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# **BOOST Conference 2016**

## **Peer to peer service learning through music**

**Myka Miller, Executive Director**

**Dr. Anne Rardin, Program Specialist**

**Dick Roberts, Former Coordinator of After School  
Programs in LAUSD**



# Harmony Project's Mission:

**To promote** the healthy growth and development of children through the study, practice and performance of music.

**To build** healthier communities by investing in the positive development of children through music.

**To develop** children as musical ambassadors of peace, hope and understanding amongst people of diverse cultures and backgrounds.



# What is El Sistema?

El Sistema began in 1975 in Venezuela and has proven how a music program can dramatically change the life trajectory of hundreds of thousands of a nation's neediest kids. Today they serve over 500,000 students.

El Sistema's approach to music education emphasizes **intensive ensemble participation** from the earliest stages, **group learning**, **peer teaching** and a commitment to keeping the **joy and fun** of musical learning and music making ever-present.



Gustavo Dudamel & Youth Orchestra LA

# Spotlight: Alexandria Elementary School

Since 2009, Harmony Project and Beyond the Bell have partnered in many underserved elementary schools throughout LAUSD.



Alexandria serves 199 students a minimum of 5 hours a week.

# Alexandria Elementary School

## in Koreatown

<i>Student Type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i># of classes</i>	<i># of Students</i>
<b>First Year Instrumental</b>	First year on an instrument after graduating musicianship. Students study one year to prepare to play in an ensemble. Group classes meet twice a week for one hour.	5	53
<b>Multi Year Instrumental</b>	Students who have played their instrument for more than one year are required to attend their group class that meets twice a week for one hour each day as well as their ensemble for three hours on Saturday.	16 group 3 Ensembles	147
<b>Jr. Academy</b>	Students who are fully committed to the program have the option to receive more instruction in chamber music, music theory, and mentoring. Jr. Academy meets once a week for two hours and is an addition to the students regular group class and ensemble schedule.	1	30



- 2,000 students in LA County
  - 1,000 from LAUSD alone
  - 13 distinct program sites
- 200 distinct schools represented across 8 different school districts
- 39 large ensembles/orchestra, band, choir, drum line

