



Dear Supporter,

Thank you for your interest in supporting El Sistema Colorado. El Sistema is an international social change/youth development program that uses ensemble music to enable children to experience being an asset within her or his community.

El Sistema develops citizens not musicians—responsible, joyful, contributing citizens. Students feel an ownership of the music making process, taking responsibility for both individual and group improvement. This is why they take on teaching roles themselves starting at an early age—peer-to-peer instruction is omnipresent as a practice, as a habit of mind, both in designated mentoring roles and in the constant impulse to help others improve their level of musical excellence. The "feel" of the social mission is captured in their slogan "to play and to strive."

El Sistema Colorado program sites are located in Northeast Denver neighborhoods encompassing the highest at-risk, low-income youth population in the city. Of the 54,000 children who live in these neighborhoods, two-thirds live in poverty. Our students reflect the characteristics of the neighborhood: 86% are Latino/Hispanic and 9% are Black/African American; 61% are actively learning English as a second language; and 98% eligible for free or reduced-price lunch.

During the 2014-2015 school year, we provided 1,750 hours of music programming to 700 unique students, ages 4 to 18, including 900 hours of in-school programming and 850 hours of after-school/summer programming focused on positive youth development and educational support.

As El Sistema Colorado enters school year 16/17, we are seeking your support in both leadership and funding as we grow in our regional presence and offering to the Denver Public School system.

Please consider making a donation today and we look forward to golfing with you soon.

Warm Regards,

Monika Vischer
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