



2024 – 2025 Application

Add a little magic to your classroom through Disney Musicals in Schools!

Disney Musicals in Schools is a **FREE** outreach initiative, for grades 3 – 5, that develops sustainable musical theater programs for eligible Cuyahoga and Lorain County elementary schools.

Four schools will be selected to participate in the 2024-2025 program, **FREE of charge**. Any Cuyahoga, Lake, or Lorain County public elementary school, including public charter schools, with a student poverty level of 50% or higher (according to the Ohio Department of Education's 2013 Typology Report) is eligible to apply. **Alumni Schools of the Disney Musicals in Schools program who are not a Year 1, 2, or 3 School in the 23-24 or 24-25 school year are invited to apply to restart the program as a Year 1 School.** If you have questions about your school's eligibility, contact Outreach Program Coordinator, Katelyn Merold at katelyn.merold@playhousesquare.org.

Disney Musicals in Schools presents a special opportunity to introduce the collaborative art of musical theater to your school, strengthen your arts programming, and develop partnerships among students, faculty, staff and the greater community.

Application deadline: AUGUST 9, 2024

The goals of Disney Musicals in Schools are to:

1. Create sustainable musical theatre programs in public elementary schools.
2. Provide school faculty with the training and tools necessary to support student performance and production, and to empower them to do so.
3. Develop a critical awareness and appreciation of the arts within the school.
4. Develop a strong community, including students, parents, faculty, staff, and neighbors.
5. Expose students and school faculty to the wide spectrum of skills that are developed when producing a piece of musical theatre, including critical thinking, problem solving, ensemble building, communication, self-confidence, and interpersonal skills.

Please complete the following application (typed and signed) by **August 9, 2024**, and submit scanned via email to katelyn.merold@playhousesquare.org or via postal mail at:

Playhouse Square
 ATTN: Katelyn Merold, Outreach Program Coordinator
 1501 Euclid Avenue
 Suite 200
 Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2108

Applications due: August 9, 2024 | Questions? Contact Outreach Program Coordinator, Katelyn Merold
katelyn.merold@playhousesquare.org, 216-640-8567

What is Disney Musicals in Schools?

Disney Musicals in Schools is an after-school outreach program, designed to help underserved schools produce a 30-minute Disney musical at your school with students in grades 3 – 5 with the help of weekly Playhouse Square’s Disney-trained teaching artist visits and materials, at no cost to your school.

The program began at Disney Theatrical Group in New York City in 2009 and was established to create sustainable theater programs in under-resourced public elementary schools. Over 500 schools across the US and the UK have participated in this program since its inception, 28 of those schools in the Greater Cleveland Area through Playhouse Square. Playhouse Square has been a proud producer of Disney Musicals in Schools since 2015.

By providing free performance materials and free professional development to participating teachers, Disney Musicals in Schools has helped schools inspire the next generation of diverse storytellers, artists and audiences.

Selected schools will receive:

- **Free** performance rights (valid for one year) to a 30-minute Disney KIDS musical of your choice! Available titles include:
 - *101 Dalmatians*
 - *Aladdin*
 - *The Aristocats*
 - *Finding Nemo*
 - *Frozen*
 - *The Jungle Book*
 - *The Lion King*
 - *Winnie the Pooh*
- **Free** “ShowKit” materials, including a director’s handbook guide, student scripts, online links to all choreography and music videos and tracks, and cross-curricular activities.
- **Free** in-school support from a team of two Playhouse Square Disney-Trained Teaching Artists
 - Two, 90-minute afterschool rehearsals are required every week for 19 weeks. Playhouse Square Teaching Artists attend one of these two rehearsals per week, while your team of teachers run the second rehearsal each week.
 - The Teaching Artists will serve as production and creative advisors who during this time will train and empower your School Team to run the program independently by the end of the 19-weeks.

- The Playhouse Square Teaching Artists will guide your School Team through both production management (developing a rehearsal schedule, running auditions, and addressing technical and physical production requirements) and the creative execution of the show (direction, choreography, acting, and design). They will also advise your School Team on school and community engagement opportunities to support your production.
- Disney KIDS Musicals are designed to be produced on any budget. Playhouse Square Teaching Artists will work with your School Team to create a production within the budget your school is able to allocate to this project.
- Finally, our four selected Disney schools will present one musical number from their respective productions in a culminating “Student Share Celebration” at Playhouse Square. This year’s Student Share will take place on **March 11, 2024**, and we encourage new applicants to join us! Please contact Katelyn Merold (Katelyn.Merold@playhousesquare.org) for details on how to RSVP!

Selected schools will be expected to:

- Identify a School Team comprising **at least four** teachers and staff members who will partner with the Playhouse Square Teaching Artists and oversee and manage the program from beginning to end. **The selected School Team will receive on-site support from a team of two Playhouse Square Teaching Artists who will visit the school for a 90-minute rehearsal once each week for 19 weeks. The School Team will run a second 90-minute rehearsal once each week (those same 19 weeks) without the presence of the Teaching Artists.**
- Produce a 30-minute Disney “KIDS” musical of your choice from the titles listed on page 2, involving 3rd-5th graders who will participate both onstage as performers and offstage, providing backstage support.
- Commit to a full semester of rehearsal /production in an after-school setting (see timeline on following page).
- Host a site visit at your school for Playhouse Square’s “selection team,” who will visit your School Team during the application process.
- Provide space, time, materials, and resources for students and the School Team to rehearse and prepare for the musical production.
- Respond to all Playhouse Square correspondence in a timely manner.
- Provide opportunities for the whole school, parents, and larger community to be supportive of the production.

