

Texas Music Partners

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2018 (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018)

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the page consists of several overlapping, semi-transparent, light blue and grey geometric shapes that create a layered, 3D effect. The shapes are arranged in a way that they appear to be part of a larger, abstract structure.

FY 2018



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Board

Chair: [Shawn Ellison](#)

Vice Chair: [Jason Miller](#)

Secretary: [Eric Gaeta](#)

Executive Director: [Kenny Felton](#)

Background

Who is Texas Music Partners?

Texas Music Partners (TMP) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and a Creative Learning Initiative (CLI) Arts Provider whose mission is to show kids how to combine creativity, technology, and music through education and performance. We do this at no cost to the institutions that use our services so we can reach more students. Our goal is to help students find a passion in music and the arts alongside technology and have it manifest into interesting careers, avocations, or hobbies related to music, the arts, or just the next generation of music lovers and patrons to make life more rich and rewarding.

What Do We Do?

Texas Music Partners accomplishes our mission in different ways:

Technology and Music – TMP offers courses to Central Texas Learning institutions to show kids how to do fun projects related to music using a smartphone. The smartphone is a readily available, powerful tool that already exists in most households, thus eliminating the need to purchase other expensive high tech equipment. Students can use their creativity and technical ability to create fun music-related projects and learn how these projects can turn into careers for the next generation of artists, engineers, software developers, videographers, photographers, producers, etc.



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Live Music in the Schools - Another project of TMP is to teach students about different styles of music and bring in professional musicians to perform for them. Each year TMP will feature a certain style of music, artist, or theme. TMP will come to the school and offer a class on the season's featured theme, then a live band will come to perform a show, based on that theme, for the school. Getting the kids excited about live music and the history of music is a good start to getting kids to try and fall in love with band, orchestra, choir, or musical theater.

Thinking Outside the Box - These courses help keep students thinking creatively and stay positive. Thinking outside the box is important to learn early, so students can continue to develop when they become young adults and have to compete in the real world.

When and Where Do We Do This?

Texas Music Partners offers these projects to public, private, charter schools and the occasional summer camp for kids from grades 3-12, but TMP's most prolific time is during the school year, where we come into the schools to teach these courses and to perform for the students.

Why Are We Doing This?

There are a number of reasons why these projects can help Central Texas communities and help get school kids more focused to stay in school:

- Helps students channel their creativity.
- Helps at-risk students by offering something that might interest them and work towards by staying in school.
- Keeps the creative process in mind, when choosing a career.
- Incorporating the STEAM approach (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Math), helps students develop creative teamwork and problem-solving skills to help keep up with the rapidly changing challenges of the future job market they will be walking into.
- Brings families and friends together with outings to see and record live music.
- Helps local businesses with these family outings.
- Helps promote local live music.
- Shows the student how to pay it forward by offering pictures, or a video back to musicians to help them promote their band.



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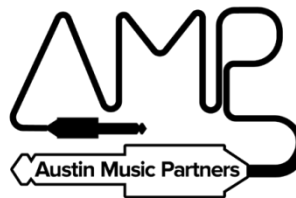
History

What Have We Been Doing the Past Couple of Years?

Even though Texas Music Partners (TMP) began as Austin Music Partners in May of 2016 and 2 years have gone by, it really feels like this is our first year as an organization. Since this is the first annual report for Texas Music Partners, we looked back at what we have accomplished over the past 2 years and we have done a lot!

Calendar Year 2016

1. We started as Austin Music Partners, a sole proprietorship for-profit business in May of 2016.



2. Created 3 courses for the Technology and Music and Live Music in the Schools projects:
 - o Making a Music Video,
 - o Taking Powerful Photos of Musicians
 - o "The Blues is Alright" (History of the Blues)
3. We were invited to Lamar Fine Arts Middle School to see what students were doing in their Digital Media class. We were also able to test some of the courses we created while getting student and teacher feedback.
4. Updated courses using feedback from the students and teacher.

Calendar Year 2017 (Jan. 1-Jun. 30)

1. Created 2 courses for the Thinking Outside The Box project:
 - o Creative Careers
 - o Developing Life Philosophies.
2. Tested the courses we created at Lamar Fine Arts Middle School and got student feedback.
3. Updated courses using feedback from the students and teacher.



