



# Accent Pontiac 2016-2017 Annual Report



**A Community Outreach Organization of Kirk in the Hills**

# Accent Pontiac

## Mission/Vision & Our Story

### Mission/Vision

Accent Pontiac: Strengthening Pontiac's youth and community through equitable access to intensive and consistent music making.

All children in Pontiac will achieve their full potential through equal access to quality music learning.



### Our Story

In 2014, Kirk in the Hills launched a capital campaign, raising funds to be used, in part, for outreach in the Kirk's neighboring community of Pontiac, Michigan. Soon after, a committee was formed to decide how the funds would be used, ultimately deciding on an El Sistema-inspired music program. The Kirk has a long history of musical excellence as well as a dedication to supporting the Pontiac community. Accent Pontiac was the perfect fit.

In April 2016, Dan Trahey, founder and Artistic Director of OrchKids, an El Sistema-inspired program in Baltimore, joined the team as a consultant. Trahey helped to guide Accent Pontiac through its initial stages, including the securing of Walt Whitman Elementary School as our partner in the Pontiac School District. Tina Rowan was hired as the founding Artistic/Program Director in September 2016, and Accent Pontiac began its soft launch phase. Accent Pontiac's pilot program launched on January 10, 2017, serving approximately 190 students at Walt Whitman.

In September 2017, Accent Pontiac received its exemption letter from the Internal Revenue Service to be recognized as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. The Kirk will remain committed to being actively engaged in fundraising and providing office space and administrative support.

In the upcoming years, Accent Pontiac hopes to support all schools in the Pontiac School District, starting by opening a second elementary school site in the 2018-2019 school year.

# Accent Pontiac Important Dates and Performances

## Event Highlights

**Soft Launch**—Before launching regular programming in January, Accent Pontiac provided several musical experiences for students at Walt Whitman during the fall of 2016. Students went on a field trip to the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, participated in an interactive Orff instrument petting zoo, and heard several guest artists perform at Walt Whitman.

**November Intersession**—During intersession week in November 2016, Accent Pontiac brought two guest teaching artists to work with the first, second, and third graders at Walt Whitman. Students participated in an intensive, week-long bucket band workshop, learning to play bucket band songs as well as creating their own songs. After four days of rehearsal, all students performed for the school community on Friday.

**March Intersession**—During intersession week in March 2017, Accent Pontiac brought three guest teaching artists to work with the first, second, third, and sixth graders at Walt Whitman. This intensive, week-long workshop focused on bucket band, choir, and brass band. After four days of rehearsal, all students performed for the school community on Friday.

**Let the Music Begin Benefit Auction**—In May 2017, Kirk in the Hills sponsored the *Let the Music Begin* auction, with all proceeds benefitting Accent Pontiac. Over 150 community members attended to watch Accent Pontiac students perform outside of Walt Whitman for the first time and raised over \$25,000 for the program.

**End of Year Showcase**—In June 2017, all Accent Pontiac bucket band and brass students performed at an End of Year Assembly for the Walt Whitman school community, family members, Pontiac community members, and Kirk in the Hills members.

**Summer Program**—Nineteen Accent Pontiac students participated in a week-long, full-day summer program at Kirk in the Hills. Each day, students took classes in bucket band, brass, movement, and creative composition. At the end of the week, students performed what they had learned in the summer program for their families as well as Pontiac and Kirk community members.

Check out our website, [accentpontiac.org](http://accentpontiac.org), for upcoming events.



# Accent Pontiac 2016-2017 By the Numbers



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Number of Schools Served



190

Number of Students Served



5

Number of Staff



32

Number of Volunteers

## Demographics of Walt Whitman Elementary

### Race/Ethnicity:

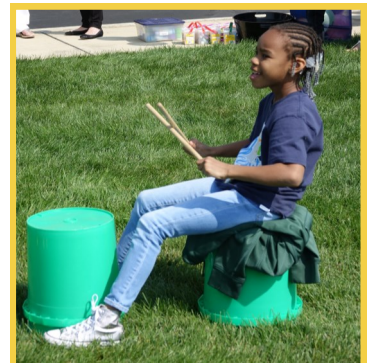
3% Asian American  
25% Hispanic/Latino  
60% Black/African American  
12% White/Caucasian  
0.2% Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

Economically Disadvantaged:

74%

English Language Learners:

32%



# Accent Pontiac Impact

## Behavior

- ⊗ Parents say: They have noticed improvements in students' behavior at home.
- ⊗ Teachers say: They have noticed improvements in students' behavior at school.

## Attendance

- ⊗ Parents say: They are more likely to keep their students at a school with Accent Pontiac programming.
- ⊗ In the 2016-2017 school year, Walt Whitman Elementary School had the highest attendance percentage of any other school in the Pontiac School District.
- ⊗ Students say: They are excited to come to school on days with Accent Pontiac programming.

## Social Skills

- ⊗ Teachers say: Students gained transferable skills including teamwork and cooperation.
- ⊗ Accent Pontiac staff say: Students improved in confidence, creativity, and participation.

## Musical Skills

- ⊗ Accent Pontiac staff say: All students improved in musical ability since the beginning of the year.



# Accent Pontiac Board of Directors



Dr. Linda Ayres, President

Lee Gardner, Treasurer

Jan Keeling, Secretary

Anita Pinson

Marguerite Lentz

Dr. Joe Shively

Jayne Zellers

Mike McGuiness

Rev. Dr. Nate Phillips

Rev. Fernando Rodríguez

Dan Trahey, Consultant

Tina Rowan, Artistic/Program Director

**THANK YOU TO OUR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DONORS**

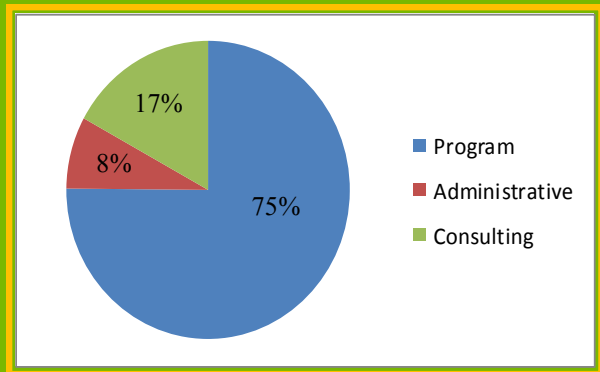
# Accent Pontiac Financials

Revenue: \$150,735.00

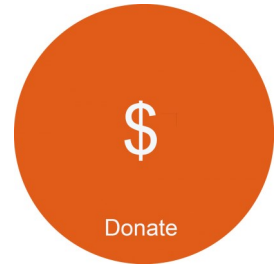
- ⌘ Kirk in the Hills  
Individual Donations

Expenses: \$ 150,735.00

⌘ Program	\$ 113,265.00
⌘ Administrative	\$ 11,800.00
⌘ Consulting	\$ <u>25,670.00</u>
⌘ Total	\$ 150,735.00



## Accent Pontiac Get Involved!



- [accentpontiac.org](http://accentpontiac.org)
- [facebook.com/accentpontiac](https://facebook.com/accentpontiac)
- [vimeo.com/accentpontiac](https://vimeo.com/accentpontiac)



Tina Rowan, Artistic/Program Director—[trowan@accentpontiac.org](mailto:trowan@accentpontiac.org)