

A photograph of a musician performing on stage. The musician is standing on a tall metal stool, holding a microphone to his mouth. He is wearing a dark tank top and light-colored pants. The stage is lit with blue and purple lights. In the foreground, a large crowd of people is visible, many with their arms raised in the air, indicating a high-energy performance. The background shows stage equipment like speakers and cables.

the lewis prize for music

community | collaboration | leadership

2022 Accelerator Awards Press Kit



“...I changed my focus to CYD in 2018 to help provide universal access to musical learning, creating, and performing opportunities — after investing \$20 million in orchestras for nearly twenty years — and committed \$20 million over five years through the Lewis Prize as well as on a similar scale locally. I now believe that supporting CYD has a greater societal upside that will lead to improvements in our communities.”

– **Daniel R. Lewis**, Founder and Chairman,
The Lewis Prize for Music

Read Daniel R. Lewis’ op-ed, “Supporting creative youth development as systems change work,” on Philanthropy News Digest [HERE](#).



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PRESS CONTACT:

Kenneth Courtney | Kenneth@thelewisprize.org

THE LEWIS PRIZE FOR MUSIC ANNOUNCES ITS 2022 ACCELERATOR AWARDS OF \$500,000 EACH

NEW YORK, NY – [The Lewis Prize for Music](#) – a philanthropic music arts organization advancing systems change through [Creative Youth Development](#) (CYD) – has announced its 2022 Accelerator Awards recipients. Over \$2 million in funding will give young people access to music education, strengthen the well-being of their communities, and put music at the center of efforts to establish equity.

Founded in 2018 by philanthropist **Daniel R. Lewis**, The Lewis Prize for Music believes young people with access to high-quality music learning, performance, and creation opportunities will mature into thriving individuals. Inequitable systems often fail to prioritize music learning in young people's lives. As a result, too many young people are not supported to express themselves creatively. This stifles young people's potential to become powerful citizens, who through musical pursuits learn to contribute positively to their communities. By supporting music leaders across the country to continue their great work, The Lewis Prize for Music seeks to inspire others to ensure every young person has the opportunity to access transformative music learning, performance, and creation that benefits them and their communities.

"I continue to be inspired by and grateful for the work of leaders and organizations that invest in creative youth development (CYD) to improve self-expression; academic, social-emotional and employment outcomes for young people," says Daniel R. Lewis, Founder, and Chairman of The Lewis Prize for Music.

"The Lewis Prize for Music's chosen path to the equitable systems change needed to guarantee all youth thrive, as is demonstrated by the 2022 Accelerator Awardees, is through collaboration among CYD organizations, community partners, schools, universities, funders, and government."

The annual Accelerator Awards are part of The Lewis Prize for Music's \$20 million commitment over five years for creative youth development organizations across the country creating positive change through youth music programs. Previous awardees have used the Accelerator Awards funding to expand their program offerings, hire additional staff, provide training and mentorship, and establish youth music and technology centers for their communities.

"Our 2022 Accelerator Awardees, and countless creative youth development organizations across the country, are creating spaces for young people to develop artistry and leadership that strengthens themselves and their communities," says **Dalouge Smith**, CEO of The Lewis Prize for Music. "Despite the trials of COVID and longstanding racial inequities, our awardees show us that building trusted relationships through music with young people gives them the confidence and tools to pursue the full lives they deserve. We look forward to our new partnership with these awardees who have proven, before and during the pandemic, the necessity of providing equitable access to music opportunities and direct service supports for young people."

Accelerator Awardees – \$500,000 each

Accelerator Awards provide multi-year support to enable leaders and organizations to make sustained progress toward ambitious community change initiatives that align with The Lewis Prize for Music's values and vision.





We Are Culture Creators, Detroit, MI

We Are Culture Creators is a media arts collective and label featuring some of Detroit's best emerging young talent. The organization is composed of musicians, photographers, filmmakers, producers, and like-minded creatives.

Michael Reyes and Elizabeth Stone, the Founders of We Are Culture Creators, started with a simple thought to provide a loving and encouraging space for up-and-coming youth hip hop artists; fill that space with professional equipment and the necessary training to professionalize; make that space available at all hours of the day and night; and allow those young people to actualize their abilities, talents, goals, and dreams. They furthered that idea by providing workshops and practical training and discussions in financial literacy, artist management, community organizing, entrepreneurship, and business.

Since then, We Are Culture Creators has established itself as a growing and expanding program providing young people with opportunities in both the fields of business and community. Many We Are Culture Creators participants are becoming the next generation of Detroit entertainers and entrepreneurs.



