

Networking & Collaboration Worksheet

At this point, you should have a clear view of what kind of music education program changes you would like to implement in your school or organization as well as a clear message statement draft. Now, you are going to use them to help build the support of individuals who can help you accomplish your goal.

Grassroots change depends on strength in numbers. Therefore, networking with local individuals and groups will be critical to the success of your campaign for music education programming in your school or district. To help navigate the process of collaboration, consider the following questions, using them as a platform to identify and reach out to potential allies.

Who are my potential allies?

- Are there individuals or organizations in your district or community who are already working to increase music education programming? If so, what are they doing? Is it working? What can YOU do to help them?*

- Are there teachers in the school who are passionate about seeing an increase in high quality music education programming? If so, what steps have they taken to make this a reality?*

- If you are advocating for change in a particular school, is the principal of that school supportive of arts and music education?*

- Are there any local businesses that support music education programming (not necessarily only musically-oriented shops)?*

- Are there any school-based groups (such as a Parent-Teacher Organization or a Booster Club) that do fundraising work for music education programs in the school or district?*

- Are there parents that also want to increase music education programming in the school/district?*

- Make a list of any such individuals, organizations or businesses in the space below:*

How to turn your potential allies into your partners:

Begin by contacting individuals or organizations that you have identified as your potential allies. Use your message statement to explain what you want to accomplish. Discuss how they can help you in your mission. If you find that the organization is already working towards your goal, you may elect to partner with them instead of pursuing an independent campaign. The most important thing, however, is that you and your allies all agree upon a single unified goal and can articulate your shared message!

Can potential allies/partners assist you in your mission?

What do you need in order to get your message across to decision makers?

Do you have existing relationships with these decision makers? Have any of your potential allies built similar advocacy relationships?

Are you in need of contingency funding and resources outside of what the school/district can provide? If so, are your potential allies inclined to help provide money, time, and other resources?

Do any of your potential allies work within the school as a teacher, staff member, or administrative professional? If so, what kind of leveraging power do they bring to the table?

Where do you go from here?

Once you know who to reach out to and what, if anything, to ask for, you will have a better idea of how you can work together to arrange meetings with key decision makers, start and circulate petitions for increased music education programming, educate the local community about how music education programming can benefit your students and community, and raise money/obtain resources to sustain high quality music education programming.

Please contact the Spirit of Harmony Foundation to let us know how you are doing and whether there is anything we can do to assist you! info@spiritofharmony.org