

Practice Rooms Make Music Possible

By YOSA



YOSA changes lives by providing shared musical experiences that unlock possibility and foster belonging for youth of all backgrounds.

Critical Need in our Community and Population to Be Served by the Project:

San Antonio lacks a permanent, centralized hub dedicated to the high-level technical development of its youngest musicians. While the city offers venues for large-scale performances, a critical deficit exists in professional-grade environments for the micro-level of artistic development—specifically chamber music, private mentorship, and independent study. Currently, YOSA operates as a nomadic organization, restricted to rented facilities that only accommodate full-ensemble rehearsals. This creates a void of accessibility during the 90% of an artist's time spent outside the large orchestra setting. Without an "artistic home" for focused practice, the city's cultural pipeline remains fragmented.

This infrastructure deficit is a core issue within the arts & culture space because it stifles the growth of intimate art forms like chamber music, which are vital for fostering independent leadership and technical mastery. While YOSA currently maintains a chamber program, our lack of a permanent home limits its reach and frequency. Establishing a dedicated facility with six specialized practice rooms—four tailored for individual-to-chamber use and two for large-group sectionals—will allow YOSA to aggressively grow these offerings.

YOSA serves more than 2,500 youth annually, with 600+ musicians participating in our ensembles. Our population reflects the cultural and economic breadth of San Antonio: 44% of our students identify as Hispanic or Latino, 23% as White, 3% as Asian, and 30% as Black or multi-racial. These young artists, ages 8 to 20, represent 155 schools across San Antonio. Approximately 20% of our families qualify for tuition assistance based on income, ensuring that elite music education is a community-wide opportunity.

This project creates a transformative impact for all 600+ YOSA students by providing a permanent, professional-grade home for independent study and artistic growth. For many young musicians, these four practice rooms will serve as the only specialized environments available to hone their craft. Beyond individual practice, these spaces unlock new avenues for student development, providing the necessary space for them to collaborate in chamber ensembles and receive individual lessons.

Description of Project and Proposed Use of Impact SA Funds:

Having acquired and initiated the renovation of its new permanent home, YOSA is currently prioritizing the completion of primary infrastructure, including the main rehearsal halls, lobby, and administrative offices. While these core rooms are essential for daily operations, the completion of individual and chamber ensemble spaces, such as the upstairs practice rooms, requires additional investment to move into the construction phase.

This specific project, the renovation of one practice room on the second floor, will involve structural demolition to facilitate the installation of specialized acoustic treatments, fireproofing, and integrated suppression systems, alongside the necessary rerouting of plumbing and HVAC infrastructure. Following these technical renovations, standard drywall and flooring installation will finalize the transformation of these areas into professional-grade, functional environments for our musicians.

Investment from ImpactSA will fund the majority of a second-floor practice room, covering the most critical mechanical and structural requirements of this professional-grade space. These funds will be directed toward the precision rerouting of the HVAC and plumbing systems to ensure optimal acoustic integrity, alongside the installation of specialized sound suppression and soundproofing materials. Additionally, the grant will support the funding of important fireproofing and suppression systems that are critical for the safety of our youth and staff.

Impact on People to Be Served - Measurable Outcomes (Described in "S.M.A.R.T." terms):

Specific: - The construction of these rooms will directly expand YOSA's chamber music and private mentorship tracks by 28%.

- YOSA will consolidate its programming by centralizing the essential spaces required for individual practice and chamber ensembles under one roof.

- These practice rooms transform our facility into a year-round arts hub by providing a centralized destination where students and professional mentors from across San Antonio gather daily to collaborate and create

Measurable: - The interest for utilizing our spaces by other art non-profits will be demonstrative of our position as an arts hub for San Antonio.

- Metrics for growth in enrollment for our chamber groups and creation of additional chamber groups will be demonstrative of growth in our programming.

Achievable: - This has not been a stretch or a challenging activity for YOSA. YOSA's capital campaign has successfully funded the purchasing of the 802 Oblate property, as well as the renovation of the lobby, large rehearsal room, 2 medium rehearsal rooms, and the staff offices.

- Since 2021, YOSA has seen enrollment grow by 8% annually. With the new building and rehearsal spaces, we expect to see enrollment increase across YOSA programming by 28% instead of 8%.

Relevant: - YOSA's mission is to change lives by providing shared musical experiences that unlock possibility and foster belonging for youth of all backgrounds. By achieving these outcomes, YOSA also continues to push the envelope on accessibility for youth in the arts and culture space.

Time-Bound: - Phase 1 of the renovation is on track for completion by June 2027, delivering the large rehearsal hall, two medium ensemble rooms, professional staff offices, and the lobby. This timeline strategically aligns with YOSA's 2027 enrollment season, which begins in February and culminates in May auditions. By securing this permanent infrastructure, YOSA enters the recruitment cycle with the unprecedented capacity to scale its programming beyond previous seasons, offering incoming students a state-of-the-art home for the 2027-2028 academic year.

Project Budget:

Funding Source	Amount	Narrative
Individuals	\$36,446.00	Funding from YOSA's individual donor base will be used to cover the remaining expenses that are not paid for by funding from ImpactSA.
Total Other Revenue	\$36,446.00	

Expense Category	ISA Exp	ISA Narrative	Other Exp	Other Exp Narrative
Indirect Costs	\$10,000.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
Construction Costs	\$90,000.00	Funding from ImpactSA will cover the following expenses: Sub-Floor Framing for \$12556, fireproofing for \$936, drywall and acoustics for \$43096, plumbing for \$26960, and electrical for \$6451.	\$36,446.00	Funding from individual donors will cover the following expenses: demolition for \$2304, rough carpentry for \$3988, doors/frames/hardware for \$12013, glass and glazing for \$517, wood windows for \$1632. Continued below:
Total Expenses	\$100,000.00		\$36,446.00	

Resilient flooring and basing for \$8,444, painting for \$2,986, signage for \$105, window treatment for \$330, and fire protection for \$412