

Case Study: DePauw University School of Music

Opportunities Addressed

The DePauw faculty was in the process of re-inventing their curriculum to comprehensively and holistically address the changing needs of emerging 21st Century musicians. The School of Music also was seeking creative ways to engage the surrounding agricultural community in performing arts center.

The 5HE Approach

5HE engaged the community of Greencastle and the DePauw University School of Music in the year-long development of *Harvest*, a celebration of the people, places, and stories of Putnam County. Tactics included:

- Community-based initiatives (pop-up performances, roundtable discussions, presentations) throughout Putnam County to build relationships and visibility with local organizations and audiences
- Engaging local partners including video artists, poets, activists, key community members, folk musicians, K-12 students/teachers, and university students/faculty to co-create the performance project

To develop a set of 1) experiential and service learning opportunities, 2) sequenced engagement learning standards, and 3) objectives for community impact, we focused on:

- Listening and intake sessions with students and faculty
- In-course instruction, integrating 21st Century Musician initiatives into core curriculum
- Service-based learning in applied instruction and teaching artistry through coursework and implementation in area schools.
- Curation of a robust workshop and masterclass series with experts within and outside of the field of music.
- In-depth support for students actively pursuing community-focused projects
- Ongoing project and curriculum design support for DePauw's School of Music faculty.

Outcomes

We ended up immersed not just in the School of Music but in the community around DePauw, as evidenced by participation in *Harvest*: 600 attended, 60% through word of mouth, and 30% for the first time. This event re-launched the careers of local artists, connected neighbors to one another, and supported small businesses in the community.

For the School of Music, we left behind a searchable community resource database containing potential partners for future student-led activities, as well as written and video resources for the school's new website, 21CM.org. Through project support, we launched and supported multiple student-led initiatives in the community (i.e. concert series, educational programs), and trained the DePauw Chamber Orchestra to launch its first Kickstarter campaign that raised over \$12,000 to support a performance at Austria's Brahms-Saal.

The Moral of the Story

DePauw did not need us to teach music; they already knew how to do that. They needed us to help them to take music outside the classroom walls into the surrounding community. In doing so, we positioned the School of Music and the town of Greencastle as assets to one another, each with its own resources and expertise to share.

We proved that music connected to life is more vital than music that is just taught in a class – and that music brought home to a local public spaces can play a vital role in building human relationships and in supporting the training needs of emerging artists.