

**Buncombe County FY2020 Strategic Partnership Grants
Application Summary Sheet**

Project	The Asheville Symphony Youth Orchestra Education program
Organization	Asheville Symphony Orchestra

Amount Requested	\$10,000	Strategic Priority or Sustainability Goal	Arts/Culture/Recreation
New or Renewal Request	New	Commissioner Districts Served	All

Organization Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Asheville Symphony Orchestra performs and promotes symphonic music for the benefit, enjoyment and education of the people of Western North Carolina. 3 key accomplishments defining ASO: consistently deliver high level of classical musical performances; created a biennial classical music festival, Asheville Amadeus where over 20,000 people, from all walks of life, musical experience, ages, and education are able to access symphonic concerts, ballet, theater, ensembles, and youth performances tailored to reach across many demographics; and the growth of the Asheville Symphony Youth Orchestra (ASYO).
Project Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans to continue to deliver and grow a robust youth music education program, which is a program that the schools are not able to deliver. Provides a full spectrum of music education and performance opportunities. Does not turn any child away and offer scholarships for youth who come from schools with 51% free or reduced lunches. ASYO's main goal is to continue to grow the program, both in number of participants, the areas from which participants come from, and the caliber of education those students receive.
People Served	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently, ASYO encompasses four orchestras and two ensembles involving 180 students between the ages of 9 and 18 who reflect the demographics of Buncombe County and Asheville City schools. Given recent program growth, staff anticipates that this number will increase in the coming years.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of ASYO's graduates accepted into schools after high school, if they so choose; prepared for the real world in music-ASYO staff leads weekly coaching sessions to ensure musical growth in technical skill and musical knowledge. Staff also documents the practice of "seating auditions" and "part checks" in order to assess each student's individual level of preparation and development; Increased number of students who have auditioned and been accepted to prestigious camps and concerts. ASYO staff document progress toward goal achievement and outcomes in two ways: 1) through regular staff meetings to review program plans, student progress, and make adjustments where needed, and 2) through objective data gathered by measuring the outcomes listed above.

Budget			
Amount Funded FY2019	n/a	Increase Request	n/a
Project Budget	\$163,200	Total Organization Budget	\$2,059,512
Other Funding Sources: Tuition, ticket sales, individual contributions, advertising and grants			

Additional Information

The Asheville Symphony Youth Orchestra Education program

FY2020 Strategic Partnership Grants

Asheville Symphony Orchestra

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Application Form

Question Group

Please complete the form below and upload the required files for your application. Organizations submitting more than one project must complete one submission form for each project. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Priority is given to nonprofit organizations with projects that contribute to Buncombe County's strategic priorities or sustainability goals.

For FY2020, no Strategic Partnership Grant applications will be considered for the strategic priorities "Affordable Housing" or "Early Childhood Education." Funding for affordable housing projects is managed through Buncombe County's Affordable Housing Services Program. Funding for early childhood projects will be managed through the newly forming Early Childhood Education and Development Fund.

Project Name*

Name of Project.

The Asheville Symphony Youth Orchestra Education program

Amount Requested*

\$10,000.00

Strategic Priority*

Which of the following priorities best reflects the primary goal of your project?

Buncombe County Commissioners are dedicated to strengthening the quality of life for everyone by setting new fiscally, socially and environmentally responsible goals that will guide decisions and improve our community for future generations. The Board has committed to strategic priorities as a guide to shape partnerships and investments of resources to insure a healthy, safe, well-educated, thriving and sustainable community.

Details about the Strategic Priorities are available at [THIS LINK](#).

Other Sustainability Goal

Strategic Priority - Other Sustainability Goal

If you selected "Other Sustainability Goal" from the list of Strategic Priorities, please list it here.

Details about the Sustainability Goals are available at [THIS LINK](#).

Quality education

Organization Description*

Tell us about your organization. What is your mission? Highlight two or three key facts and accomplishments that best define your organization.

The Asheville Symphony Orchestra performs and promotes symphonic music for the benefit, enjoyment and education of the people of Western North Carolina. 3 key accomplishments defining ASO.- we consistently deliver high level of classical musical performances; we created a biennial classical music festival, Asheville Amadeus where over 20,000 people, from all walks of life, musical experience, ages, and education are able to access symphonic concerts, ballet, theater, ensembles, and youth performances tailored to reach across many demographics; and the growth of the Asheville Symphony Youth Orchestra (ASYO). Through intensive outreach to public schools the program as grown from 45 youth to 180, with a faculty of 7 and a budget of \$160,000. The ASYO is composed of 4 orchestras, and 3 ensembles! The youth in this program are from the Asheville area. We are committed to allowing any child who qualifies musically to become a part of this program, regardless of the ability to pay.