- Hold a minimum of one public performance of your musical.
- Participate in the culminating “Student Share” event at Playhouse Square on **March 10, 2025**. Playhouse Square will provide transportation reimbursement for participating schools.

Disney Musicals in Schools Timeline of REQUIRED Events:

August 9, 2024	Application due date
August 19 – 30, 2024	Finalist school receive on-site visits at their respective schools
Week of September 2, 2024	All applicants notified of status, and four selected schools announced
Wednesday, September 25, 2024	Selected school orientation (evening) at Playhouse Square
October 7, 2024 – March 3, 2025	90-minutes, twice per week, after school rehearsals occur, with Playhouse Square Teaching Artists attending one of the two weekly rehearsals
Week of March 3, 2025*	In-school performances of your school’s selected show *Alternate performance week requires Playhouse Square written approval
March 10, 2025, 7pm curtain	Disney Musicals in Schools Student Share Celebration, at Playhouse Square’s Mimi Ohio Theatre!

Disney Musicals in Schools
2024-2025 Program Application

GENERAL INFORMATION

School name: _____

School address: _____

Zip Code: _____

Project Primary Contact name: _____

Title: _____

Cell phone number: _____

Email: _____

Principal name: _____

Email: _____

Number of students who would participate in program: _____

Grade(s) of students who would participate in the program: _____

Please list the names of your school's arts teaching staff:

(If your school does not have any full or part time arts faculty, please leave blank)

Theater: _____ Full or part time: _____

Dance: _____ Full or part time: _____

Music: _____ Full or part time: _____

Visual art: _____ Full or part time: _____

Does your school have an auditorium or similar space that can safely and consistently accommodate students and staff during rehearsals as well as audience members during the performance? Would this space be dedicated solely to the Disney program during designated hours? *(Please share all necessary information pertinent to this question):*

SCHOOL TEAM INFORMATION

Proposed School Team Members: Please commit **4-5 teachers** who will be present at **all rehearsals**. We understand illness and emergencies happen, but it is imperative the entire team be available and engaged for the entirety of the program. This component is crucial to the success of the program and a key criterion in our selection process.

One member of your team will need to act as the primary point-of-contact for Playhouse Square. Please identify which member of your team will take that role in slot number 1 below and share why that individual has been selected.

Please note, the Content Areas required to be covered are:

1. Director
2. Stage Manager
3. Choreographer
4. Music Director

Teacher 1 (Primary Point of Contact): _____

Content Area: _____

Why Selected as Primary Contact: _____

Qualifications for Content Area: _____

Teacher 2: _____

Content Area: _____

Qualifications for Content Area: _____

Teacher 3: _____

Content Area: _____

Qualifications for Content Area: _____

Teacher 4: _____

Content Area: _____

Qualifications for Content Area: _____

Teacher 5: _____

Content Area: _____

Qualifications for Content Area: _____

QUESTIONS

Please provide a detailed answer to each of these questions, where required. If you require more space, feel free to use additional paper. In addition, if you have media files that would allow our team to have a better understanding of the how the arts are at work in your school, please send those along with your application. (Examples would include short videos, photos, music clips or student artwork).

PROGRAMMING

Can you commit to the minimum Rehearsal Requirements? *We require a minimum of two, separate 90-minute afterschool rehearsals every week for 19 weeks. One of these two weekly rehearsals will be with the Playhouse Square Teaching Artists, the other will be run by your School Team independently.*

_____ Yes, our school can commit the full School Team to the Rehearsal Requirements

_____ No, our school cannot meet this requirement (please explain:)

_____ Our school can actually do **more** than the minimum required rehearsals (please explain:)

Which days and times could be used for rehearsals? Please indicate two days with their start and end time. Remember to factor dismissal and end-of-day needs into your planning. Each suggested day must have a full 90-minute allotment:

How will your school make adjustments so that students, teachers, and space will be available, and follow internal protocol, at the same time for 90-minutes twice a week? Again, please remember to factor dismissal into your adjustments.

Do you currently offer any after-school programming in your school? _____

If you currently offer any afterschool programming, please list the programs below:

Do you produce a formal piece of musical theater every year? _____

If yes, please describe:

How would you use Disney Musicals in Schools to develop an ongoing tradition of musical theater at your school?

Why is it important for your students to have access to the performing arts?

Disney Musicals in Schools requires time, effort, and collaboration from the school faculty participating in the program, and from the school's leadership team. What steps will your School Team take to ensure the continued success of the program beyond year one in the program? How will the school's administration support the program?

How does your school faculty work to resolve conflict and how could this translate to the Disney Musicals in Schools process?

Describe the culture of communication and collaboration in your school. Is this a team that has worked together in the past? How timely is your communication?

How would you use Disney Musicals in Schools to fulfill the learning goals in your school? How would you use the program to support your current arts programs or enhance your non-arts curriculum?

What is unique about your school, your students, or your community that makes Disney Musicals in Schools the right program for you?

Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

SIGNATURE PAGE

(An interview will not be scheduled without this completed signature page).

My principal has reviewed and approved this application:

Principal printed name: _____

Principal Signature: _____

School Team member signatures:

Please have all School Team members review and sign the application.

Teacher 1 printed name: _____

Signature: _____

Teacher 2 printed name: _____

Signature: _____

Teacher 3 printed name: _____

Signature: _____

Teacher 4 printed name: _____

Signature: _____

Teacher 5 printed name: _____

Signature: _____