

2025-2026 TWA Grant Application

Contact Information

Organization Name:	<u>Van Cliburn Foundation, Inc.</u>
Contact Title:	<u>Ms.</u>
Contact Name:	<u>Claire Serafin</u>
Address:	<u>201 Main Street, Suite 100</u>
City:	<u>Fort Worth</u>
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TWA Sponsor:	<u>Kim Darden</u>
TWA Sponsor Email:	<u>kimdarden54@gmail.com</u>

Artistic Significance & Project Innovation and Creativity: (Question 3)

Organization's Mission:

It is the mission of the Cliburn to provide accessible music to all, transcending cultural and economic boundaries.

Name of Project/Program to be Funded:

2026–2027 Cliburn in the Classroom

Project Description:

Cliburn in the Classroom is an interactive concert experience designed for elementary audiences across North Texas schools and districts.

Project Purpose: What are the goals of the project/program?

The Cliburn honors Van Cliburn’s legacy and promotes its own belief that students should receive the opportunity and resources to experience high-quality music education. Program goals are to reach 60,000 students and deliver 300 presentations throughout 250 North Texas schools.

Is this program offered at a cost to children? If there is a fee for this program, please enter the cost in numerical dollar amount per child to enroll.

No, this is a free opportunity for all children participating.

What is the expected number of children to be directly served by project/program?

60000

What is the age range of children served by this project/program?

5-9

Identify the artistic discipline(s) included in this project/program: Check all that apply.

Music

Project Innovation and Creativity: (Question 4)

Describe how this program provides arts access for children.

The Cliburn removes economic, geographical, and learning-style barriers to arts access. Schools do not provide financial resources or equipment; we bring everything, including a grand piano, to 250 schools. Programs are offered bilingually (Spanish and/or English), and adaptive strategies are utilized.

Explain what makes this program/project innovative. Program/Project innovation differs for each community. If your program is a traditional arts experience but is unique to your community, please specify. If your program is innovative, relative to traditional arts offerings in your community, please specify.

Cliburn in the Classroom is innovative in that it takes a student-centered approach to music education. We cater to multiple learning styles, utilize movement and peer-building activities, and address social-emotional learning competencies. The program received a 2024 Nonprofit and Corporate Citizenship Award for Innovation in Education from D CEO Magazine.

What type or level of arts experience do children have as a result of your program? Please select one.

Student Engagement: Children observe and are introduced to knowledge, skills, and content, and are invited to be an active participant in the arts example.

Is this a new program? If the answer is NO, how long has the program been in existence?

It has been in existence since the 2000-2001 school year and is constantly growing to meet the needs and demands of children today.

Organizational Management and Capability: (Question 5)

The organization has the following human capital. Check all that apply.

Board, Staff, Project Manager/Director, Volunteers

Describe your organization's staffing structure.

Number of full-time employees	17
Number of part-time employees	0
Number of volunteers	65

Describe the qualifications and experience of the individuals who will provide this programming and work directly with children.

Cliburn in the Classroom presentations incorporate piano performances by professional musicians and are led by hosts with diverse backgrounds that support their work on the stage, including music teachers, actors, and story tellers.

Race and Ethnicity

Describe the race proportion of your:	Staff	Board
African American	0	0
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0
Asian	6	2
Black or African American	0	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0
White	88	96
Two or More Races	6	2
Other	0	0

Describe the ethnicity of your:	Staff	Board
Hispanic/Latino	0	2
Not Hispanic/Latino	100	98

Outside Support: (Question 5 continued)

List community partners supporting the program:

In the past, the Cliburn has worked with 14 North Texas Independent School Districts: Arlington ISD, Birdville ISD, Castleberry ISD, Crowley ISD, Dallas ISD, Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD, Everman ISD, Fort Worth ISD, Grapevine-Colleyville ISD, Hurst-Euless-Bedford ISD, Keller ISD, Midlothian ISD, Northwest

ISD, and White Settlement ISD. For the 2026–2027 school year, the Cliburn anticipates that it will partner with the same districts.