Project Description

What do you propose to do? What is your plan? What are your goals?

We plan to continue to deliver and grow a robust youth music education program. The Asheville Symphony Youth Orchestra is answering the need for a high caliber music education program in Asheville. Schools are not able to deliver this type of program, and we have found an overwhelming need which we address by providing a full spectrum of music education and performance opportunities. We do not turn any child away and offer scholarships for youth who come from schools with 51% free or reduced lunches. ASYO's main goal is to continue to grow the program, both in number of participants, the areas from which participants come from, and the caliber of education those students receive. ASYO's ultimate goal is to clearly demonstrate to the community, in numerous ways, how valuable this type of musical program is to the community. We believe extraordinary music education should be available to everyone.

Key Steps*

How will the project work? What are specific activities and milestones that your project entails?

The project has a distinct life cycle based on the school year-early spring are auditions (all students are placed in an orchestra based on competencies) summer and early fall is a time of communication and preparation for the fall to spring program. Rehearsals begin in early fall in preparation for a September concert; rehearsals twice a week throughout the span of the "season" in preparation of a total of 4 concerts-1 in September, 1 in December, 1 in March and 1 in May. The concerts are held in various halls in Asheville. Retreats, workshops, coaching, and competitions are in addition to rehearsals and occur throughout the season. Tuition covers the cost of all of the retreats and workshops. Milestones include acceptance into competitions and various music camps; winning competitions, scholarships and invitations to prestigious music education programs, ASYO seniors being accepted into colleges; very low attrition and high attendance at ASYO concerts.

Area Served*

Which areas of the County will be served by this project? Which Commissioner District(s) will be served?

A Buncombe County Commissioner district map is available at [THIS LINK](#).

The ASYO program is open to all youth in the entire region of Buncombe County. We recruit and have students from all three of the county districts. We have students from the following Buncombe County School District: Valley Springs Middle School

A.C. Reynolds High School
 Asheville Catholic School
 Chartles T. Koontz Intermediate
 Clyde A. Erwin High School
 Evergreen Community Charter School
 French Broad River Academy for Girls
 French Broad River Academy for Boys
 Invest Collegiate Imagine
 Martin L. Nesbitt Discovery Academy
 The New Classical Academy
 Charles D. Owen High School
 Enka Intermediate School
 Enka High School
 Cane Creek Middle School
 Fletcher Academy
 Veritas Christian Academy
 Artspace Charter School
 Asheville Christian Academy
 Charles D. Owen Middle School
 North Buncombe High School
 North Buncombe Middle School
 North Windy Ridge Intermediate School

People Served*

Who are the members of our community this project will serve? How many people will be served? Include demographics, including age, area median income, race, neighborhood and/or school.

Currently, ASYO encompasses four orchestras and two ensembles involving 180 students between the ages of 9 and 18 who reflect the demographics of Buncombe County and Asheville City schools. Given recent program growth, staff anticipates that this number will increase in the coming years. ASYO students come from: 20% Asheville City Schools 53% Buncombe County Schools 7% Charter Schools; 5% Homeschool, 15% Private School. Demographics of participants are 49% male 51% female, 33% of the youth who participate receive reduced tuition or full scholarships which means they come from schools with 51% or higher free or reduced school lunches.

Partners*

Which other organizations are you working with to reach your goals? What other local organizations provide similar services or serve similar beneficiaries, and how do you work together?

We work extensively with Asheville High School, UNC-A, and Mars Hill University. All three of these programs share their equipment with us to run rehearsals. The equipment includes, chairs, stands, and percussion equipment. We have begun an internship with UNC-A students whose duties include site management and string bowings. ASYO's goal is to engage UNC-A interns in teaching students. We also work with Central United Methodist Church who allows us to use their space for concerts and workshops helping serve our educational needs by providing a safe space and other needed resources.

Personnel*

Who is responsible for the project? Briefly describe project leaders and the role each will play in the project. How do these leaders reflect the population or community that you serve?

