



ELLIS MARSALIS CENTER FOR MUSIC

2023
Program Overview

MISSION

Located in the Ninth Ward of New Orleans, the Ellis Marsalis Center for Music uses music as the focal point of a holistic strategy to build a healthy community and to deliver a broad range of services to underserved children, youth and musicians from neighborhoods battling poverty and social injustice. The Center is a safe and supportive environment where children and youth develop musically, academically and socially; where local musicians perform, record and develop professionally; and where the community gathers. The Center also serves as a community resource and a catalyst for cultural preservation.

[Click here to view a video highlighting the Center's programs in action.](#)



WHO WE SERVE

At the heart of the Center's mission is the fundamental belief that music has the power to transform lives. The children who live in the Center's primary service area of the Ninth Ward of New Orleans and surrounding communities have great promise, but are at great risk. Many live in neighborhoods with high rates of concentrated poverty, in a city where significant racial disparities in health, income, and exposure to violence and trauma are commonplace. Yet, despite these challenges, students at the Ellis Marsalis Center for Music are bright, joyful, and deserving of access to the quality music education, technology, engineering, and wraparound services the Center provides.

EMCM also works to celebrate, employ, and assist adult musicians in Musicians' Village and other low-income New Orleans musicians. Through the Center's programs, the Center has employed hundreds of local musicians as music instructors and headliners in our monthly concert series.



EMCM HISTORY

Created in response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina, the Ellis Marsalis Center for Music uses music as the anchor to heal and build a healthy community. Since its founding, it has changed the lives of many and strengthened the cultural fabric of the Ninth Ward and the city at large.

2005

- Hurricane Katrina leaves the city of New Orleans in shambles.
- Founding board members join with New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity to build the Musicians' Village

2006

- Ground-breaking begins on Musicians' Village homes to provide affordable housing for displaced musicians and others
- By 2010, 83 homes are completed and Musicians' Village thrives as a new neighborhood anchor in the Upper Ninth Ward.

2007

- Construction begins on the heart of Musicians' Village, the Ellis Marsalis Center for Music, a community nexus for music education and the performing arts

2011

- The doors of the Ellis Marsalis Center for Music opens featuring a 170-seat performance hall with state-of-the-art lighting and sound, recording facilities, computer lab, listening library, classrooms, and teaching facilities for individual and group instruction.

Today

- The Center shines as hub of activity, enrolling hundreds of youth in its programs, and welcoming community members to its concerts and events.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

YOUTH MUSIC EDUCATION

Our youth music education program serves students eight- to eighteen-years old through after-school, Saturday classes, and summer sessions. Classes are offered in a safe, positive environment where children can develop musically, academically, and socially. The program offers instruction in various disciplines including piano, strings, percussion, bass, guitar, brass, woodwinds, dance, vocal, and jazz band.

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

The Center offers classes in music production, lighting production, video production, and audio engineering. In 2019, in partnership with Apple, the Center expanded its music technology program to include computer coding. The coding program is now required for all students affording them the opportunity to learn the basics of coding and the opportunity to use an Apple iPad each semester.

YOUTH WRAPAROUND SERVICES

As a part of its mission to support the whole child, the Center also provides additional wrap-around services, including behavioral health counseling, homework assistance with tutoring in reading and math, and a healthy habits meal program.



ADULT PROGRAMS



THE STUDIO RECORDING PROGRAM

The Center offers local musicians access to affordable studio recording time in our state-of-the-art studio. Utilizing the Performance Hall with its variable acoustics as the primary live room, the Studio is configurable for solo acts, small groups, and orchestras. Musicians can record either live shows with an audience or private studio sessions.

COMMUNITY CONCERTS

Through the Center's monthly concert series, the Center creates, expands, and sustains performance opportunities for New Orleans musicians. With musical styles ranging from jazz, afro-cuban rhythms, New Orleans R&B, zydeco and blues, to opera and classical music, the concert series is rooted in the Center's deep commitment to fostering local talent and preserving New Orleans' rich musical legacy.

ADULT WRAPAROUND SERVICES

In addition to offering recording and performance opportunities, the Center also provides a range of services to adults including music business and computer literacy classes; meeting and practice spaces; resume building; and adult piano classes to residents of the Musicians' Village and surrounding communities.



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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