Organizational Funding: (Question 5 continued)

Has the organization received a TWA Grant in the past? If so, which years?

Yes, 2011, 2012, 2015, 2018, 2023

Budget at a Glance

Total Organization Budget Amount	4048000
Total Program/Project Budget	205000
TWA Grant Request	5000
Grant request’s percentage of total organization budget. Cannot exceed 25%.	.1

If awarded the full grant request, what amount of TWA funding would support the following categories? Please provide a numerical dollar amount for each area.

Staffing/Salaries	
Operational Expenses	
Supplies and Materials	
Facilities (Rent/Mortgage)	
Technology Equipment	
Instructional Resources and Curriculum	
Student Transportation Fees	
Other: Please specify	Artist Fees \$5,000

Attachments Included

1. Organization's current year budget.
2. Organization's final/actual budget for the previous year.
3. Program/project budget

Other sources of revenue (\$2,000 or more) for the project/program: Provide a list of sponsors, grants, etc., and include dollar amounts.

Arts Fort Worth \$9,350; Carl B. and Florence E. King Foundation \$25,000; Fash Foundation \$2,000; Fifth Avenue Foundation \$8,500; Frances C. and William P. Smallwood Foundation \$7,500; H-E-B / Central Market \$15,000; Holloway Family Foundation \$10,000; Lowe Foundation \$15,000; R4 Foundation \$10,000; Texas Commission on the Arts \$4,000; The Ninnie L. Baird Foundation \$15,000; Virginia Hobbs Charitable Trust \$5,000.

Planning, Implementation, and Evaluation: (Question 5 continued)

Program Implementation (if new) or Operational Plan: How will/is this project/program administered? Limit 1500 characters including spaces. Please include details such as where the program will be hosted, how children will be enrolled, how students gain access to this program, if transportation is needed or provided, and how the program will be administered.

Cliburn in the Classroom serves elementary schools in under-resourced areas throughout the North Texas community. The program is delivered free of charge and is presented bilingually in English and/or Spanish. The Cliburn brings a Steinway grand piano into the schools, along with a virtuoso pianist to perform music. A video camera and projector are used to show close-up images of the pianist's hands on a screen for students to follow. A program host leads students through interactive peer-building activities and bridges connections between the music and theme of the program. The Cliburn's Education and Community Programs Manager arranges the presentations and works closely with elementary teachers and district coordinators to set a presentation schedule for the school year. Students are enrolled through their school to attend the program. The duration of the presentation is 45 minutes and takes place in either the school's gymnasium or cafeteria.

Evaluation Plan: How will you evaluate the success of this program? Limit 500 characters including spaces.

The Cliburn will evaluate the success of this program by analyzing the following defined outcomes and metrics: (1) student attendance for the in-school presentations, (2) the number of schools reached and presentations delivered, and (3) feedback, written and/or verbal, from students, teachers, and administrators on program effectiveness and student learning.

Program/Project Timeline: Provide a detailed timeline to implement this program. If you choose to upload a file to answer this question please type, "Project Timeline attached" in the box below. TWA grant funds must be spent between June 1 - May 31. Limit 800 characters including spaces.

Project Timeline attached

Program/Project Timeline: Optional File Upload.

2627%20PROGRAM%20TIMELINE.pdf

Impact: (Question 6)

Demographic Information of Children Served

Demographic description of the children served by this project/program: Check all that apply.

Title I

Low Socioeconomic

Low arts access

Children served represent cultural diversity

What percentage of children served by this program are considered at-risk? The term at-risk is used to identify students or groups of students who statistically have a higher probability of failing academically or dropping out of school.

75

What percentage of the children served by this program are economically disadvantaged?

83

Describe the community served by this program: Check all that apply.

Urban, Suburban, Inner City, Fringe, Major Metro Area, City- Large, City- Midsize, City- Small, Town

Project Need: What need(s) does this project/program fulfill? Limit 200 characters including spaces

Our free in-school music education program expands access to quality music education throughout under-resourced North Texas schools.

