# The Dickinson Music Enrichment Center Annual Report



Mission: Empowering economically underserved children by breaking down the barriers of financial challenges, ensuring every child has access to the transformative benefits of early-age music education.

Vision Statement: To foster a robust organization capable of replication in other underserved communities within Galveston County school districts.





### **Founders Letter**

From its inception, the goal of the Dickinson Music Enrichment Center has been to offer a completely free after-school music program for underserved students in grades 4-6 (ages 9-12). Additionally, we provide free instruments for students who continue the program and enroll in band in the 6th grade, which is the earliest you participate in the band program in grade school. The free lessons will continue through middle school and high school for those students that may need additional instruction to improve their technique and sound quality.

Established in 2021, the founders spent 12 months posturing and preparing to launch their vision. Through the help of a grant in 2022 from the Dickinson Management District, the use of space at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Dickinson, and the support of many individual and corporate sponsors, in the fall of 2023, the program launched with a total of 15 students. The 2024-2025 year has seen a 240 percent increase in student enrollment. The students are mentored and coached by 11th and 12th grade students at Dickinson Sr. High School, who serve as section leaders with the Dickinson ISD band program. The coaches are paid positions. We find this type of structure for our students provides good mentorship experience and helps our older students who are hoping to increase their opportunities of band scholarships at the university level. In 2023-24 school year, the program has 9 student coaches/mentors which has grown to 11 based on increased student enrollment.

The goal of The Dickinson Music Enrichment Foundation is to provide an opportunity for all children, even those facing economic challenges, to access and participate in a music curriculum. This initiative aims to remove financial obstacles that may hinder children from experiencing the benefits of music education early in their lives. By doing so, it seeks to provide a fair and equal chance for every child to explore and enjoy the advantages that come.

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# Year In Review

As we reflect on the past year at The Dickinson Music Enrichment Center (TDMEC), I am thrilled to share the many milestones and successes we have achieved together. It has been a remarkable journey of growth, collaboration, and community engagement.

Our Beginner I students have made us incredibly proud by successfully joining their local ISD bands. This transition highlights the effectiveness of our early training programs and the dedication of our young musicians. To support this growing interest, we've expanded our coaching staff, ensuring that every student receives the guidance and support they need.

We are also excited to announce that we are ahead of schedule by one year with our first intermediate class of students. These students were recruited by our coaches from the local middle school band members who are heading to high school band. This advancement is a testament to the dedication and hard work of both our students and staff.

In an exciting development, we launched an outreach program specifically for PK-3rd grade students at a local low-income elementary school. This initiative aims to nurture a love for music from an early age, broadening our impact within the community. Additionally, the number of high school band members in our program has increased significantly, reflecting our commitment to developing young musicians at every level.

Our visibility in underserved neighborhoods has been greatly enhanced thanks to the generous support of local convenience store owners who provided bollard advertising for our program. This community support has been invaluable in spreading the word about our mission.

We were honored to leverage the mayor's ambassadorship to provide awards for our PK-3rd grade outreach program. This recognition has motivated our young students and acknowledged their hard work and achievements. We also received inspiring quotes and endorsements from our ambassadors, which have further validated our efforts and inspired our community.

One of the highlights of the year was our collaboration with the CCISD Art Department and the Yamaha Cares Upcycle Program to sponsor an art contest. Students created art entries on guitars donated by Yamaha, competing for scholarship money. This unique contest not only showcased the artistic talents of our students but also supported their educational goals.

