



Ordinary kids transformed by an extraordinary musical experience since 1993

Award-winning elementary school teacher Diane Downs started her first percussion ensemble, The Fabulous Leopard Percussionists, in 1993 after she found some old instruments in a storage closet in the school where she taught at ML King Elementary School in Louisville. After ten years as artistic director of The Fabulous Leopard Percussionists, Diane began to explore how she might make the Leopard Percussionist experience available to children throughout the Metro Louisville community.

In the fall of 2003, The Louisville Leopard Percussionists launched as a freestanding community 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, committed to providing the exciting and enriching Leopard Percussionist experience to all children in the Louisville community.

The fastest way to get to know the most about us is to watch [this 6-minute video](#)

As a community based non-profit, all rehearsals take place after school hours

The Louisville Leopard Percussionists are funded through grants, corporate support, individual donations, gig fees, our annual BiG GiG, fundraisers, and revenue generated from tuition. [Visit our website to make a donation.](#)

Our mission is to provide a comprehensive musical experience for children that enriches lives and builds community.

Our vision is for participants of diverse backgrounds to develop music appreciation, performance skills, proficiency on a variety of percussion instruments, and learn to improvise, compose, and teach music, and to care for their instruments. These skills build creativity and self-confidence and teach life-long values of personal discipline, cooperation, leadership, responsibility, and community.

BIG Moments

Performed at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention 5 times

Filmed the HBO documentary, "The Leopards Take Manhattan" as the warm up band for the Chic Corea Trio in New York City, which is still available on HBO.

Two performances at the Jazz Education Network International Convention

Our [Zeppelin video](#) went viral!

Our [Crazy Train video](#) went viral!

Performed at a [TedX Convention](#) in Kansas City

Performed at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame

Performed for Ozzy Osborne and his kids and appeared on "Ozzy & Jack's World Detour" on A&E

Featured in a [documentary](#) about why kids need music to develop

Our teachers were on The [Kelly Clarkson Show](#)

We typically have . . .

kids from 45+ zip codes

kids from 100+ schools

11 teachers

300-400 kids annually

Click the group to see a video!

Steel Leopards (7th-12th)
Middle School Ensemble
2nd & 3rd grade LEAP
4th & 5th grade LEAP
Leopard Music Lab (HS)
Leopard Learners (K-5)
World Drumming Friday (2-8)
Advanced (4th-6th)
Beginners (2nd & 3rd)
Homeschool Leopards
Cultural Pass Drum Circles
Drum Set Classes

Click [HERE](#) for our YouTube page!

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