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4. TMP was accepted to be fiscally sponsored by Austin Creative Alliance.



Austin Creative Alliance

5. TMP became a Creative Learning Initiative (CLI) arts provider through MINDPOP



6. We decided the organization would perform better as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.
7. We became a Texas nonprofit corporation and in the process, had to change our name to Texas Music Partners.
8. Started the application to become a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.
9. Created Board of Directors.
10. Decided to change to a fiscal year calendar (Jul. 1-Jun. 30) - *We did this so that our fiscal year would end on the same month school ended. The beginning of the next fiscal year would give us about 6 weeks to reflect on the past school year, plan and get ready for the next school year*

Fiscal Year FY2018 (Jul. 1-Jun. 30)

1. Had our first annual meeting of Texas Music Partners (Aug. 2017).
2. Sent application to the IRS to become a 501(c)(3) nonprofit (Aug. 2017).



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3. Extended our Free Offer to Central Texas schools to teach one course, per school, per year, at our expense until we become fully funded (details at www.texasmusicpartners.org/products).

FREE OFFER: Until we get funded, TMP is offering one free course per school, per year. Eligible courses include all courses in the Technology and Music, and Thinking Outside the Box categories (sorry, but the live music portion is not available until we are funded). These courses include up to 4 in-school classes in one day, during the school day, or one class after school. Eligible schools include all ISD, Charter, and Private schools in Travis County, Round Rock, and Hays County.

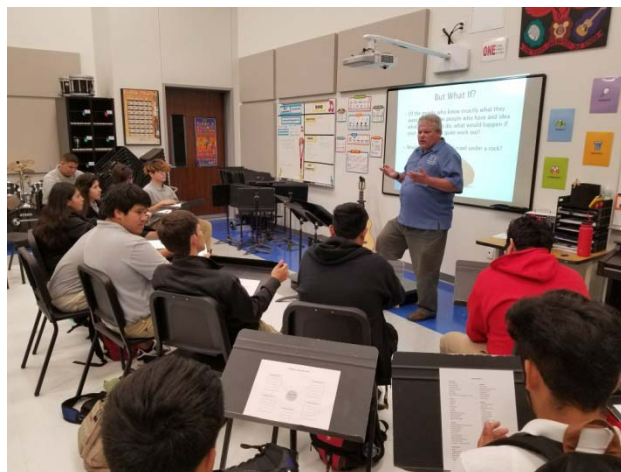
Eligible grades: see Target Audience in the class description of each course.

To schedule or for more information, contact us at:
<http://www.texasmusicpartners.org/contact/>

See our courses at: <http://www.texasmusicpartners.org/products/>



4. Taught our first course at Kipp High School and Kipp Middle School (Creative Careers) in October of 2017.





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5. Started incorporating some of the concepts of the STEAM approach (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) in our courses to make them more effective, many of which we were already doing.
6. Received our letter of determination from the IRS making Texas Music Partners a 501(c)(3) nonprofit (Jan. 2018).



7. Filed our first 990 tax return to the IRS for calendar year 2017.
8. **Taught courses at 7 schools.**
9. **Reached 522 students.**
10. Launched the Free Lecture Series – A community service to educate the public on how the arts enrich our daily lives in ways the public may not even aware of and how organizations like TMP are going into the schools to show kids how to appreciate and incorporate the arts to lead a richer life.
 - a. This season's subject is *How the Arts Enhance STEM Education* (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math). <http://www.texasmusicpartners.org/free-lecture-series/>

To Sum Up What We've Been Up To and Beyond

The first year and a quarter were spent creating the organization, developing courses, applying for nonprofit status from the IRS and getting things up and running. The past school year (2017-18) can be viewed as a benchmark on which to build. Our future priorities are to:

1. Get full funding, so we can keep the doors open and reach more students.
2. Get into more schools.
3. Come up with 1 or 2 more courses from our long-range plan, which currently has 16 courses total. Of the 16 courses 5 are currently developed and 4 are implemented. The 5th (Live Music in the Schools) will be implemented when funded. Once we get at least partial funding, we can



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start the Live Music in the Schools project to get more students interested in music (band, orchestra, choir, private lessons, musical theater, etc.).