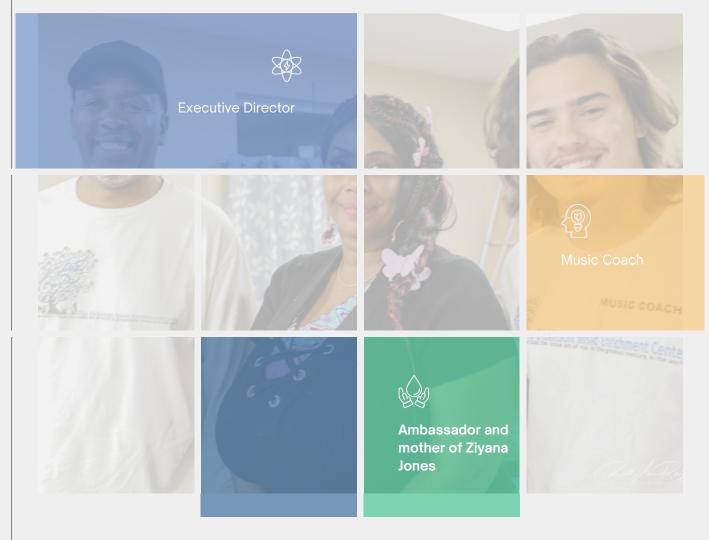
# Year In Review

We introduced a new program, the Galveston County Youth Ensemble, which had its debut performance at the Dickinson Strawberry Festival. This ensemble provides a new platform for young musicians to showcase their talents and has quickly become a cherished part of our offerings.

We are thrilled to announce that our organization has been selected for an in-school musical residency by the world-renowned MUSIQA and their exceptional educational programs. MUSIQA DAY at TDMEC will allow our students to benefit from MUSIQA's innovative approach to music education, which combines performance, composition, and interactive learning experiences. Through this residency, our students will have the chance to work closely with professional musicians and composers, gaining invaluable insights into the world of contemporary music. We are excited about the enriching experiences and the creative growth this partnership will bring to our community.

Lastly, our organization was featured on a nationwide podcast by Peachjar, bringing national attention to our mission and achievements. This exposure has been instrumental in raising awareness about our work and the impact we are making.

This year has been an incredible journey for TDMEC, marked by significant accomplishments and enhanced community involvement. We are proud of our progress and remain committed to enriching the lives of young musicians in our community.



### Kids Served From 2023-2024

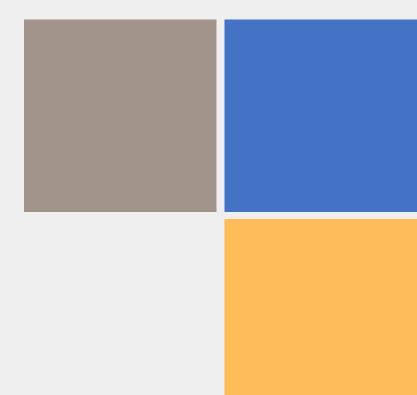


Thanks to the hard work, dedication and passion of our coaches, parents, ambassadors and donors TDMEC there was a 230% increase in overall student population.

# **Donor Impact**

# Thanks to your support TDMEC was able to provide the following

- 560 hours of music instruction
- 4 families with students entering the local ISD band program recieved brand new musical instruments at no cost preventing them from having to rent instruments.
- 32 boxes of reeds
- 22 mouth pieces
- 400 bags of of snacks
- 560 bottles of water
- 320 packs of fruit juice
- 45 new and donated instruments for lessons.
- 75 student tshirts
- 30 IPADS
- 12 Laptops
- Enteroprise Printer



# Founders and Staff



# **Future Growth**

The future growth of the Dickinson Music Enrichment Center (TDMEC) looks promising and is poised for significant impact in the community. TDMEC's focus on providing free music lessons to underserved kids has garnered strong support from local leaders and organizations. The center has already established a youth community band, the TDMEC Galveston County Youth Philharmonic, which serves as a testament to the center's commitment to nurturing young musical talent.

One of the center's key growth strategies involves expanding its infrastructure and resources. A potential partnership with ELS Construction, spearheaded by President Scott McClung, could provide the necessary land and construction services to build a permanent home for TDMEC. This partnership would not only enhance the center's facilities but also solidify its presence in Dickinson, Texas, ensuring long-term sustainability and growth.

