Bridging the Sound:

Expanding Access with Instruments and Opportunity

THE Herk FOUNDATION
A Memorial to Fred Earl Jones

Herk Foundation – Bridging the Sound Grant

Goal: To eliminate financial barriers to music education by providing instruments and enrichment opportunities to underserved elementary, middle, and high school students by helping to ensure equitable access to hands-on learning, band participation, and musical growth.

Description: The Bridging the Sound initiative seeks to foster equity in music education by addressing three critical needs: the lack of foundational musical instruments in elementary classrooms, limited access to quality instruments in secondary school band programs, and the inability of low-income students to afford enriching extracurricular experiences. By equipping schools with instruments, the project empowers students to participate fully in music education regardless of their socioeconomic background.

Elementary Music Classroom Kits

Purpose: Our Elementary Music Classroom Kits equip underserved schools with age-appropriate instruments that support hands-on music instruction. By removing financial barriers, we help students develop creativity, collaboration, and a lifelong appreciation for music.

Grant: The Herk Foundation will award up to four grants to selected elementary music teachers, providing each recipient with a class (25-30) set of beginner instruments. These resources will support standards-based music instruction while helping students develop rhythm, listening skills, creativity, and a lifelong appreciation for music.

Eligibility/Requirements:

- Must be a teacher in a Mississippi Public School in one of these counties: DeSoto, Lafayette, Marshall, Panola, Tate, or Tunica
- A complete online application form
- Media Release and Consent Form

Deadline

This electronic form must be submitted by August 31 by 11:59pm. All applications received after the deadline and/or incomplete applications will not be eligible for consideration. For questions, email Calandra Jones-Howard at theherkfoundation@yahoo.com.

The Herk Foundation

Providing Instruments. Expanding Opportunities. Inspiring Excellence.

*The **Herk Foundation** is a non-profit organization founded in honor of the Late Fred Earl Jones with a mission to help support music education programs in Mississippi through scholarships, grants, and opportunities for music appreciation.*