

EdCE on the Rise

In August, the League of American Orchestras released *Of and For the Community: The Education and Community Engagement Work of Orchestras*, which reveals marked growth in education and community engagement (EdCE) activity by orchestras between 2009 and 2014. Here are excerpts and highlights from the report.

Orchestras across America are reexamining and recreating their roles as civic institutions, both of and for the diverse communities they serve. For many, education and community engagement have already become central to a vision in which the work of orchestras is shaped by the distinctive characteristics of the people they serve.

Orchestras' ambitions to engage with communities, in ways that create new and distinctive opportunities for creative expression and connection, are growing. Yet at the same time, social, cultural, economic, and policy change creates a complex and ever-shifting landscape for this work.

At this crucial moment, the education and engagement work undertaken by orchestras deserves dedicated attention. Naturally, every community has its own distinctive culture and needs, and—as a result—each orchestra has its own story to tell about the impact of its education and community engagement work. Nonetheless, there is an important role for a cohesive, national picture. The field-wide data provided by this report provides an essential backdrop to each orchestra's own story of impact and engagement, as well as important insights into the tremendous scale and breadth of the work underway nationally.

Drawing on a dedicated survey of League of American Orchestras' mem-

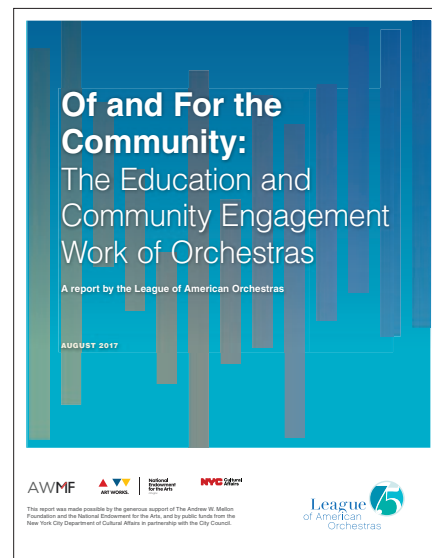
ber orchestras, *Of and For the Community* presents a more accurate and detailed picture of orchestra Education and Community Engagement (EdCE) activity than has previously been available to the field. The 98 survey respondents included adult orchestras with and without affiliated youth orchestras, as well as independent youth orchestras. U.S. orchestras of all sizes from across the country took part. This report—the first League review of EdCE programming since 2008—is also the first to investigate current field interests such as the diversification of orchestra EdCE programming and the true artistic costs associated with orchestras' EdCE programs.

Download *Of and For the Community: The Education and Community Engagement Work of Orchestras* free of charge at <http://www.americanorchestras.org/edcereport>.

Key findings from *Of and For the Community*:

Orchestras reported growth over the period 2009-14 on each of the following measures:

- the number of EdCE participants engaged;
- the racial/ethnic diversity of EdCE participants;
- the number of EdCE concerts produced;
- the range of EdCE activity types undertaken;



- the extent of school and community partnerships developed;
- the number of staff hours dedicated to EdCE activity; and
- the budget available for EdCE work, relative to the orchestra's overall budget.

Almost two thirds of participants took part in EdCE programming free of charge, and 85% of all EdCE sessions took place outside of the concert hall.

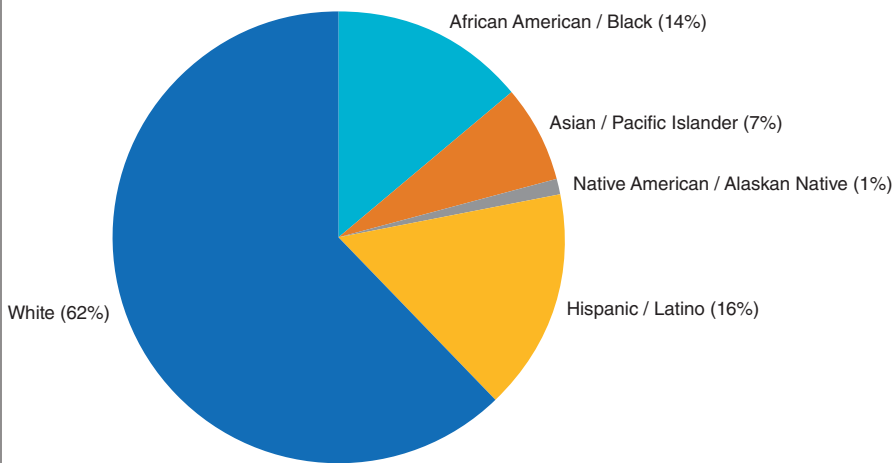
Growth and diversity of participants:

- 82% of orchestras surveyed stated that the number of EdCE participants in their programs had increased over the five-year period 2009-14.
- 70% of all EdCE participants were believed to be 18 years old or younger.
- 61% of orchestras reported that their EdCE participant base was more diverse in 2014 than it had been in 2009.
- 38% of EdCE participants were believed to be African American, Hispanic/Latino, Asian/Pacific Islander, or American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 62% were believed to be white.

Diversification of the range of EdCE program types:

- 69% of survey respondents confidently reported a greater range of program types in 2014 than in 2009.

