

# 2018 NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

El Sistema-inspired organizations from across the country gathered at Duke University for the National El Sistema USA 2018 Symposium, in Durham, NC. The symposium offered a chance to learn, network, and grow for El Sistema educators and administrators. Featuring presentations and interactive breakout session, participants had a chance to explore different tracks designed just for them.



**Anna Pietraszko and Michelle Hospital, Ph.D. (FIU-BRIDGE)** presented on *Evaluating and Measuring the Impact of an El Sistema-inspired Program: Strategies and Findings from a University-Community*

**Friday, January 19, 2018 (8:30 AM - 8:00 PM)**  
**Saturday, January 20, 2018 (9:00 AM - 6:00 PM)**

## MIAMI MUSIC PROJECT ATTENDEES

**Anna Pietraszko**, Executive Director  
**Adriel Lyles**, Interim Director of Educational Programming  
**Carolina Korba**, Programming Assistant  
**Stephanie Hernandez**, Marketing Coordinator  
**Joseph Burleson**, Manager, Grants and Institutional Giving

## Key Staff Takeaways:

1. *People within El Sistema really look up to Miami Music Project. They are curious to know how we do it all because they aspire to one day grow in the same way that our organization has over the years. We seem to be forging the path for others and setting an example or the standard. They are paying attention to Miami Music Project (which is motivating but also comes with great responsibility).*
2. *I was impressed by the transparency of MMP's numbers and the quality of programming compared to what I saw. I feel very confident in the program we have.*
3. *The scale and impact of MMP is particularly impressive compared to that of other ES organizations. I understand why we are considered leaders in the field.*
4. *The best part about conferences/symposiums is the opportunity to network. Although it's valuable from a professional standpoint, I think it's so refreshing to talk to like-minded people. Regardless of the differences in our programs, we are connected by common goals and shared values. Sometimes you lose sight of that and it's good to be reminded.*
5. *The symposium prompted what should be a continuous conversation about the El Sistema movement. Is it more of a music program or is it really a social change program? It is obviously both and we at Miami Music Project use music as a medium to bring about social change and justice.*
6. *Other El Sistema inspired organizations are quite young and figuring out much. Many of their team members seem to wear 2 or 3 hats at the same time. This obviously creates various challenges for them. Learning this made me realize how lucky we are at Miami Music Project. We have a large and diverse team with the ability to focus on our own specific areas of expertise. That is something that should not be taken for granted.*