



For Immediate Release  
February 19, 2022

Contacts: Merritt Lane, (504) 715-3755  
Dr. Stephen Hales, (504) 957-5560

## **In Rex's 150<sup>th</sup> Year, the Pro Bono Publico Foundation Commits to \$1,500,000 in Grants to Support Greater New Orleans Schools and Education**

*The Foundation Also Announced it Has Broken Through the \$10,000,000  
Mark in Cumulative Grants Since its Inception in 2006*

(New Orleans, Louisiana) Continuing its ongoing investments in New Orleans public schools and high-quality public education, today, the Pro Bono Publico Foundation announced its commitment to making \$1,500,000 in grants to support Greater New Orleans schools and education during the 2021-2022 school year.

The foundation's commitment to making \$1,500,000 in grants this year is in recognition of the Rex Organization's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding in 1872.

So far this cycle, the foundation has made grants totaling nearly \$1,000,000 to 78 recipients.

Today's annual grant announcement at the Rex Den on South Claiborne, which included representatives from the foundation's board, schools and organizations receiving grants, and the Rex Organization, was joined by dozens of participants.

This year's award announcement marked the seventh consecutive year the foundation's grants totaled at least \$1,000,000 and brings the cumulative grant total to significantly more than \$10,000,000 through 15 grant cycles.

Based on the \$1,500,000 commitment for this year, \$1,000,000 will go toward operational grants, and \$500,000 will go toward strategic innovation grants.

Most of the foundation's funding has been in the form of operational grants that serve to support the important work being done in our schools. Those grants provide school leaders additional funds to do what they would not otherwise be able to do, allowing them to further enrich their students' experience.

More recently, the foundation created a Strategic Innovation Fund designed to make larger and sometimes multi-year strategic grants aimed at addressing some of the more pressing challenges or high-leverage opportunities. The foundation's strategic grants to-date have been

a technology grant to assure all students could participate in remote learning during the pandemic and the multi-year grant to New Schools for New Orleans to assure our city's charter schools attract and retain excellent leaders and teachers. The foundation anticipates further commitments to support closing the learning gap that has widened with the pandemic.

"The Pro Bono Publico Foundation's donors, as well as other local foundations we partner with, recognize the importance of this investment in our children and our future," said Merritt Lane, a member of the foundation's board. Lane continued, "We have made tremendous progress, but we recognize there is much work still to do to ensure excellence in all of our schools. Consistent with the Rex Organization's motto *Pro Bono Publico*, and for the benefit of New Orleans' school children, we are very pleased to make commitments of \$1,500,000 this year in recognition of Rex's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary."

Also during the announcement today, two leaders from Bricolage Academy, Lesley-Anne Rey and Arnel Cosey, discussed the impact the foundation's support has had for the students of their school.

#### **Quick Facts:**

- The foundation's 2021-2022 commitment is \$1,500,000, and the foundation's giving since its founding in 2006 exceeds \$10,300,000.
- This is the year the foundation broke through the \$10,000,000 mark in cumulative giving since its founding in 2006.
- This is the seventh consecutive year the foundation has awarded at least \$1,000,000 in grants and the tenth consecutive year the foundation has awarded at least \$500,000.
- For its 2021-2022 grants thus far, the foundation has awarded grants to 78 grantees.
- Through a grant to the NORD Foundation, the foundation continues to sponsor activities at Taylor Playground, adjacent to the Rex Den.
- Grants from the foundation support organizations serve our community's children from "cradle to college."

The list of the 78 institutions receiving grants thus far from the foundation's 2021-2022 grant cycle is on the following page.

#### **About the Pro Bono Publico Foundation**

Responding to the community's needs during the difficulties of Reconstruction, the Rex Organization was founded by a group of civic-minded individuals in 1872. Responding to the community's needs during the difficulties of recovery from Hurricane Katrina, the Pro Bono Publico Foundation ([probonopublicofoundation.com](http://probonopublicofoundation.com)) was founded by members of the Rex Organization ([rexorganization.com](http://rexorganization.com)) in 2006. Thanks to the generosity of its donors, the foundation has been able to make a sustained and meaningful investment in support of our community's public schools and its students. The foundation's grants show the determined efforts of Rex members and the foundation to ensure all of New Orleans' children can attend

excellent schools. These schools, and organizations supporting their important work, have been the focus of foundation's investment, as well as the commitment of dozens of Rex members serving on their boards.

*(listing of grantees is on following page)*

**Pro Bono Publico Foundation  
2021-2022 Grantees**

18th Ward	KIPP New Orleans
826 New Orleans (Formerly Big Class)	Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools
Agenda for Children	Louisiana Policy Institute for Children
Algiers Charter School Association	Lake Forest Charter (Council for Quality Ed)
Belle Chasse Academy	Leading Educators, Greater New Orleans
Ben Franklin	Live Oak Wilderness Camp
Ben Franklin Elementary	Louisiana Charter School Alliance (GNO Collaborative of Charter Schools)
Breakthrough N.O.	Morris Jeff Community School
Bricolage	New Orleans Career Center
Center for Learner Equity	New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts (NOCCA)
Center for Resilience	New Orleans Military & Maritime Academy (NOMMA)
Citizens' Committee for Education dba Homer A. Plessy	New Orleans Police and Justice Foundation
City Year	New Schools for New Orleans
College Beyond New Orleans	NORD Foundation - Taylor Park Booster Club
College Track	Raphael Academy
Collegiate Academies (Sci Academy)	ReNEW Charter Management
Community Academies (Choice/Foundation Prep)	RoboRecovery
Crescent City Schools	Rooted School
Early Partners	Roots of Music Inc.
EdNavigator	Son of a Saint
Educare	Special Education Leadership Fellowship (SELF)
Education Pioneers	St. Augustine
Education Reform Now Louisiana	St. Michael Special School
Einstein Group Charter School	St. Stephen's
Electric Girls	Start the Adventure in Reading (STAIR)
Encore Academy	STEM Library Lab
First Line Schools	STEM NOLA
Foundation for Sci & Math Ed. Sci High	Success Preparatory Academy
French Mont. Ed. - Audubon Charter School	T F A Teach for America - GNO
Greater New Orleans STEM Initiative dba Core Element	The Bright School
Hoffman Learning Center	The Chartwell Center
Hynes Charter Schools	The Good Shepherd School
InspireNOLA Charter	The Posse Foundation, Inc.
International High School of New Orleans	Tulane University Cowen Institute
International School of Louisiana	Warren Easton Charter High School
Jefferson Chamber Foundation Academy	Young Audiences
Kenner Discovery Health Sciences Academy	Youth Empowerment Project
KID smART	Youth Force NOLA
Kingsley House	Youth Run NOLA