Describe the race percentage of the student population served by the program. Please enter a numerical percentage for each. Percentages must add up to 100%.

American Indian or Alaska Native	0
Asian	5
Black or African American	57
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0
White	32
Two or More Races	6
Other	0

What percentage of the children served by this program are Hispanic/Latino? Enter a numerical response totaling 100%.

Hispanic/Latino	65
Not Hispanic/Latino	35

Optional Content Provided

Is there anything else that should be considered about this project/program? (Optional)

In the coming years the Cliburn plans to expand its education program to reach additional school districts within new geographical areas throughout Texas, while continuing to foster relationships with the students for several years at our current programming locations.



Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

P.O. Box 2508, Room 4010
Cincinnati OH 45201

In reply refer to: 4077967774
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VAN CLIBURN FOUNDATION INC
% ALISSA FORD
201 MAIN ST STE 100
FORT WORTH TX 76102-3177



046292

Employer ID number: 75-1098332
Form 990 required: Yes

Dear Taxpayer:

We're responding to your request dated Jan. 30, 2019, about your tax-exempt status.

We issued you a determination letter in July 1967, recognizing you as tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3).

We also show you're not a private foundation as defined under IRC Section 509(a) because you're described in IRC Section 509(a)(2).

Donors can deduct contributions they make to you as provided in IRC Section 170. You're also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts under IRC Sections 2055, 2106, and 2522.

In the heading of this letter, we indicated whether you must file an annual information return. If you're required to file a return, you must file one of the following by the 15th day of the 5th month after the end of your annual accounting period:

- Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax
- Form 990EZ, Short Form Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax
- Form 990-N, Electronic Notice (e-Postcard) for Tax-Exempt Organizations Not Required to File Form 990 or Form 990-EZ
- Form 990-PF, Return of Private Foundation or Section 4947(a)(1) Trust Treated as Private Foundation

According to IRC Section 6033(j), if you don't file a required annual information return or notice for 3 consecutive years, we'll revoke your tax-exempt status on the due date of the 3rd required return or notice.

You can get IRS forms or publications you need from our website at www.irs.gov/forms-pubs or by calling 800-TAX-FORM (800-829-3676).

If you have questions, call 877-829-5500 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., local time, Monday through Friday (Alaska and Hawaii follow Pacific

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VAN CLIBURN FOUNDATION INC
% ALISSA FORD
201 MAIN ST STE 100
FORT WORTH TX 76102-3177

time).

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen A. Martin

Stephen A. Martin
Director, EO Rulings & Agreements



Organization Budget to Actual 2024–2025

Revenue	Budget	Actual
Operating		
Ticket sales	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,664,750
Concert fees	230,000	315,950
Sponsorships	400,000	643,563
Advertising sales	110,000	132,544
Other fees	170,500	214,679
Investments draw	625,661	676,339
	<u>3,036,161</u>	<u>3,647,825</u>
Contributed		
Individuals	1,121,500	849,687
Foundations	2,380,000	2,717,731
Corporations	20,000	38,918
Government	175,000	137,170
Donated goods	526,856	384,415
Fundraising events, net	100,000	96,197
Cliburn Endowment grant	1,540,983	1,540,983
	<u>5,864,339</u>	<u>5,765,101</u>
	<u>\$ 8,900,500</u>	<u>\$ 9,412,926</u>
Expenses		
Employees	\$2,285,000	\$2,314,188
Artists and talent	1,601,000	1,675,222
Contracted services	517,000	495,744
Professional fees	41,500	38,304
Prizes and awards	288,000	289,995
Occupancy	165,000	165,129
Hall and venue	624,000	753,774
Pianos and equipment	328,000	303,453
Information technology	129,000	205,013
Travel and meetings	139,000	124,841
Events	592,000	561,362
Printing and postage	195,000	212,205
Supplies	44,000	53,137
Administrative and other	89,000	121,382
Depreciation	83,000	60,786
Advertising and promotion	451,000	532,440
Documentary/Webcast	1,329,000	1,330,800
	<u>\$ 8,900,500</u>	<u>\$ 9,237,775</u>
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ -	\$ 175,151

The Cliburn’s fiscal year is July 1–June 30.



