In 2016, The MacArthur Foundation announced the awarding of a grant to Chicago West Community Music Center (CWCMC) for an exchange program with Shanghai, China. The purpose of the program is “to teach Chinese musicians about music from Chicago and for Chicago musicians to learn about the traditional music of Shanghai that can be shared through music lessons to youth from low-income families.”

Howard Sandifer, founder of Chicago West Community Music Center, says: "Our mission is to harness the creative potential of individuals through education to inspire artistic and cultural expression in such a way that we help foster positive relationships across neighborhood lines."

In May 2017, students from W.I.S.H. (Westside Instructional String and Harp) program held their first fundraising benefit (WISHfest). The talented students demonstrated what they have learned during the school year. String instruments include violin, cello, harp and guitar using the traditional and Suzuki style learning method. Each student receives private and group lessons. Many of the students go on to our high school orchestra.

The 55 students, aged 4 to 18, performed a selection of music including classical compositions by J.S. Bach, Franz Liszt along with swinging jazz music by Miles Davis and George Benson.
**About Chicago West Community Music Center**

Our mission is to harness the creative potential of individuals through education to inspire artistic and cultural expression in such a way that we help foster positive relationships across neighborhood lines.

The activities presented by CWCMC have a unifying effect on the community, as residents from neighboring communities build healthy relationships sharing common interests.

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**QuarterNote, Issue 5**

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**CWCMC 2017 Board**

Roy D'Souza (CHAIR)
SongVest

Tim Binney (VICE-CHAIR)
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Doris Davenport
Davenport Show, WPNA Radio AM1490

John Blackburn, CPA (TREASURER)

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**CWCMC Funders**

Chicago Community Trust
Chicago Park District
City of Chicago
City Arts Council
Classics for Kids Foundation
D’Addario Foundation

DCASE (Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events)

DFSS (Department of Family and Support Services)

Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance

Gary and Denise Gardner Foundation
Illinois Arts Council

John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
Oak Park ArtsFund

Sam and Helen Zell Foundation

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**Everyone’s Picasso at Daley Plaza**

Students from CWCMC had the privilege of performing at the reenactment project, “Everyone’s Picasso” in August at Daley Plaza in downtown Chicago.

Fifty years ago, a major work of public art was unveiled in Chicago, the Chicago Picasso. This year’s event unfolded just as it did around noon on August 15, 1967. Music was by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and played by After School Matters’ Chicago West Community Music Center student musicians.

Repertoire for the Picasso Celebration included: Overture to Candide (Bernstein); An American in Paris (Gershwin) and Finale from Symphony No 5, C Minor, Opus 57 (Beethoven).

The late Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Gwendolyn Brooks wrote a poem for the Picasso Project 50 years ago. Her daughter, Nora Brooks Blakely, read the poem in her memory.

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**CWCMC Sings Summer Tribute To Michael Jackson, “THIS IS IT!”**

Everyone loves Michael Jackson. After School Matters/Chicago West Community Music Center (CWCMC) performed a summer tribute to the late megastar at the city’s parks.

“THIS IS IT! Tribute to Michael Jackson” thrilled audiences at Margate Park, Rosenblum Park, Fosco Park and Garfield Park Fieldhouse.

The music fest opened with an overture of Jackson’s songs, including *Off The Wall*, *Rock With You*, *Thriller*, *I’ll Be There* and *Man In the Mirror*.

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**CWCMC Collaborates with Conn-Selmer**

On August 21, 2017, Howard and Darlene visited the Conn-Selmer VIP Day event and toured the instrument factory to see how instruments are made and prep for distribution. Chicago West Community Music Center is a new partner with Conn-Selmer and we are both excited about CWCMC taking advantage of their educational programs and services. Conn-Selmer is the only full-line American-made instrument manufacturer in the country. Conn-Selmer Corporate Office is located at 600 Industrial Parkway in Elkhart Indiana.
Chicago West Community Music Center’s
IT HAPPENED IN 2017

CWCMC Teens Travel To Paris

Fifteen CWCMC students who were enrolled in the After School Matters “Business of Music” Program had the privilege of traveling to Paris and participating in the University of Chicago Paris Centre’s “Black Metropolis: Between Past and Future” colloquium.

