



US EDUCATION HUBS

In 2022, our fifth year as a registered nonprofit in the US, The VOCES8 Foundation began an exciting transformation of its strategic approach to music education work across the country.

Our ensembles and staff have run amazing projects here for more than a decade, but the need for our programming remains present, especially with the continuing lag in choral participation post-pandemic. We felt our work in the US needed to become deeper and even more intentional – thus, we created our Hubs model. We identified communities where the Foundation has strong local partnerships and where there is a clear need for our resources, and committed to building multi-year

programs of work in these locations. Both our professional ensembles and our Foundation-trained teaching artists are actively engaged in our Hubs, returning to work and perform with the same schools and local groups — and adding more connections — over an extended period of years. We believe the Hubs model is more impactful and sustainable, and we have an ambitious strategic vision for its evolution.

Inside, you'll see a look back at what we accomplished in our Hubs last season, as well as a preview of what's in store for 2023-24. If you share our enthusiasm for inspiring people across the US with music, [check the back page for how you can help our Hubs grow.](#)

Current Hub Projects

In the 2022-23 season, we began our work in five initial Hubs: New York/New Jersey, Philadelphia, Dallas, Houston, and Albuquerque. Each Hub receives multiple preparatory visits throughout the year from our US Scholars, our teaching artists, and/or our education leads, ahead of a culminating collaborative concert experience with one of our professional ensembles. Here are the highlights from a fantastic kick-off season and a look at our goals for 2023-24.

"We sang songs, made silly sounds, and overall had an incredible time...I saw my kids completely enthralled by the experience. Easily one of the best days of my professional career."

—Elementary School Music Teacher, Albuquerque



New York/New Jersey Fundraising goal: \$60,000

Thanks to generous support from Paul Simon and an amazing collaboration with the John J. Cali School of Music at Montclair State University, this was our largest Hub project in 2022-23. We worked with 21 schools and brought together over 700 students for a workshop day and performance with VOCES8 — and next season we're hoping to make it even bigger and better.

Philadelphia Fundraising goal: \$50,000

Last season, this Hub reached the broadest range of ages, working with lower elementary through high schoolers. Visits from our CEO Paul Smith and our teaching artists throughout the year helped prepare this lively bunch of singers for a great performance day at Girard Academic Music Program alongside VOCES8. We're adding more school partners next season and bringing in our new upper voice ensemble to lead our projects here.

Dallas Fundraising goal: \$30,000

Grounded in the strong partnership we have with St. Andrew Methodist Church in Plano, we have built consistent connections with a number of local schools over the years. After prep visits from our Scholars, five high schools came together to perform their own pieces for each other and to sing with VOCES8 in a high-energy

concert. Next season, we're building out to more schools, working intentionally to identify where our resources are needed most.

Houston Fundraising goal: \$30,000

The Foundation has built deep roots in Houston over many years, and the Hubs framework has helped to reach even further into the community. Following visits from our teaching artists, the 2022-23 project concluded with VOCES8 leading a workshop and performance day to a packed house at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, a longtime supporter of our local work. We'll be returning for a major residency next season, bringing a huge education team and multiple ensembles to be engaged in schools throughout the city.

Albuquerque Fundraising goal: \$40,000

In 2022-23, our Director of Education, Ann Wright, spearheaded an enthusiastic partnership between elementary schools in Albuquerque and primary schools in London. The children wrote pen pal letters to each other and met digitally to share songs and ask questions about each others' lives. Four elementary schools also participated in our Sing Together project, learning songs with Ann and our teaching artists ahead of a visit from Apollo5. Next season, we plan to keep connecting classrooms and to continue researching the impact of our work here.

What's Next?

Thanks to the engagement and generosity of a number of donors as well as the energy of our local partners, we're thrilled to have capacity to start working in additional Hubs next season – **Seattle, the Bay Area, St. Louis, the Twin Cities, and Michigan**. Programming highlights in the new Hubs will include a new commission of the multi-year A Song Everyone Can Sing project, new collaborations with university and community choirs, and in several cities, culminating education concerts featuring our new professional upper voice group.

Our goal for additional fundraising for each of these new Hubs is \$20,000.
If you'd like to support the growth of our work, turn to the back page.

WE'RE CREATING A NEW US-BASED ENSEMBLE!

Did you know...

...there are currently no full-time upper voice choral ensembles in the US?

As a Foundation, we feel drawn to address this gap, and have plans in motion to audition and appoint a new, six-member upper voice ensemble this fall. They will expand our capacity to reach more communities and classrooms across the country with our Hubs model and will invite exciting new commissions and arrangements. Additionally, we hope this will give a spark to the American choral scene, inspiring further conversations and more opportunities that fill this deficit.

The initial startup cost for this ensemble is **\$50,000**. This includes paying the singers a competitive daily rate for their rehearsal and performance time, as well as travel and per diem expenses. Our broader annual goal to support our vision for this ensemble – including offering them full-time positions and a robust concert and education schedule – is **\$300,000**. The new upper voice group will be actively involved in the Foundation's work by Spring 2024, and we look forward to sharing their vocal artistry with you.

If you're as excited about this venture as we are, we invite you to consider making a gift to support the ensemble's founding.

Go to voces8.foundation/donateusa or scan the QR code.



"As a teacher in their first year and at a school where the choral program is not valued just yet, this [Hub] project has been hugely valuable to my students and our school community."

—Middle School Choral Director, New Jersey

HELP OUR HUBS GROW!

Connect

If you know a school, individual, organization, or community group in one of our Hubs that could be a great partner or financial supporter for our music education work, please get in touch.



Support

Committing to the deeper, multi-year projects of our Hubs takes more organizational resources. We are grateful to all the donors who've helped the Foundation reach this exciting stage, and we hope you'll consider being a part of our future goals.

Gifts of all amounts through our Friends Program can be designated to support our Hubs.

To become a Friend of the Foundation, visit our website at voces8.foundation/donateusa or scan the QR code to the right.



Contact

Questions about our Hubs or the US Foundation? Interested in helping underwrite a Hub program in your community? Please reach out to us.

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