Little Kids Rock is a national nonprofit that transforms lives by restoring, expanding and innovating music education in our schools. For nearly a decade, we have worked with Chicago Public Schools to bring the lifelong gift of music education to K-12 students throughout the city. We have donated over five thousand musical instruments to Chicago schools. However, Little Kids Rock makes an important additional direct investment in a school district’s most valuable asset; namely its teachers.

Since 2008, we have trained Chicago public school teachers to run innovative, youth-centered popular music programs that teach children to play the music they know and love. By learning to play rock, reggae, hip-hop, top forty and other music of the day, children see themselves reflected in the curriculum. Our teachers are able to build music programs that are as diverse as the students they serve. The program also focuses on composition, improvisation and performance. These activities build critically important twenty first century skills.
SCHOOL DISTRICT ADOPTS MODERN BAND

Our classes are known as “Modern Band” and Little Kids Rock is the original Modern Band pioneer. Chicago Public Schools have officially adopted Modern Band as part of its musical course offerings and it now takes its place alongside existing music classes such as chorus, concert band and orchestra. By offering Modern Band, the district has been able to increase the number of students participating in music classes. Importantly, many of the students who benefit from Modern Band would likely not participate in existing programs. The program is currently offered at over one hundred and forty area schools. Over two hundred teachers have been trained and equipped and together they have served over seventy thousand Chicago Public School students.

INVESTING IN TEACHERS

Building on the success and momentum of the district's Modern Band programs, Chicago Public Schools plan to double the size of the program by 2021. In order to facilitate this exciting expansion of music programming in the city, Little Kids Rock will donate an additional $2,000,000 worth of musical instruments, professional development, and curriculum. This will constitute one of the largest investments ever in the district by a partner organization. A full 80% of existing Chicago Public School music programs will be expanded and over 65% of all public schools in the city will benefit.

INVESTING IN STUDENTS

This massive expansion of programming will benefit an additional 100,000 children over the course of the initiative and, best of all, will be able to serve similar numbers of students beyond its 2021 end point. Our investments in teachers and schools throughout the district will build lasting capacity that will be reinforced by ongoing professional development offered by our regional staff. Trained teachers utilize the instruments, curriculum and training to create enduring program “seats” their classrooms. Thus, hundreds of children can benefit from a single program each year as new students fill seats vacated by graduates each year.

SUSTAINABLE PROGRAMMING

By 2021, Chicago Public Schools will establish Modern Band at a solid majority of its sites. The expertise to run this large-scale music program will naturally transfer over from Little Kids Rock to the district itself. Chicago teachers will themselves become expert practitioners and this, combined with the widespread distribution of instruments and curriculum as well as the district's priority to bring music to as many students as possible will ensure that Modern Band programs will sustain and flourish for many years to come. Our partnership with the district will leverage current infrastructure while building new capacity in ways that will strengthen the existing system moving forward and without creating a dependence on ongoing philanthropic support for success.
Assessments conducted in collaboration with The Center for Arts Education Research (CAER) at Teachers College, Columbia University, revealed that students, teachers and schools have reported the following outcomes after establishing Little Kids Rock modern band music programs:

- **96%** of students are more likely to express themselves and their emotions.
- **84%** of students are more engaged with music; learning to play multiple instruments, performing, and listening to more music.
- **55%** of teachers saw a decrease in discipline issues, while 72% say students are more supportive of their peers.
- **27%** of teachers report an increase in student attendance.
- **98%** of teachers report that they are excited for the future of their music programs; 83% feel more fulfilled as an educator.
- **52%** of schools reported an increase in arts offerings, with **75%** expressing an increase in music class enrollment, and **71%** reported more parent involvement.
- **85%** of students are more engaged within their school community.

“**The impact has been that it has given her a desire to come to school on a daily basis, learning has been easier, grades have increased and so has her confidence.**”

- **Roy Williams**, Parent

“The implementation of Modern Band and the Little Kids Rock program seems to be quite effective with important documented effects on teachers and students. It is likely that the impact of the program will grow as it matures and as teachers become even more familiar and comfortable with the pedagogical approaches advocated by the program.”

- **Hal Abeles**, Ph.D., Co-Director, The Center for Arts Education Research Teachers College, Columbia University

“We need culturally relevant arts education in every single Chicago Public School. Little Kids Rock really provides this opportunity. We want to be able to see this happen across the district in every single Chicago Public School so this is only the beginning.”

- **LaTanya McDade**, Chief of Teaching and Learning, Chicago Public Schools
Little Kids Rock builds district-wide programming using a transitional philanthropic model. Jeff Walker, a noted thinker in the world of philanthropy and author of “The Generosity Network” refers to transitional philanthropy as “…a 21st century form of philanthropy using leveraged funding to support innovative ideas, systems, and technologies for integration into larger social systems...[it] has the potential to help drive the large-scale, systems change that is needed to reform health, education, and a broad range of social problems. “ *

**CHICAGO FUNDERS**

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- Maddock Industries, Inc.
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**CONTACT INFO**

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*https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/transitional-philanthropy-leveraging-innovation-build-jeffrey-walker*