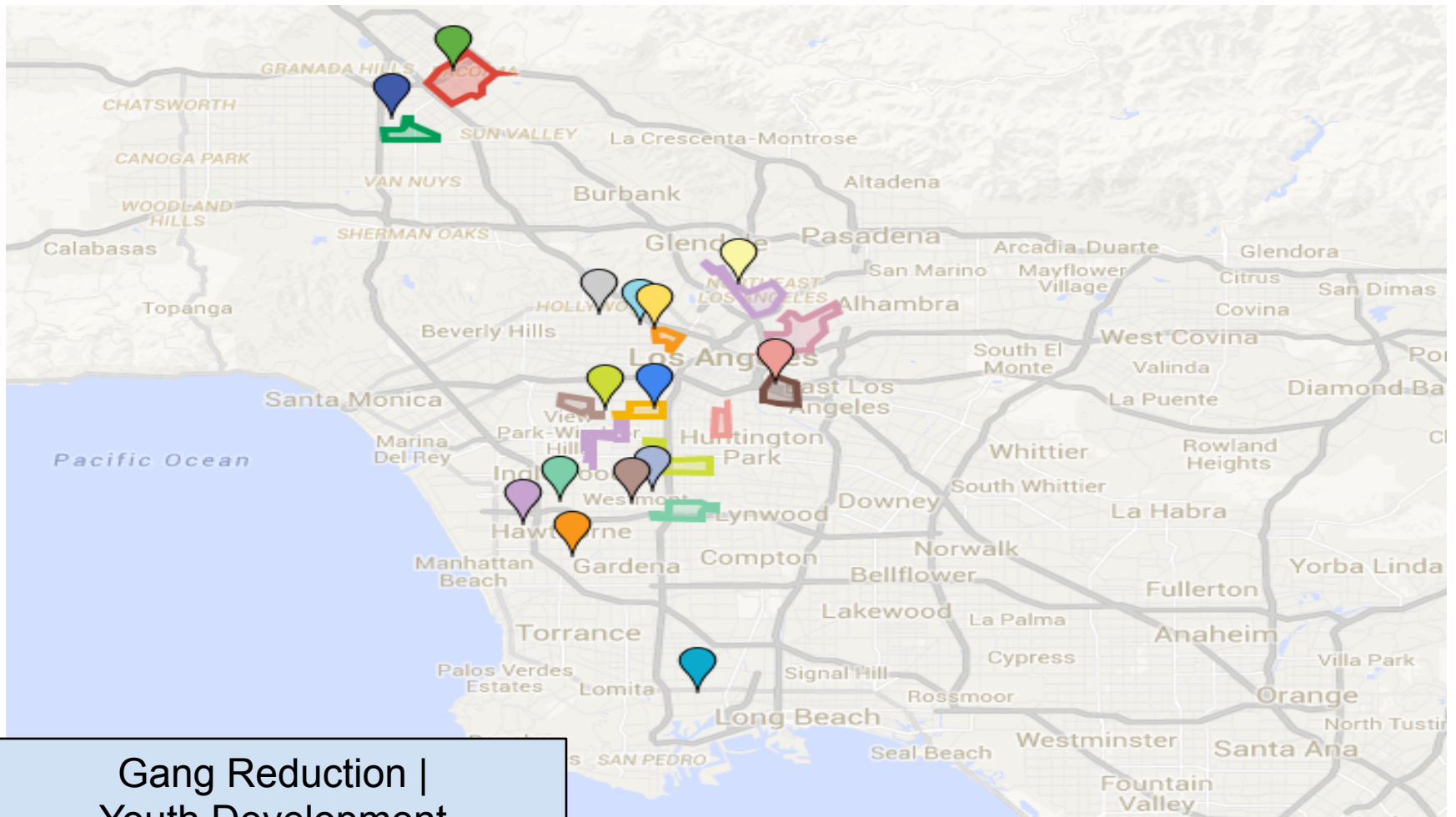




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- 75 student performances and recitals a year
  - 125 professional musician teaching artists
  - 25 full time staff
  - 89 peer mentors



