

Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestras Partnerships
Processes and Tools to Initiate, Guide and Track Partnerships

INITIATE

SYSO engages in various partnerships with schools, community agencies and other leading Seattle area arts organizations to build organizational capacity and increase learning opportunities for young musicians.

Types of Partnership	Sample Partners
1) Multi-year, year-long, sustained programs	SPS Partnership
2) Project-based with performance and learning opportunities	5 th Avenue “The Oklahoma Project” PNB School and NEXT STEP Seattle Opera “Our Earth” Seattle Symphony Orchestras Side-by-Sides
3) Performance-based partnerships	Recent partners include Tacoma Symphony Chorus, Seattle Girls Choir, and many others

The following criteria are considered when deciding to enter into a partnership:

Is the partnership effort?

- 1) *Manageable* – Realistic given staff and financial capacity of partners and lends itself well to collaborative participation.
- 2) *Alignment*– Aligns with both partners’ missions, goals, and strategies
- 3) *Coordination* – Builds off existing SYSO skills, resources, and knowledge and coordinates with other SYSO programs.
- 4) *Collaborative Strength* – The partnership of multiple organizations enables a stronger position in terms of funding, public outreach, or educational impact than if organizations were working in competition.
- 5) *Relevant* – There is a high demand for the programs or services that partners provide, or a unique demand that can only be fulfilled through partnership.
- 6) *Measurable* – The partners can establish shared metrics for program success and youth development/student learning that are tangible and valid. Data is shared between partners to effectively track success.
- 7) *Economically Viable* – The partnership would attract funders and/or create a new revenue strategy.
- 8) *Sustainable* – Partners determine strategies for sustainability at the outset of the collaborative efforts including potential opportunities for growth or transition.

GUIDE

Partnership Matrix (attached) is a document which.....

- Defines the areas of the organization that the partnership will impact.
- Determines ways in which partnership programs will add value as well as potentially draw upon staff and other organizational resources.
- Documents the partnership to be able to operationalize the process for sustained relationships with partners.

TRACK

Partnership Impact Data

- Various areas can be measured
 - Quality of the learning opportunity
 - Visibility / press
 - Outreach to new communities
 - Cost /revenue sharing
 - Funder and board development
 - Audience building

Student Learning Assessment

- Gathering feedback on students' experience of the unique learning opportunities.

Revisiting Partnership Considerations (listed above)

- How many considerations met, lessons learned, plans for future collaborations