

Singing City

Educational Improvement
Tax Credit (EITC)
Program of Pennsylvania



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YOUTH CHOIR



Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Program of PA

Singing City participates in the Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC) administered by Pennsylvania's Department of Community and Economic Development. Under Act 4, companies can realize substantial tax credits by making a gift to educational improvement organizations like Singing City.

Donations through the EITC program to Singing City will help support our youth choir, therefore endorsing Singing City's commitment to choral music education and performance opportunities for underserved students in Philadelphia. By making a contribution to Singing City, your company could save as much as 90% of the value of the gift!

Who is Eligible?

Businesses authorized to do business in Pennsylvania who are subject to one or more of the following taxes:

- Personal Income Tax
- Capital Stock/Foreign Franchise Tax
- Corporate Net Income Tax
- Bank Shares Tax
- Title Insurance & Trust Company Shares Tax
- Insurance Premium Tax (*excluding unauthorized, domestic/foreign marine*)
- Mutual Thrift Tax
- Malt Beverage Tax
- Surplus Lines Tax

How does it work?

Tax credits equal to 75 percent of its contribution up to a maximum of \$750,000 per taxable year. Can be increased to 90 percent of the contribution, if business agrees to provide same amount for two consecutive tax years.

Tax credits may be applied against the tax liability of a business for the tax year in which the contribution was made.

What is the next step?

Time is of the essence. Funds are available on a first-come-first-served basis.

• Visit the Department of Community and Economic Development's [website](#) to obtain the necessary application information or contact the DCED office at **1-866-466-3972**.

If you are already a part of the EITC program, please consider a donation to Singing City in support of the youth choir.

For more information, please contact Michael J. Bolton, Executive Director, 267-519-5322, mike@singingcity.org. Learn more about Singing City on our website: www.singingcity.org.

Singing City's youth choir

Singing City's youth choir is a free, non-auditioned, inclusive ensemble that empowers Philadelphia youth from all backgrounds to find their voice through music and community. Youth ages 13-19 come from across the city and rehearse weekly



at Friends Center in Philadelphia. The program is offered at no cost to students or their families, providing access to high-quality music education and performance opportunities.

Members perform on their own, with Singing City's adult choir, and in collaboration with other arts organizations. They explore repertoire across styles and eras – folk songs, contemporary works, spoken word, and original compositions – while developing musical skills, theory, and artistry. Guest clinicians, including leading composers, conductors, and professional singers, enhance the educational experience. Students also receive private voice lessons and mentoring through Art Smart, expanding their growth beyond weekly rehearsals.

The youth choir is a collaboration of Singing City and ArtSmart.

Benefits of Choral Education for Youth

The youth choir provides an in-depth, consistent, intentional music education experience for Philadelphia youth:

- Accessible singing experiences using diverse repertoire (language, genre, culture) to provide inclusive, and achievable experiences for singers from all music experiences and backgrounds
- Connected musical experiences that identify and reflect with the world of participants
- Workshops with choral clinicians and guest artists as well as free vocal training
- Fosters self expression, connection, and resilience
- Builds collaboration and community among youth from diverse neighborhoods across Philadelphia
- Nurtures musical creativity and improvisation skills
- Maintains high expectations to foster excellence and artistic product in choral art
- Singing with healthy vocal development, and part independence rooted in vocal pedagogy

Role in the community:

We aim to build supportive partnerships with school vocal music teachers in emerging vocal music programs in Philadelphia through site visits, performance opportunities, collaborations, and a yearly aural-oral tradition workshop.

"For young people, the arts can open up a whole new world of possibilities. As children play music, as they paint or draw or design, as they dance or act or sing, many develop new passions, come to express themselves in creative ways, and discover innovative pathways to success. Indeed, research evidence suggests that the skills, practices, pursuits, and habits of mind that students gain through sustained encounters and engagement with high-quality experiences in the arts can promote the kind of intellectual growth that we value throughout their school years and beyond.

Moreover, creating and learning through the arts offer children and adolescents access to an invaluable endeavor: a means to connect emotionally with others and deepen their understanding of the human condition."

Wallace Foundation



Through Performance, Arts Education, and Fellowship, Singing City Choir is a force for social impact, bringing people together and lifting the human spirit through the artistry of choral music.

Dr. Elaine Brown founded Singing City in Philadelphia in 1948 as an integrated choir. The Choir was born out of the 1940s Fellowship House movement, which held that ordinary people coming together in shared activities could bridge differences between races, religions, and cultures. Now in its 76th season, Singing City has maintained a singular focus – that of uniting people through music. The Choir fulfills its mission through formal and informal concerts and choral music education and performance for youth.

With its roots in the neighborhoods and towns in and around Philadelphia, Singing City has brought music and spirit to people around the globe – in the South in the 1950s and 1960s during the Civil Rights Movement, and by invitation to Israel, Egypt, the Soviet Union and Cuba. Trips to Northern Ireland, Brazil, the Balkans, South Africa, and Mexico followed. Each destination was chosen based on its history of social upheaval and included singing and outreach in underserved areas.

Singing City Choir is more than a performing group; it is a force for positive change in our communities. Our choir has a long history of using music as a tool for social justice, bringing people together to amplify their voices and advocate for a better world. Our work embodies the principles of movement building – organizing individuals and organizations to work collectively toward a shared vision of harmony and inclusivity.

Singing City
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