

MUSIC SPARKS MEANING

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Our growth and impact throughout
2023 and plans for 2024



15+

Students provided with
unique and memorable
educational experiences

800+

Community members
uplifted through live music.

6

Free community events
featuring nationally touring
artists brought to Manistee.

\$7,500+

Raised to support community
engagement and education
through music.



9+

Strong community
partnerships established
since formation in March
2023

We are just getting started!

Nonprofit Tax ID #: 92-1499625



MUSIC MATTERS.

While we can never fully grasp the extent of the effect that music has on us, it isn't hard to see the overwhelmingly positive effects that programs similar to ours have had.

[The Benefit of Music on Communities](#)

[Community Music Therapy and Participatory Performance](#)

[Effects of Music Education on the Academic Achievement of Elementary School Students](#)

[The list of benefits goes on and on...](#)



Music has the power to transcend language and cultural barriers, bringing people together in a shared experience. Whether it's the rhythm that moves our bodies, the lyrics that touch our souls, or the melody that lingers in our minds, music has a unique ability to evoke emotions and memories. It can inspire us, comfort us, and motivate us to action. Music has been an integral part of human culture for centuries, and it continues to play a vital role in our lives today. From classical compositions to contemporary pop hits, the diversity of musical genres reflects the vast array of human experiences. Whether you're a musician or a fan, a casual listener or a devoted enthusiast, please never forget the power of music to bring us together and enrich our lives.



Local student group, Pier Pressure, performs to a crowd as part of the Music Sparks Meaning Summer Sun Sets concert series on the 4th of July weekend, 2023.

Programs & Projects

2023 recap and 2024 goals

Summer Sun Sets

This summer, Music Sparks Meaning successfully held 5 community concerts and 1 fundraising event featuring nationally touring artists. The aim of these concerts was to bridge the gap between music academia and the professional music world. We brought in over 15 local students to perform opening sets for the nationally touring groups. On top of being free community concerts, these events provided valuable experience for the students involved. They were further provided the unique opportunity to perform alongside the bands in a finale collaboration song.

Looking to 2024, we plan to continue the Summer Sun Sets in a similar capacity with the focus being to find more students and student groups and potentially open up opportunities for technical students to learn the behind the scenes aspects and production elements of each concert. Our projected outreach is 20 students in 2024, a 33% increase in one year if successful.

Roots on the River

New to Music Sparks Meaning, but longstanding in the community, will be the 2024 Roots on the River Concert Series. Previously helmed by the Manistee Jaycees, Roots on the River is a run of 6+ free community concerts on the riverwalk gazebo by the veterans memorial. The Jaycees had intended to discontinue the series due to membership and financial reasons and after several meetings, we decided that such an impactful tradition is important to continue in Manistee. All of our board members were impacted in some way to pursue music by attending Roots on the River events in our youth - we are living proof of the importance of the series in our community.

We will continue the series with assistance from the Jaycees in a 'handoff' trial year so we can ensure smooth transition while being able to incorporate some of our values and goals.

Music in Schools

Another goal we have for the 2024/2025 school year is to bring professional musicians directly into schools to provide a unique and memorable learning experience. Again, there are countless benefits and case studies to reference as to the long-lasting rewards in communities that have these types of programs.

We want to expose as many people as possible to more sides of what music has to offer, whether performance, production, as a listener, or otherwise. This program has the added benefit of creating more opportunities to local and regional artists in months that are slower.



UNDERSERVED COUNTIES

It is the Council's long-term goal to make art and cultural programming and services available to all 83 counties in the State of Michigan. In order to assist in the accomplishment of that, the State of Michigan Arts and Culture Council has identified 43 underserved counties (listed below).

An underserved community is defined as one in which persons may lack access to arts and cultural programming, services or resources due to geography, economic conditions, cultural background, sociopolitical circumstances, disability, age, or other demonstrable factors. The term "community" may refer to a group of persons with common heritage or characteristics, whether or not living in the same place.

Alcona
Alger
Antrim
Arenac
Baraga
Cass
Clare
Clinton
Crawford
Dickinson
Eaton
Gladwin
Gratiot
Hillsdale
Ionia
Iosco
Iron
Kalkaska
Keweenaw
Lake
Lapeer
Livingston

Luce
Manistee
Mecosta
Menominee
Missaukee
Monroe
Montcalm
Montmorency
Newaygo
Oceana
Ogemaw
Osceola
Oscoda
Otsego
Presque Isle
Roscommon
Sanilac
Schoolcraft
St. Joseph
Tuscola
Wexford



Unfortunately, Manistee County made the Michigan Arts & Culture Council's 2023 list of underserved counties.

Despite the hurdles that arise with starting and developing programs in communities with reduced resources and opportunities for the arts, Music Sparks Meaning will remain committed to rising to the challenge and creating a stronger and more enriched community through music. The need is here now more than ever.

Finances



Revenue

2023

Actuals

2024

Projections

Earned Revenue

\$1,486.00

\$3,000.00

Contributed Revenue

\$6,254.42

\$15,000.00

Total Revenue

\$7,740.42

\$18,000.00

Expenses

2023

2024

Program Expense

\$5,788.38

\$13,950.00

Fundraising Expense

\$296.12

\$800.00

Operational / Other

\$609.55

\$1,142.80

Total Expense

\$6,694.05

\$15,892.80

Assets

2023

2024

Beginning Assets

\$0.00

\$838.96

Physical Assets

\$111.12

\$2,107.20

Bank Account

\$727.84

\$-

Ending Assets

\$838.96

\$2,946.16



Thanks for your support!

2023 Sponsors and Community Partners!



We are so grateful for all of the community support we have received in 2023 and look forward to serving you more in 2024 and beyond!

As we've said before: We're just getting started! There is so much left to do and we are excited to take those steps with a strong community behind us.

Thank you.

MUSIC
SPARKS
MEANING