



Photo Credit: Kids4Harmony

2025-2026

# MEMBERSHIP GUIDE



[www.elsistemausa.org](http://www.elsistemausa.org)



Photo Credit: ECoSistema

# El Sistema USA® Membership

## 2025-2026

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## WHO WE ARE

### Staff

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Manager

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### MISSION

El Sistema USA works to ensure every child has access to high-quality music education that celebrates their voice and potential by supporting a national network of organizations & educators.

### VISION

El Sistema USA is committed to equity and excellence in music education. We envision a world in which every child - regardless of income, geography, or identity - has access to a high-quality music education program that builds community, opportunity, and personal growth

## Board of Directors

**Chair and Executive  
Committee Chair**

**Lauren Shelton**

**Co-Vice Chair**

**Isaac Sinnett**, Chicago, IL

**Treasurer and Finance  
Committee Chair**

**Robert Gofourth**, Durham, NC

**Clerk**

**Mateen Milan**, Baltimore, MD

**Membership & Engagement  
Committee Chair**

**Karen Cueva**, Washington D.C.

**Co-Governance  
Committee Chair**

**Kaitlyn Korogy**, San Diego, CA

**Advancement  
Committee Chair**

**Carol Minter**

Newport News, VA

**Roger Bernstein**

New York, NY

**Linda Bunce**

Alexandria, VA

**Mark Churchill**

Boston, MA

Founder, El Sistema USA

**Liber Cuervos**

Miami, FL

**Camille Delaney-McNeill**

Los Angeles, CA

**Vivian Gonzalez**, Miami, FL

**Rodrigo Guerrero**

Boston, MA

**Dr. Thomas Howard**

Durham, NC

**Douglas Laustsen**

Stamford, CT

**Tomisha Price-Brock**

Las Vegas, NV

**Isabelle Tuncer**

Pajaro Valley, CA

**Ciyadh Wells**

Boston, MA

**Brian Wiebe**

Elkhart, IN

# CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP

See below El Sistema USA's guiding pillars of High Quality Music Education, Equity & Access, and Holistic Impact. Each pillar contains specific membership criteria. Full organizational members will meet these criteria. Affiliate organizational members will have alignment with the guiding pillars.



## HIGH QUALITY

### Intensity

In order to provide all children with opportunities to advance musically and develop a strong relationship with their program, students have access to at least 5 hours of programming per week. (There may some aspects of your program that don't meet this threshold.)

### Organizational Infrastructure

Programs have the organizational infrastructure to support and run an equity-based music program, including dedicated staff and financial resources for the program. Excellence Programs are of high quality; defined by quality teaching and instruments, regular musical instruction, and established practices for measurable outcomes. Measurable outcomes may include musical and artistic growth, community development, and personal growth.

### Student Growth

Programs commit to investing in students over multiple years, serving children for a minimum of 3 years, and aspire to serve them through high school or connect them with partner feeder programs when they age out. Curriculum follows progressive scope and sequence over multiple years, fostering student musical growth and advancement.



## EQUITY & ACCESS

### Tuition Free/Scholarship Based

Primarily serve children with financial access barriers to high-quality music programs. Provide programs in a manner that work to ensures equal access to all children regardless of income, geography, or identity.

### Community Voice & Partnerships

Embeds community voice and partnerships into the operations and programming of the organization.

### Youth Voice

Embed scaffolded opportunities for youth voice, leadership, and creativity into the program and curriculum. Provide mentoring and paid internship opportunities for students.

### Culturally Responsive

Program offers culturally responsive repertoire and curriculum to create programming that reflects the students served.



## HOLISTIC IMPACT

### Ensemble

Emphasize ensemble programming as a core element of curriculum. This may be in addition to group classes and private lessons as available.

### Holistic Approach

Commitment to support holistic student development through joyful music making, including relationship & community building in the classroom, development of social emotional skills, and broader opportunities such as higher education.

### Community Formation

Embed activities that center community development and relationship building. This may include student, parent, and family events, activities, and volunteer opportunities.