**Organization Budget
2025–2026**

Revenue

Operating

Ticket sales	\$ 150,000
Concert fees	403,000
Sponsorships	100,000
Advertising sales	35,000
Other fees	37,738
Investments draw	485,262

1,211,000

Contributed

Individuals	330,000
Foundations	796,000
Corporations	25,000
Government	84,000
Donated goods	59
Fundraising events, net	900,000
Cliburn Endowment grant	701,941

2,837,000

\$ 4,048,000

Expenses

Employees	\$ 2,355,000
Artists and talent	614,000
Contracted services	51,500
Professional fees	39,000
Occupancy	185,000
Hall and venue	37,000
Pianos and equipment	102,000
Information technology	131,000
Travel and meetings	121,000
Events	44,000
Printing and postage	78,000
Supplies	11,000
Administrative and other	82,000
Depreciation	104,000
Advertising and promotion	93,500

\$ 4,048,000

Surplus (Deficit)

\$ -



THE CLIBURN

If awarded a grant, the funds will be used for the 2026-2027 school year. The budget will be approved February 2026. However, it is anticipated that the budget will be similar to the 2025-2026 school year, which is below

**Program Budget: Education
2025–2026**

Revenue

Contributions	<u>\$ 205,000</u>
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Expenses

Artists and talent	\$ 113,000
Contractors	3,000
Pianos and equipment	75,000
Travel and meetings	4,000
Supplies	1,000
Depreciation	9,000
	<u>\$ 205,000</u>

Surplus (Deficit)	<u>\$ -</u>
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The Cliburn's fiscal year is July 1–June 30.

Please note this budget excludes expenses shared across programs, such as salaries.



2026–2027 Cliburn in the Classroom Timeline

- December 2025: Programs, curriculum guides, and repertoire are written.
- January 2026: Education budget for the coming school year is proposed.
- February 2026: Education budget for the coming school year is finalized.
- March/April 2026: Artist and host roster finalized and contracted, and Cliburn administrative team meets to workshop and finalize programs.
- May/June 2026: School scheduling starts to take place and runs through December. Program and repertoire are announced.
- August 2026: The Cliburn’s Education and Community Programs Manager visits with district partners during their professional development days. Cliburn education team attends workshops that include training on stage presence, large group engagement/behavior strategies, activity accessibility, and adaptability. Curriculum guides, visual schedules, Spotify Playlists, and TEKS objectives are posted to Cliburn website.
- September 2026–May 2027: In-person programs launch after Labor Day and conclude in May during the end of the school year.



RIVERTREE ACADEMY

Educating under-resourced students to live life well.

“He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.” Psa. 1:3

To whom it may concern,

Rivertree Academy has had the great privilege of participating in the Cliburn in the Classroom program for two years now. Each year, I am impressed by the staff's professionalism, organization, creativity and ability to engage with the students. They make the whole process so easy on the schools they work with! I really appreciate the materials that are provided prior to the event. We asked all our teachers to utilize the materials in their classroom prior to the performance so our students would be at least a little bit familiar with the music.

I appreciate the wide variety of musical themes and genres that we can choose from. This year, we chose the Ragtime program and had Cliburn in the Classroom come in February during Black History month. They were able to educate our Kindergarten through 5th grade students on some of the African American leaders of the Ragtime music movement!

Currently, Rivertree Academy does not have the resources to provide our students with a music class, so we are grateful that Cliburn in the Classroom can educate our students in a multitude of musical genres and bring in some of the most talented pianists in the world to play at our school. What an unbelievable gift!

We hope to continue our partnership with this wonderful organization for years to come.

Sincerely,

Abbie Pitzer

Volunteer Coordinator &
Community Liaison