two ensembles for a full school year, performing in a minimum of 10 performances.

- (a) Two schools with 3 day a week programs
- (b) 90, 2 Hour Classes with 2 teaching artists who specialize in engineering and vocals/instruments.
- (c) Student participation in over 10 concerts across our city
- (d) Venue rentals
- (e) Production Manager, Van, and stage hands for 10 concerts
- (f) T-shirts and Marketing
- (g) Professional Equipment
- (h) Professional music recordings and video in a grade A studio

(2) Funding Breakdown & Request:

- (a) City of Miami Beach \$67,950
- (b) Young Musicians Unite \$27,136