



Musicopia Announces the Walter R. Garrison Arts Leadership Academy

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Philadelphia, PA ... Philadelphia-based music education non-profit Musicopia is honored to receive a \$1,000,000 endowment from The Walter R. Garrison Foundation. This is Musicopia's first permanent endowment in its 50-year history. Funding from the foundation will enable Musicopia to launch "The Walter R. Garrison Arts Leadership Academy: Rhythms for Success" to benefit students in its after-school programs.

In recent years, Musicopia has developed new initiatives that deepened its programs' impact. These initiatives include offering a mentorship program, paid stipends for students in [the Musicopia Drumlines](#), and connections to college scholarships. Beginning in 2023, Musicopia has also eliminated the financial barrier to access [the Musicopia String Orchestras](#) by making the program tuition-free. This endowment, provided by the Garrison Foundation in honor of the late Walter R. Garrison—the founder of the Pennsylvania Institute of Technology, a dedicated educator, a supporter of 'Camp Garrison' for the Boy Scouts of America, an aerospace engineer with Boeing, and the CEO of CDI Corporation—will aid Musicopia with sustaining these current initiatives and offering students equitable access to music education, life-skill-enhancing instruction, and a safe haven from gun violence.

"Walter R. Garrison not only had a remarkable career but helped countless individuals build theirs," shared Catherine Charlton, President and CEO of Musicopia. "We are deeply honored to receive this endowment in our 50th year and to bring to life the Walter R. Garrison Arts Leadership Academy: Rhythms for Success in honor of his legacy."

Musicopia looks forward to sharing further developments about how this new Academy will enrich its after-school programs in the year ahead.

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About Musicopia

Musicopia's mission is to provide equitable access to music education and enrichment, encouraging self-confidence, global awareness, dedication and joy in Pre-K to 12th grade students and their communities. Since its founding in 1974, Musicopia has helped more than 400,000 children and their communities experience the benefits of first-hand exposure to the arts, and is a recognized leader in rebuilding and revitalizing school music programs through a roster of professional artists sharing music from around the globe. Musicopia reaches thousands of children each year in the Delaware Valley/Philadelphia area through in-school music education, an afterschool string orchestra program, an afterschool drumlines program, community arts programming, the Philadelphia Lullaby Project, and its Gift of Music Instrument Donation Program.

For more information, please visit www.musicopia.net.