TDMEC is also exploring innovative ways to increase engagement and support. Initiatives such as the acoustic guitar art contest for CCISD art students, sponsored by the Yamaha Cares Program, demonstrate the center's commitment to integrating arts and music education. The contest, themed 'The Beauty of Galveston County,' offers scholarships to talented students, fostering a greater appreciation for music and art within the community.

Transportation has been identified as a critical barrier to participation for many students. To address this, TDMEC is seeking funding to purchase a gently used 8-passenger Ford Transit van. This 'Musical Journey Transport Program' aims to ensure that all kids can attend lessons and events, regardless of their transportation challenges. Providing reliable transportation will significantly increase attendance and participation, allowing more students to benefit from TDMEC's programs.

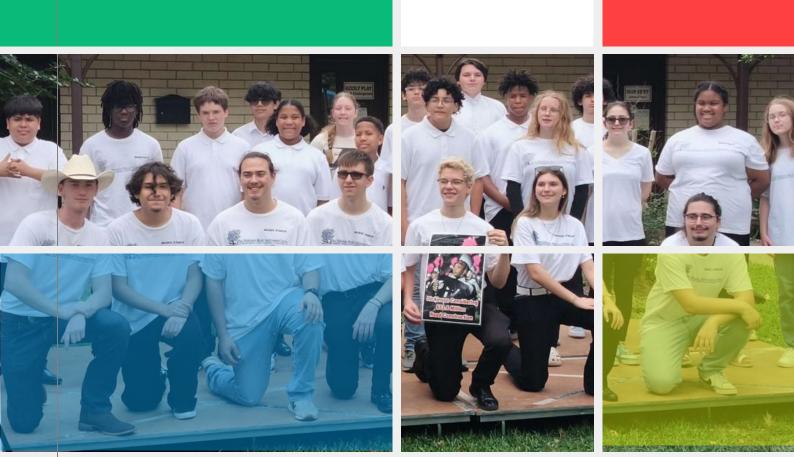
In terms of community engagement, TDMEC plans to continue its outreach efforts, leveraging the support of local ambassadors such as Mayor Skipworth, Councilman Jessie Bratley, Councilman Johnnie Simpson, CCISD Arts Department Director Greg Goodman, and Councilman Fred Linton. Their endorsements and active participation will help raise awareness and attract additional support from both the public and private sectors.

Moreover, TDMEC's enrollment is on its projected pace to double over the next four years. This significant growth will serve as an internal trigger to replicate our successful program in other areas of identified need within the Galveston and Harris County geographic locations. By expanding our reach, we aim to provide high-quality music education to even more underserved children, furthering our mission and impact.

In summary, the Dickinson Music Enrichment Center's future growth is anchored in strategic partnerships, community engagement, innovative programs, and a steadfast commitment to providing high-quality music education to underserved youth. With these initiatives, TDMEC is well-positioned to expand its reach and impact, fostering a love for music and the arts that will resonate throughout Dickinson and beyond, and preparing to replicate its successful model in <u>other communities in need.</u>



# Donate Today



The Dickinson Music Enrichment Center envisions a bright future where every child in the community has access to free music lessons, fostering a love for music and providing invaluable skills that will benefit them throughout their lives. With the support of local leaders, sponsors, and ambassadors, the center is on a mission to make TDMEC a beacon of hope and inclusion for Dickinson and the surrounding communities of Galveston County. By offering programs that cater to various instruments and creating opportunities like the TDMEC Galveston County Youth Philharmonic, the center aims to enrich the lives of underserved kids and their families. Our dedication to honoring the memory and legacy of Ziyanna Jones, a beloved high school band section leader, drives us to ensure that every child has the opportunity to thrive through music. The unwavering commitment to this cause, coupled with innovative initiatives like providing transportation for students, ensures that the future is filled with harmony, growth, and a strengthened community united through the power of music.

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