# ESUSA PROGRAMS AND MEMBER BENEFITS

## Professional Development

### Strengthening Organizations

#### Webinars and Virtual Forums

Online webinars and forums for administrators and teachers

#### National Symposium

Professional development, networking, and community engagement

#### Regional Events

Smaller events on opposing years from the National Symposium

## Student Leadership & Learning

### Developing the Next Generation of Leaders

#### Youth Ambassador Program

Leadership opportunities for ESUSA students

#### Collegiate Access Webinar Series

Helping students navigate the college admissions process

#### Collegiate Partnerships

Scholarship opportunities for students

## Data & Advocacy

### Advocating for Music Education/ Measuring Impact

#### Benchmarking Reports

ESUSA member salary report

#### National Student & Parent Surveys

Standardized surveys and analysis free for members

#### Data Library

An online compilation of existing field data

#### Bi-Annual Census

Valuable data from across ESUSA's membership

## Resources & Tools

### Connecting Members to Resources

#### Resource Hub

Member-only access

#### Job Board

Free for members

## TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP

[Join the movement](#) of 150+ member programs, 30,000 enrolled youth, representing more than 6,000 teaching staff, across 5 countries and 40+ North American states and provinces!

### 1. Organizational Membership Options

Membership with El Sistema USA is an organizational membership that allows organizations to create an unlimited number of accounts for all staff, teaching artists, board members, volunteers, etc. Email [Brian@elsistemausa.org](mailto:Brian@elsistemausa.org) for more information.

- **Organizational Member:** For established El Sistema-inspired organizations that meet the membership criteria.
- **Member in Training:** For El Sistema-inspired organizations in the first year of existence that meet or are working toward meeting the membership criteria.
- **Affiliate Member:** For organizations that align with the ESUSA mission, vision, and values, but may not meet all of the membership criteria OR are not U.S./Canada based.

### 2. Individual Membership

El Sistema USA also offers an individual membership for those not associated with an organization that's already a member. Individual members receive many of the same benefits as our organization members. See the chart below for a full list of benefits.

## MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership Dues are renewed yearly at the anniversary of their inception date. All Members are welcome to enroll in automatic renewal payment plans to assist with payment.

In addition, a limited number of fee-reductions are available on an application basis. Interested organizations should contact Elizabeth Moulthrop at [elizabeth@elsistemausa.org](mailto:elizabeth@elsistemausa.org).

Organizational & Affiliate Member Dues	
Organizational Budget	Membership Dues
Less than \$200,000 / year	\$350 / year
More than \$200,000 / year	\$500 / year
Member In Training Dues: \$250 / year	
Individual Dues: \$100 / year	

## MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Member Level		Organizational	Member in Training	Affiliate	Individual
Annual Dues		\$350 - Orgs w/ budgets < \$200K \$500 - Orgs w/ budgets > \$200K	\$250 for 1 year	\$350 - Orgs w/ budgets < \$200K \$500 - Orgs w/ budgets > \$200K	\$100
Eligibility		Organizations that fulfill all membership criteria	Organizations in first year of operation and working toward the membership criteria.	Organizations in alignment with the ESUSA Guiding Principles	Individuals in alignment with the ESUSA Guiding Principles
Professional Development Benefits	Free Access to Webinars	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Access to Resource Hub	✓	✓	✓	✓
	National Symposium and Regional Events	✓ (Discounted rate; Invited to propose sessions)	✓ (discounted rate)	✓ (discounted rate)	✓ (discounted rate)
Peer Networking Benefits	Access to Virtual Peer Working Groups	✓	✓	✓	
	Listed in Member Directory	✓	✓ (as New Member)	✓ (as Affiliate)	
	Access to Member Directory	✓	✓	✓	✓
Information & Resources Benefits	Census Data Input	✓			
	View Census Data	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Resource Hub (past webinars)	✓	✓	✓	
	List Jobs on Job Board	✓	✓	✓	✓ (discounted rate)
	Access to Listings on Job Board	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Virtual Publications	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Instrument, Software and Accessory Discounts	✓	✓	✓ (as able)	

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Member Level		Organizational	Member in Training	Affiliate	Individual
<b>Musical Activities Benefits</b>	Eligible to participate in ESUSA Seminarios	✓	✓	as available, priority given to full member organizations	
	Eligible to participate in ESUSA Collaborative Projects (i.e. "Hear Our Song" and "Somewhere Across America")	✓	✓	as available, priority given to full member organizations	
<b>Governance Benefits</b>	Participation on Board Committee	✓	✓		✓
	Nominations to the Board of Directors of ESUSA	✓	✓		
	Voting in the ESUSA Board of Directors Election	✓	✓		





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