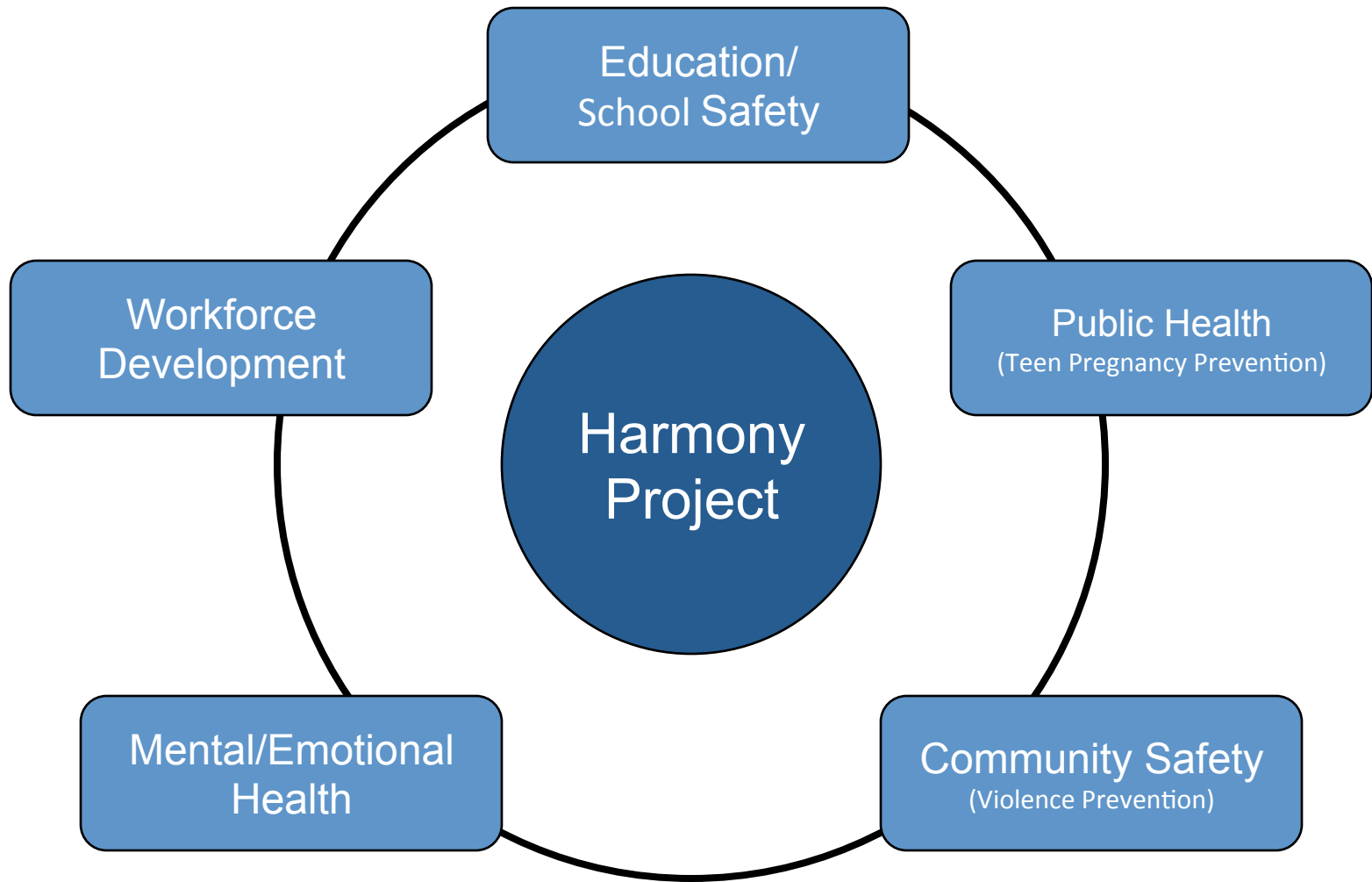
# Program Sites with GRYD Zones



Gang Reduction |  
Youth Development



# Harmony Project: Program Overview



# Harmony Project Overview

## Year-Round

- Intensive, year-round program supports Los Angeles' most underserved children
- Helps children overcome the challenges they face, graduate high school, and enroll in college

