

The Action for the Month is an action for all individuals in the U.S. El Sistema-inspired movement to take, together, to increase our impact and visibility. Please make a habit of taking every action and urging those you work with to do so too. These monthly actions are dedicated to the students and communities we serve.

* * * * *

February 2017

Action for the Month: Write the new Obama Foundation

<https://www.obama.org/your-voice>

Barack and Michelle Obama are launching The Obama Foundation (<https://www.obama.org>), and they seek recommendations for the kind of projects they should undertake. Please post your views this month (at <https://www.obama.org/your-voice>) offering your reasons why the Foundation should support the national El Sistema movement (not just your program), and your ideas about the ways they might do so.

You won't be able to submit a full letter. Their form asks you to write a paragraph about "citizenship." You will need to write your paragraph in a way that includes how the Sistema-inspired movement and programs exemplify citizenship. Tricia and Eric wrote about Sistema-inspired programs as being full of Citizen Artists and nurturing a new generation of them. Respond in whatever way seems best to you.

You will also be asked to upload a photo, and add some information about it. Here, you can reinforce your belief that the Obama Foundation could make a big difference by supporting these programs. (Please ask for support of all Sistema-inspired programs and not just your own.)

Imagine: if we can generate many, many responses, right at the beginning of the Foundation, all aligned in support of the national El Sistema-inspired movement, we can get their attention. And maybe their high-profile support.

Points to cover:

- Your view of what a good citizen is
- How good citizenship is exemplified in Sistema-inspired programs
- Specific examples of positive outcomes, or positive research about the impact of Sistema-inspired programs
- Why the Obama Foundation might be interested in this cause