Racial / Ethnic Demographics of Orchestra EdCE Program Participants (FY 2014)



Increase in number of EdCE concerts:

- Almost half of the survey cohort reported that the number of EdCE concerts they performed had increased during the five-year period 2009-14.

Increase in partnerships with school and community-based organizations:

- Two thirds of all responding orchestras reported that the extent of their partnership work had increased during the five-year period 2009-14.
- 79% of orchestras surveyed reported working with schools.
- 63% reported working with community (non-school) partner organizations.
- 34% had worked with (non-school) community partners focused on youth engagement.
- 26% had worked with health and wellness organizations.
- 24% had worked with senior-services providers.
- 17% had worked with organizations focused on racial diversity and inclusion.
- 13% had partnered with organizations working to address poverty in their communities.

- Orchestras also reported having worked with organizations dedicated to homelessness (10%), mental health (8.2%), domestic violence and abuse (4.1%), criminal justice (3.1%), bullying (3.1%), young people in the foster care system (3.1%), and school dropouts (3.1%).

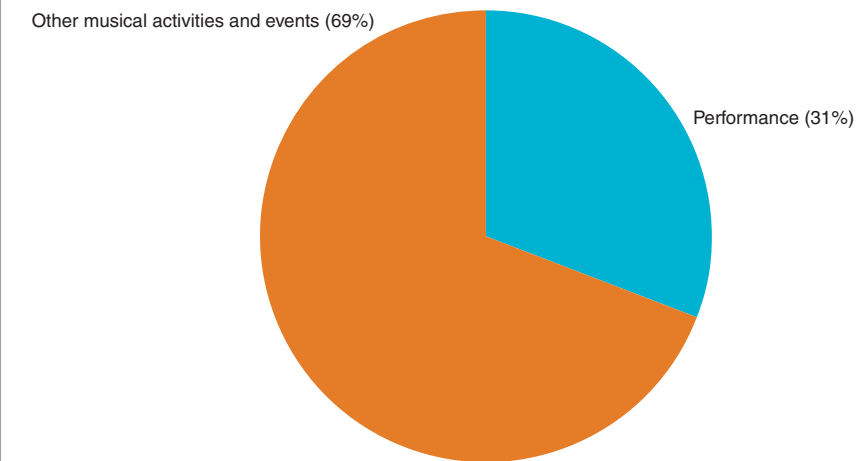
Orchestras' investment in EdCE work is increasing:

- Almost half (47%) of the 85 orchestras in our cohort of adult orchestras (and their affiliated youth orchestras) stated definitively that the budget available for EdCE programming increased in the period 2009-14, relative to their overall budget.

Orchestras serve communities:

- Almost two thirds of participants took part in EdCE programming free of charge.
- 85% of all EdCE sessions (incorporating both concerts and other musical activities and events) took place outside of the concert hall.
- 83% of orchestras surveyed offer the opportunity to meet musicians and/or explore orchestral instruments.
- Over 80% offer performances by smaller professional groups of orchestral musicians, which enables this work to take place in a wider range of community venues.
- 73% offer in-person lectures or talks.
- 73% of community-based EdCE sessions took place in schools.
- 68% of orchestras surveyed present family or school concerts, making the unique cultural experience of the full symphony orchestra welcoming and accessible to a large community audience.
- 61%* offer the opportunity for amateur musicians to rehearse and perform

EdCE Activity Types (FY 2014)

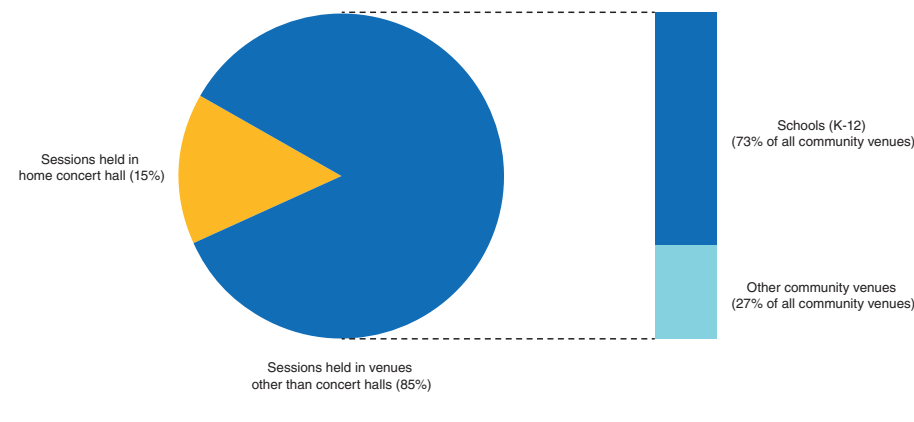


alongside orchestra musicians (*percentage does not include independent youth orchestras).

- 51%* offer individual instrumental instruction (*percentage does not include independent youth orchestras).
- 34%* run a community orchestra for adults, and 30%* run an adult community choir (*percentages do not include independent youth orchestras).
- 27% of community-based EdCE sessions took place in non-school venues including:

- healthcare settings
- civic institutions (such as museums or libraries)
- religious buildings
- civic spaces (such as parks and town squares)

Breakout of EdCE Venues (FY 2014)



- care homes for the elderly
- youth and community centers
- criminal justice settings
- community festivals or parades
- social care centers
- shelters

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