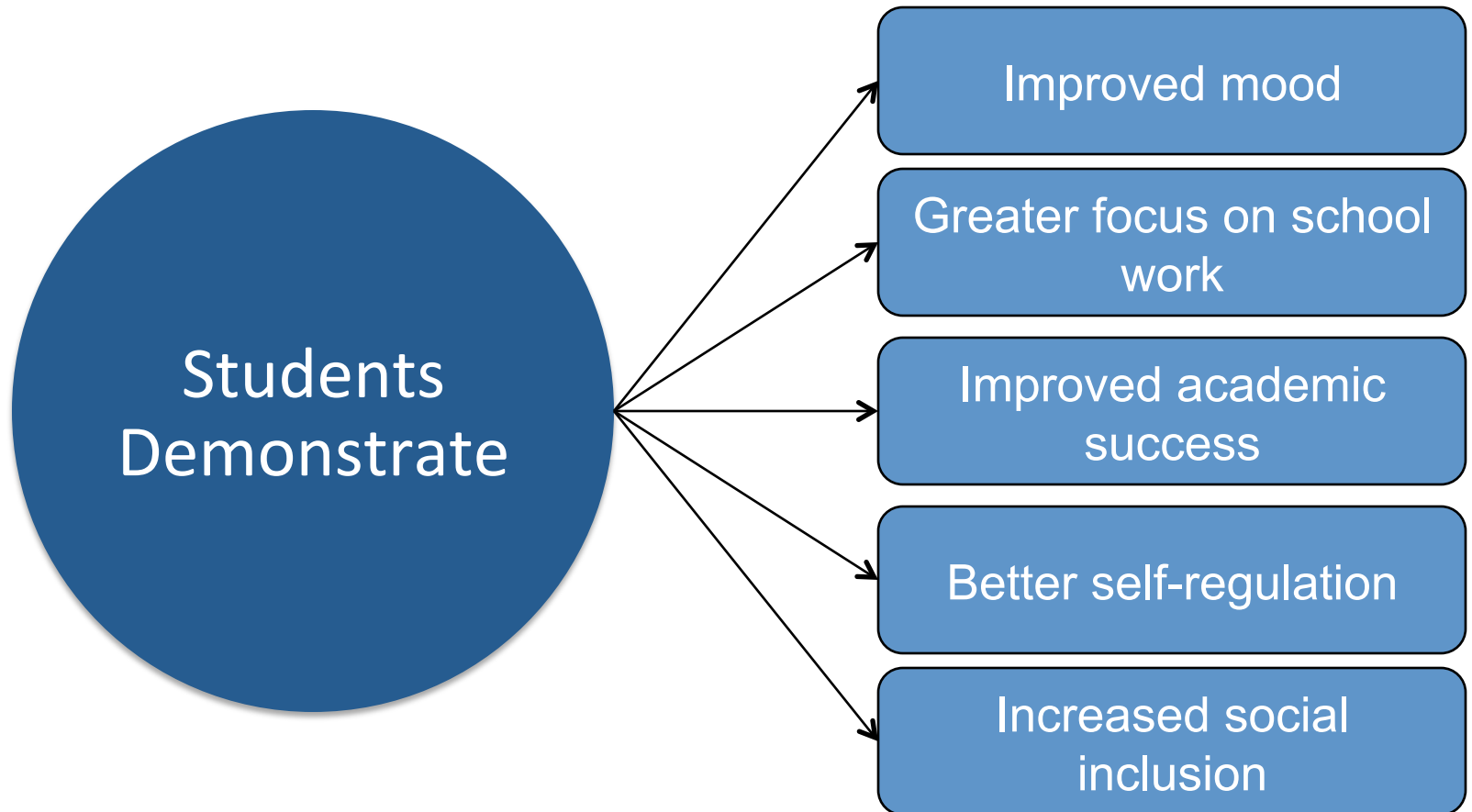
## Holistic Model

- Rigorous music instruction
- Enrichment activities
- Professional and peer mentoring
- Family support services

## Entire Childhood

- Harmony Project serves each child throughout his/her entire childhood
- Students who graduate high school and have been in the program for 3 years are eligible for a \$5000 scholarship