Brian Garland, is the ASYO Orchestra Manager, he is responsible for the daily operations of the ASYO, communication with parents and students about rehearsals, performances, retreats, and workshops. He is also responsible for fundraising and works closely with the ASYO Executive committee who manage the support group Friends of the ASYO. Emily Shaad is the music director, responsible for conducting the Youth and Philharmonia Orchestras. She oversees the artistic and educational direction of the program and works with the other conductors and coaches to execute that vision. Amanda Tant - Prelude Orchestra, Andrea Dennis - Chamber Orchestra conductors plan rehearsals, pick repertoire in line with educational goals and conduct their respective ensembles. Kevin Kimbrough, Operations Manager, responsible for managing AHS site and help organize all operations for concerts, workshops and retreats. Fletcher Peacock - Manages UNC-A site and UNC-A internship.

Success*

How will you measure results? What will success look like? How will you document the impact of your project? Include whether there is a model that serves as basis for project design.

Success is: 100% of ASYO's graduates accepted into schools after high school, if they so choose; prepared for the real world in music-ASYO staff leads weekly coaching sessions to ensure musical growth in technical skill and musical knowledge. Staff also documents the practice of "seating auditions" and "part checks" in order to assess each student's individual level of preparation and development; Increased number of students who have auditioned and been accepted to prestigious camps and concerts-In 2018 the Brevard Music Center awarded five "Brevard Scholar Awards" to our students; Increased diversity among ASYO participants that increasingly reflect the community we live in. ASYO staff document progress toward goal achievement and outcomes in two ways: 1) through regular staff meetings to review program plans, student progress, and make adjustments where needed, and 2) through objective data gathered by measuring the outcomes listed above. There are models we use for best practices.

Funding*

What is your plan for finding the balance of the project budget? What is your funding timeline and what are your other sources of support?

Our timeline is based on a fiscal year July 1st to June 30th. The funding for this program comes from three sources: revenues and contributed income and grants. Revenues are generated by tuition which is collected before the program officially begins in August. ASYO also receives revenue from concert tickets-there are four concerts per year. Funds from tuition and concerts provide 53% of ASYO's income. Throughout the year there are strategic fundraising efforts to help reach fundraising goals. Contributions from individuals are responsible for 41% of ASYO's budget. Individuals are solicited through direct mail appeals, fundraisers utilizing social media, special events, and direct appeals to specific donors. The remaining 6% of income needs are fulfilled by grants.

Sustainability*

How will this project be maintained? Please describe funding sources and how you plan to sustain the project in future years.

Program sustainability: ASYO will continue to do extensive outreach in Asheville area schools. The outreach includes the youth performing at schools, ASYO staff in schools working with students, and speaking directly to band directors; connected with local organizations like Academy for the Arts and Asheville Music School, to get audition information to students. Funding Sustainability: ASYO has diversified funding and prepares an annual funding plan. The Funding streams include revenue-Tuition, concert ticket sales and advertising sales. Contributed income -individuals, grants and major donors. Development staff support contributed income efforts and is responsible for achieving specific fundraising goals based on the program's needs. We have created Friends of the ASYO to engage the community and provide oversight of parent volunteers and fundraising. We have had great success engaging parents, board members, patrons, and businesses to support the youth orchestra.

ATTACHMENTS

Project Budget*

Download the budget form at **THIS LINK**.

Complete the budget form for this project and the overall organization.

Save it to your computer, then upload it.

SPF County ASYO Project Budget.xlsx

Financial Statements

Upload a copy of the most recently completed financial statements.

All financial statements must be audited, reviewed or compiled by a certified public accountant and include a full balance sheet, income statement, and cash flow statement.

If your organization does not have financial statements, briefly state the reason.

ASO 2018 Audit Report Draft Package v2.0.pdf

IRS Form 990

Upload a copy of the 990 nonprofit tax reporting form that you most recently completed.

If your organization does not have a 990, briefly state the reason.

ASO 2016 Form 990 Final for Public Inspection.pdf

Board of Directors List

Upload a current list of your organization's Board of Directors.

If your organization does not have a board of directors, briefly state the reason.

Asheville Symphony Board of Directors 2018.pdf

Authorized Signatory

By typing in below the name of the authorized signatory and date of submittal, you acknowledge that your governing body has authorized this application, that it is true and current to your knowledge. As a condition of any grant awarded, this organization will provide all information in the manner described in the contract to be executed between the organization and Buncombe County or its designee, including program and financial reporting.

Name & Date

David Whitehill February 8, 2019

Other attachments or supplemental information may be submitted to Rachael Nygaard at rachael.nygaard@buncombecounty.org

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- SPF County ASYO Project Budget.xlsx
- ASO 2018 Audit Report Draft Package v2.0.pdf
- ASO 2016 Form 990 Final for Public Inspection.pdf
- Asheville Symphony Board of Directors 2018.pdf