The teens also performed in front of a packed audience at the Foundation des Etats-Unis where they received THREE standing ovations for their performance.

They enjoyed other highlights including a dinner hosted by After School Matters board member, Clare Munana, met French students and toured many famous Parisian landmarks, including the Eiffel Tower.

CWCMC Special Guests at Grambling State University

Chicago West Community Music Center’s Classical Quartet were the special guests at Grambling State University “Bring It Home” Campaign Fundraising Reception in September at The Drake Hotel in Chicago.

The quartet was comprised of Elizabeth Kelly - violin, Maria Sales - viola, Kalie Holiday - cello and instructor/violinist Kyle Dickson.

They performed the String Quartet in G Major by Florence B. Price. Florence Beatrice Price was the first African-American woman to be recognized as a symphonic composer and the first to have a composition played by a major orchestra.

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra performed Price’s Symphony No. 1 in E Minor at the Century of Progress Fair in 1933.

CWCMC Performs at After School Matters Gala Third Consecutive Year

Chicago West Community Music Center’s Orchestra performed Make Them Hear You from “Ragtime” at the After School Matters Annual Gala in September at the Wintrust Arena. It was the highlight of the evening’s performances.

This was the third year the CWCMC students appeared at the gala which is considered one of the city’s major social events of the year which was attended by 1,000 supporters.
Media Coverage of Chicago West Community Music Center

The story of the Chicago West Community Music Center (CWCMC) is a great story that needs to be told over and over again. This was a banner year for TV coverage of Chicago West Community Music Center.

Howard Sandifer and his talented teens appeared on ‘Windy City Live’ in revealing interviews with the hosts, Val Warner and Ryan Chiaverni. Sandifer recalled how he and his wife, Darlene Sandifer, started Chicago West Community Music Center from their kitchen table in 1999. It now reaches 800 students on the West Side of Chicago.

It grew from the lack of after school music programs in the Chicago Public Schools. Howard was saluted as a 4 Star Chicagoan for inspiring more and more students to pick up instruments and pursue their creative passions.

The program now offers music education at The Golden Dome in Garfield Park. The students participate in several programs worldwide including cultural exchange programs in China and Brazil. They most recently visited Paris for the second time.

Sandifer kicked off his TV appearances on FOX in June with coverage of their summer Michael Jackson Tribute. The students were shown singing “Remember the Time” during the FOX telecast.

NBC joined in the coverage with its “Making A Difference” segment. Howard was saluted for how he inspires the students to recognize the power and soul of their voices as they performed songs by Michael Jackson.

And ABC threw love to CWCMC with coverage of the Michael Jackson summer tribute during the evening news segment.

On radio, Doris Davenport opened her show, “The Doris Davenport Show,” to the Sandifers where they discussed the healing power of music and why it is so necessary.

Also, on radio, Darryl Dennard, host of “Chicago Speaks” on V103, featured Howard Sandifer and his mission to motivate the teens to pick up instruments and lift their voices as they denounce violence on the West Side.

Project Innovation Helps Support CWCMC And Eight Other Organizations

Project Innovation has selected Chicago West Community Music Center as one of the agencies that it funds. It is a program designed to seek out and support community-based agencies that provide innovative programming for youth.

The agencies chosen for funding were focused on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) programming for youth.

In addition to CWCMC, the agencies selected by Project Innovation are: Marwen, Project SYNCERE, Chicago Architecture Foundation, Gary Comer Youth Center, Alternative Schools Network, Leave No Veteran Behind, A Knock At Midnight and Phalanx Family Services.