



THE FLAGSTAFF COMMUNITY BAND

Dear Flagstaff City Council Members,

Firstly, I want to thank you for your support of the Flagstaff Community Band and your consideration today.

The Flagstaff Community Band (FCB) has enriched our community with free high-quality concerts for 32 years. These performances include summer concerts at Heritage Square, holiday concerts at local high schools, neighborhoods, and rehabilitation facilities, and patriotic concerts for Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and National Night Out. In 2023 we grew to a membership of over 120 adult musicians. We provide a fun, inclusive and educational environment for Flagstaff residents of all backgrounds to create and make music together.

In addition to our adult programming, we also host a completely free summer junior band program for approximately fifty elementary and middle school students. During this free 8-week program, each student gets a free shirt, a free snack at every rehearsal, and high-quality instruction from local music educators. The program culminates with a public concert at Heritage Square with the FCB adult band.

It is well documented that the arts unify our communities. Where else, but the FCB would you get so many Flagstaff residents from diverse professions, spanning multiple generations creating music together? The arts also strengthen our local economy. Our downtown summer concerts help bring people downtown and keep them there longer during their visit. Last summer the AZ Secretary of State, Adrian Fontes came across one of these concerts! He had no idea we were here but was so impressed with the band and our junior band students. Interactions like this help raise the profile of all arts organizations in Flagstaff and stimulate our economy as a whole.

Due to our growth, we expect to offer more free high-quality concerts this year than ever before. That growth, however, comes with operational and financial challenges. We depend on grants, corporate sponsorships, and individual donations to succeed.

We believe that the FCB has the power to make our community a better place through music. It is with all of this in mind that we ask for your support.

Thank you,

Caitlin McCready

Caitlin McCready
Executive Director
The Flagstaff Community Band
flagband.org