# Program Impact: Results



# Program Impact: Lasting Change

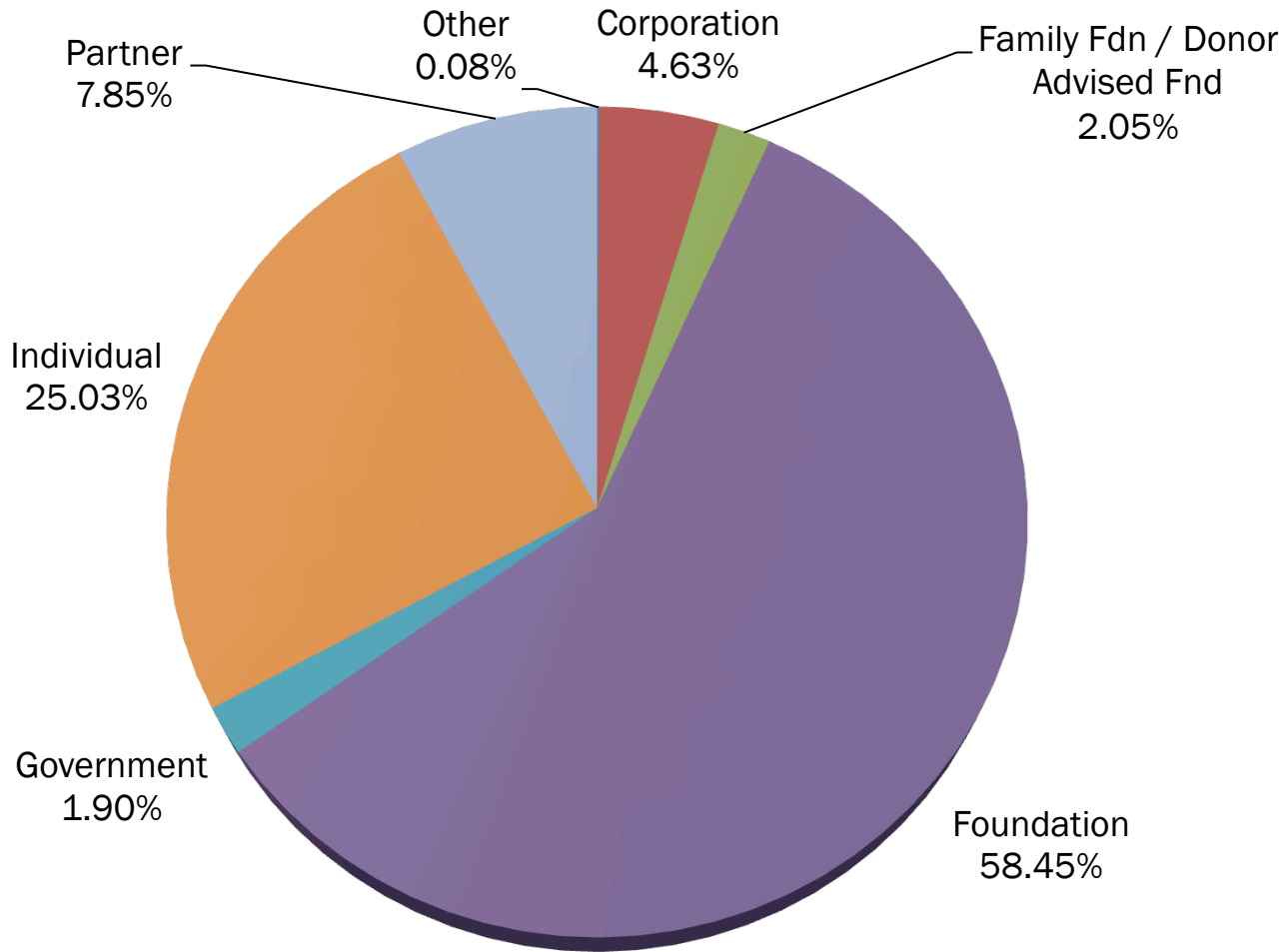
- A multi-year study of Harmony Project's program conducted by Northwestern University confirms the biological impact of community-based music instruction.
- 2 years of training improved students' neural responses to speech, a brain measure linked to improved literacy.
- Students involved in music making and exhibiting greater participation in Harmony Project programming showed greater neural improvement.

# Cost per Student = \$1,500

- A musical instrument
- Assessment of musical and character development
- An average of 200 hours of
- music instruction/year
- Musical outings
- Orchestra, band, and
- choir programs
- Peer mentoring
- Performance opportunities
- Support services for parents



# Sources of Funding



# Learning Theory & Out-of-the-box Teaching

We believe in music as a means of social justice. So we asked the peer mentors the following questions:

**Why mentor? What does being in Harmony Project mean to them?**

**What inequities are they concerned with?**

**What ways might move towards resolving these?**

**How does El Sistema fit into their thinking? How do they feel about social relations in cross-age mentoring?**



# Meet the Student Mentors!

**Andrew Loveland, cello**

Freshman at LA City College

**Natanael Dominguez, viola**

Graduating Senior from Cortines High School for the  
Visual and Performing Arts, violist & composer

**Sofia Crum, violin**

Junior at Hamilton High School



# **And their Special Guest!**

**Sean Loveland, violin**

**Freshman at Van Nuys High School**

**Sphinx & NYO2**

Started playing with the BTB program at Del Olmo

# **And their Mentee, Mozart**

really, his name is Mozart...

## **Mozart Estupinian, cello**

Middle School Student and mentee of Andrew Loveland





**Thank you!**

