

RBC BLUESFEST BE IN THE BAND

About the RBC Bluesfest Be in the Band program:

- First launched in 2009, the “Be in the Band” initiative groups young musicians (ages 11 to 17) who want to be in a band together with other potential band-mates.
- A number of professional local musicians mentor the aspiring future stars through weekly rehearsals in a high-quality ensemble experience.
- The program finishes with a community performance and potential performance at RBC Bluesfest in July!
- This unique program has grown from one community centre in 2009, to ten centres and schools, including at-risk youth, in various communities. How does RBC Bluesfest Be in the Band program work?
- Program start dates vary from centres to schools, but are typically offered from January to April, or April to June as a 10-week session.
- Interested young musicians with at least one year of experience on their instrument apply to the program at their local, participating community organization or school.
- Potential participants are evaluated to see if they are ready to be part of the program and then are sorted into bands.
- The young musicians participate in a weekly practice with the musician/ mentor to learn two to three rock songs – cover and original songs both welcome!
- RBC Bluesfest provides a musician/mentor for each band as well as the necessary technical equipment (if needed) at each centre or school.
- The program finishes with a performance in the community through the community centre or school. From there, the bands have the potential to participate in the ‘Be in the Band’ day at the RBC Bluesfest in July. How much does it cost? The fee to participate in the programs varies depending on the needs of the community centres and schools from no charge to about \$100. Subsidies are available on a case-to-case basis.

Testimonials

When I first auditioned I didn’t know what I was getting into, but by the first or second rehearsal it was really cool to know what I’d be able to do by the end of it. Writing a song and seeing it come to life; that was probably the coolest part.

Katelyn, Be in the Band Member

Be in the Band Member The Royal is absolutely thrilled that RBC Bluesfest Be In The Band program is being offered again in 2013. Last year, we had the privilege and honor to watch the band members not only build friendships and self-confidence but grow as people and amazing musicians. All of them came with different talents but with only one goal ... to Be In The Band.

Sue Riley, The Royal Participating community organization

Want to know more?

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