The Heartbeat Music Project, Crownpoint, NM

The Heartbeat Music Project (HMP) offers music education for Navajo (Diné) K-12 students living on the Navajo Reservation, offering a safe space for students to thrive and gain confidence in themselves, their abilities, and their local and global potential.

Founded in 2016 by violinist Ariel Horowitz, teachings at The Heartbeat Music Project push back on settler colonialism, a system that devalues Indigenous music while elevating Western music genres. By offering Diné and Western music simultaneously, Heartbeat disrupts the colonial project and provides Diné youth equitable access to heretofore 'elitist' knowledge. Students engage in an organic confidence-building process in which they strengthen and give voice to their own culture and reimagine Western music genres, creating emergent artistic traditions that help shape postcolonial local and global musical cultures and are sustained within the greater Navajo community.

The Heartbeat Music Project is a success story when it comes to creating atmospheres of cultural exchanges that acknowledge the impact of past and present colonialism on indigenous peoples, respectfully engaging with Diné music, cultures, and customs.

RYSE Youth Center, Richmond, CA

RYSE creates safe spaces grounded in social justice that build youth power for young people to love, learn, educate, heal and transform lives and communities. RYSE is committed to keeping youth strong, safe, healthy, and in a united community where they can have the opportunity to lead, dream, and love.

Nearly two decades ago, co-founders Kimberly Aceves-Iñiguez and Kanwarpal Dhaliwal, along with others at Richmond High School, began organizing and developing a better understanding of what young people wanted in an after-school program. Ultimately, this led to the RYSE Youth Center, which continues to challenge and support young people to dream beyond what the world, and even their community, says what's impossible or what they deserve.

RYSE envisions a community that inspires youth to live with pride and purpose, where the sounds of gunshots have been replaced by the sounds of organizing, song, collaboration, laughter, and learning.





INTEMPO, Stamford, CT

INTEMPO offers children the opportunity to express themselves artistically through traditional and classical music and instrumentation. The organization is committed to connecting the dots between intercultural music education and its influence on the socio-emotional and intellectual development of children.

They offer a repertoire that reflects the diversity of their students' cultures and communities. Through the joy of making music together, INTEMPO has broadened children's understanding of the world and helped build skills that will serve them well in every aspect of their lives.

In 2009, violinist Angelica Durrell met MacArthur Fellow Aaron Dworkin, who encouraged her to create a path to achieving greater diversity and inclusion in music. Two years later, motivated by her own story of struggling as an immigrant student from a single-parent household, she founded INTAKE Music, now known as INTEMPO.

Conceived as a much-needed bridge between the arts sector and marginalized immigrant communities, INTEMPO began with two teachers and 40 students from immigrant backgrounds. Since then, their staff of teaching artists has more than doubled, and the Music School and community outreach events have reached more than 1,625 students and 6,460 community members.

Infusion Awardees – \$50,000 each

Infusion Awards provide single-year support to leaders and programs creating new musical platforms and pathways in their communities.

White Hall Arts Academy, Los Angeles, CA
The Roots of Music, New Orleans, LA

Catalyst Awardees – \$25,000

Catalyst Awards provide single-year support to leaders and programs with impressive impact and reach.

Totem Star, Seattle, Washington
Media Rhythm Institute, Baltimore, MD

The
New York
Times

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Press Highlights



“Creative Youth Development (CYD) practitioners across the country constantly bridge gaps and counter harmful systems. Their aptitude for walking alongside young people has been on full display as the crisis of 2020 intensified, from the onset of COVID-19, economic inequality, the racial justice uprisings, and a school year of prolonged virtual education, CYD programs stepped forward for the benefit of young people, families, and communities.”

– The Lewis Prize for Music

Read our research report, [Midcasting Towards Just Futures: Creative Youth Development’s Waymaking to Systems Change Through and Beyond the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) [HERE](#).



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About The Lewis Prize for Music

The Lewis Prize for Music believes that music in the lives of young people is a catalytic force to drive positive change in our society. It partners with leaders in diverse and vibrant communities who invest in young people by providing access to safe, inclusive spaces where they can build powerful relationships through music.

The organization is the brainchild of philanthropist Daniel R. Lewis, who has spent the last two decades focusing on philanthropic efforts in the social and musical arts field, including founding the Miami Music Access Fellowship, serving as the founding chairman of The Cleveland Orchestra Miami Residency/Miami Music Association, chairman of the Spring For Music Festival and chairman of The Management Center. Learn more at www.thelewisprize.org.



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PRESS INQUIRIES

Kenneth Courtney
Press & Media Lead

Kenneth@thelewisprize.org