4. Continue to educate the community on what we and other similar organizations are doing to help our students and future workforce succeed and be happy.

Experience

From a letter by J. Peterson – Boone Elementary School

TMP Course: How to Make a Music Video

5th Grade music class

"Mr. Felton had his presentation displayed on my projector as he spoke which helped students digest the information but he also engaged them by asking questions about smartphones and how they might be used to make a music video. The students definitely had some opinions and were eager to express their views. The presentation ended with a video example that showcased several of the techniques presented. Students were encouraged to make comments and observations-what worked, what could be improved, etc.-and were decidedly more knowledgeable with the criterion they learned from the lecture.

After Mr. Felton's presentation, I gave the class an assignment based on his course. Each class was split into three groups and assigned to make a video on how to play the recorder. The assignment was a success in that the students enjoyed using their creativity to demonstrate how to do something they have been learning in class. We took it a little further and did a second video, hoping to improve on the first try. The only condition was that it had to have something to do with music. The creativity really came out and the students made much better choices on the script, location, shooting technique, and acting. We had to put the videos aside to concentrate on the end of year Talent Show but the experience of working together with peers on a project that resulted in an end product was invaluable. There were plenty of mistakes but some happy accidents too, along with hilarity and artistry."



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Financial Report

On January 14, 2018, Texas Music Partners received their letter of determination from the IRS making them a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Even with a fiscal sponsor, raising funds was difficult as a pending 501(c)(3). We did manage to get a little bit of funding and with the help from the Board of Directors and the Executive Director; we were able to get many of the bare necessities needed to keep moving forward.

Our free offer, of going into the schools to teach courses at our expense didn't help our one employee pay his bills (cue laughter), but it did allow TMP to show we have a presence in the schools, which is a plus when seeking funding, especially grants. It also shows a strong desire for the organization to make a difference and help students as soon as possible, even if the money isn't there yet. At Texas Music Partners, kids come first!

Financial Report FY2018

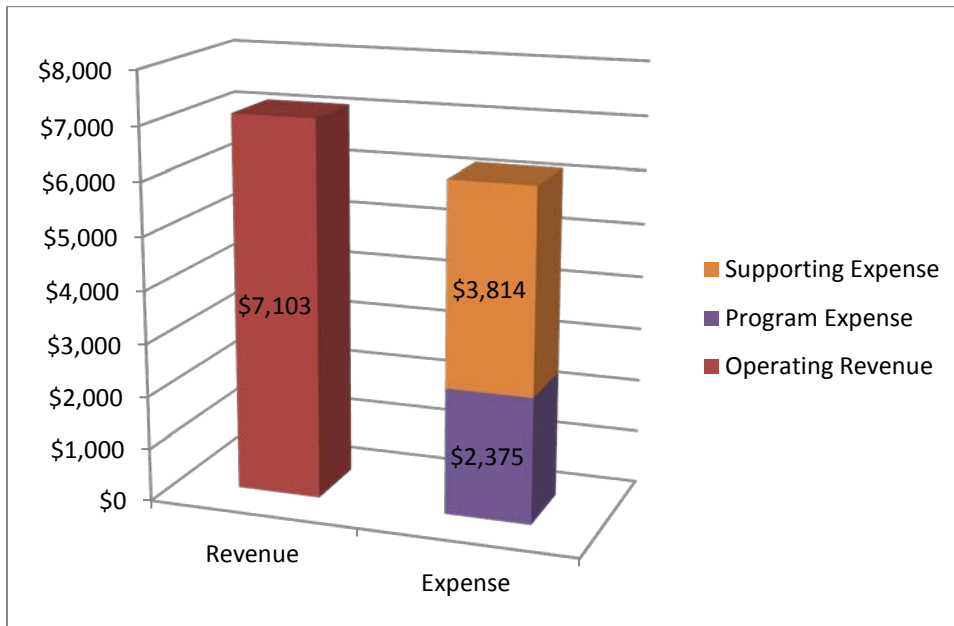
Operating Revenues	Current Year	Previous Year
Contributions	\$4,728	\$1,225
Contributed goods and services	\$2,375	\$0
Grants	\$0	\$0
Total Operating Revenues	\$7,103	\$1,225
Operating Expenses		
Program Expense		
Cost of courses	\$2,375	\$0
Cost of musicians	\$0	\$0
Total Program Expense	\$2,375	\$0
Supporting Expense		
Management & general	\$3,664	\$1,225
Fundraising	\$150	\$0
Total Supporting Expense	\$3,814	\$1,225
Total Operating Expense	\$6,189	\$1,225
Net Receipts	\$914	\$0



