



National String Project Consortium (NSPC) Received \$40,000 Grant from the NAMM Foundation to Support 5 Emerging String Project Sites across United States
Grant will help the NSPC bolster programs that train college students to become tomorrow's string teachers and give youth the opportunity to play a stringed instrument in Cookeville, Tennessee; El Paso, Texas; Kennesaw, Georgia; Hattiesburg, Mississippi; Forest Grove, Oregon

DALLAS, Texas – (17 July 2017) — The National String Project Consortium (NSPC) has been named a grant recipient of The NAMM Foundation. The organization was selected as one of 24 organizations to receive a grant to fund vital programs that create and support access to musical instruction and that serve to inspire a life-long love of making music in its population.

“We are so pleased to benefit the National String Project Consortium with a grant in their quest to continue to create access and opportunities for all people to experience the joy of making music,” shared Mary Luehrsen, Executive Director of the The NAMM Foundation. “It is through their transformative work of nonprofit music service organizations that thousands of people will discover their own musical talent.”

The grants serve to underscore the Foundation's mission to advance participation in music making and offer quality access to all people. As one of 24 recipients, the National String Project Consortium will utilize the resource as a means to support the organization's mission to train college student to be equipped teachers of tomorrow and to provide accessible and affordable instruction to community youth. This grant will allow a new national String Project site to open at [Tennessee Tech University](#) (Sarah McKelvie, Director) and to offer continued emerging site support to String Projects at [University of Texas – El Paso](#) (Stephanie Meyers, Director) [Southern Mississippi State University](#) (Michael Miles, Director), [Pacific University](#) (Dijana Ihas, Director), and [Kennesaw State University](#) (Susan H. Brown, Master Teacher).

“The National String Project Consortium is dedicated to providing accessible and affordable instruction to children while training college students to be excellent teachers of tomorrow. String Project sites enrich the landscapes in which they are a part of and they solve a persistent problem in our country: a shortage of string players and string teachers,” said Dr. Amy Gillingham, Executive Director of the National String Project Consortium, who also serves as Assistant Professor of Cello/Orchestra and Director of the String Project at Northern Kentucky University. “We are extremely grateful to the NAMM Foundation for their generous support of our mission. Their support allows us to have a positive, generational impact in string music education.”

Since its inception in 1994, The NAMM Foundation's annual grant program has donated more than \$16 million in support to domestic and international music education

programs, scientific research, advocacy and public service programs related to music making. The grants are funded in part by donations from the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) and its 10,300 member companies worldwide.

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About the National String Project Consortium

The National String Project Consortium (NSPC) is a coalition of String Project sites based at colleges and universities across the United States. The NSPC is dedicated to increasing the number of children playing stringed instruments, and addressing the critical shortage of string teachers in the US. The NSPC is affiliated with institutions of higher education, communities, businesses, foundations, professional music organizations, and individuals who support these goals. For more information about the NSPC, please visit www.stringprojects.org.

About The NAMM Foundation

The NAMM Foundation is a nonprofit organization funded in part by the National Association of Music Merchants and its 10,300 members. The Foundation's mission is to advance active participation in music making across the lifespan by supporting scientific research, philanthropic giving and public service programs. For more information about The NAMM Foundation, please visit www.nammfoundation.org.

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