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Condensed Statement of Activities

FOR THE YEARS ENDING JUNE 30, 2017 AND JUNE 30, 2018



Donors

Platinum Level Donors (\$5,000+)

0

Gold Level Donors (\$1,500 - \$4,999)

Vicky Felton

Silver Level Donors (\$750 - \$1,499)

0

Bronze Level Donors (\$250 - \$749)

0

Regular Donors (\$25 - \$249)

David Ketchum Rand Larkin



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How You Can Support Texas Music Partners

Advocate

If you share a passion for the future of our children's education, please spread the message about what Texas Music Partners doing. Contact your state and national representatives, school administrators, music teachers, PTO's/PTA's, parents, friends and let them know there is an organization trying to make a difference in their child's education at no cost to them.

Volunteer

If you have the time and some expertise, TMP can use the help. We are a young organization and we can use the following types of volunteer leaders:

1. *Board Members* – If you have experience with nonprofits, especially fundraising and wish to become a part of the Board to help us stay the course and succeed, please contact us and let us know how you can help.
2. *Committee Members* – We can't do this alone, we need committee members to help plan and implement actions that will make us solvent and get us into more schools to reach more students.
3. *Volunteers* – If you are new to the nonprofit world or just want to help out, become a volunteer and help our activities come to fruition. This a great way to help a good cause and get experience at the same time. If you are interested, you can move to a committee member or a board member position as you gain experience. If not, it's just a good feeling to know you are helping kids get a creative leg up on their future.

Contact TMP at info@texasmusicpartners.org

Donate

You the donors, we are your biggest fans! You help us make a difference with your generous donations and show us that you believe in our mission. We appreciate all our donors because frankly, we can't do this without you.

Making a one-time gift is greatly appreciated, but please consider an affordable monthly donation. Becoming a sustaining member does a great deal more to help us accomplish our mission and you will barely notice it coming out of your account.



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Here is an example:

	Annual Gift
Mrs. Joan Public makes an annual donation of \$50	\$ 50
Mrs. Jane Smith makes a donation of \$10 per month	\$120

By donating just \$10 a month Mrs. Smith has more than doubled the amount Mrs. Public made enabling TMP to do much more while making a very small impact on Mrs. Smith's bank account. Of course, increasing your recurring donation only compounds the good that can be accomplished and a recurring payment can be changed or canceled at any time.

What your Donation Accomplishes

The average cost of a student attending one of TMP's courses:	\$8.40
The average cost of a student attending a TMP performance:	\$2.44

Think of how much you would pay to take a course, or attend a concert? If you donated just the amount you would spend to take that course or attend that concert, you would be impacting many more students. How does between 10-150+ students sound?

Donating Online

If you wish to donate online, please go to <http://www.texasmusicpartners.org> and click on the donate button in the upper right-hand corner of the page. If you wish to do this on your phone, the donate button is below the text (keep scrolling).

Check the "Make this a monthly donation" box if you wish to become a sustaining member. You can change, or cancel a recurring payment anytime in your PayPal account settings.





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Donating by Mail

If you wish to send a check, please make checks payable to Texas Music Partners and mail to:

Texas Music Partners
P.O. Box 299
Kyle, TX 78640

Future Gifts

Make sure that Central Texas students get the best education and that creativity is a part of it through a bequest to Texas Music Partners. Contact info@texasmusicpartners.org for information or to indicate that you have already included TMP in your estate plans.



As always, we appreciate and thank you for your support!