



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING between the Crosby Independent School District (“CISD”) and the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts (“Hobby Center”)

I. OVERVIEW

The Hobby Center for the Performing Arts

The Hobby Center serves as a connector, convenor and incubator for audiences, artists and artmakers. Located in downtown’s Theater District, the Hobby Center is the central hub for artists and audiences and is a driving force in Houston’s performing arts ecosystem. Building on a legacy of presenting the best of Broadway, the Hobby Center reflects the diversity of our city through a wide range of exceptional artistic and educational programming on and off stage. Compelling artists from Houston and around the globe to engage audiences through dynamic and innovative artmaking and storytelling.

II. DESCRIPTION AND SCOPE OF SERVICES

Committed to introducing 5th graders in our region to the world of the performing arts, in the 2025-26 school year, the Hobby Center is partnering with your district to serve ALL of your 5th grade students through our educational series. The ExxonMobil Discovery Series is the Hobby Center’s cornerstone educational program bringing students and teachers to the Hobby Center from the greater Houston area to experience performances by Houston-based and touring shows. Through this TEKS and STAAR aligned series, 5th grade students will be introduced to dance, music and/or theater in ways that are engaging, fun and further their learning and belonging. Focused on serving fifth graders during a key developmental stage of life, performances not only expose students to the arts, but also provide an educational opportunity beyond the classroom. Pre- and post-performance learning materials align with Texas teaching objectives allowing teachers to create connections and integrate arts experiences into their classroom activities. Performances & bus transportation are completely free to schools, and each performance includes a curriculum guide and a Question-and-Answer session with the performing artists.

III. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Hobby Center for the Performing Arts will be responsible as follows:

- a. Offer a free series of theater, music and/or dance performances by local Houston artists and touring shows that is TEKS and STAAR aligned and connected to the 5th grade curriculum.
- b. Partner with the district’s Fine Arts department to facilitate attendance registration and performance selection.
- c. Share curriculum guides for each performance at the beginning of the school year.
- d. Cover the cost of all bus transportation to and from the Hobby Center to attend the performances.
- e. Work with the district’s transportation and accounting departments to establish bus reimbursement procedures.

School District will be responsible as follows:

- a. Ensure district buy-in at all levels of leadership.
- b. Advocate to principals for the participation of all 5th graders within the school district.
- c. Coordinate performance registrations for all participating schools in accordance with the Hobby Center’s registration process and timeline.

- d. Alert Hobby Center of district conflicts that would prevent students from attending performances.
- e. Provide access to principals, 5th grade teachers and Fine Arts teachers via various communication methods, meetings, professional development sessions and district events.
- f. Provide districtwide recognition of the partnership via press release, principal memos, board presentations and other channels as determined by the District.
- g. Collaborate with District Communication Department to give visibility to the program.
- h. Facilitate group invoicing for bus reservations with school district's transportation and accounting departments.
- i. Participate in survey collection or any other qualitative educational opportunities.
- j. Facilitate securing photo releases for participating students in designated performances.

IV. PARTNERSHIP TIMELINE

- May 2025– District Leadership & Fine Arts Team build district buy-in.
- May 6 – Fine Arts Staff attend 2025-26 Season Launch at the Hobby Center.
- May 7-23 – Fine Arts staff schedule consultation with Hobby Center School Administrator Jamey Watts to discuss performance interests.
- June 1-30, 2025 – Fine Arts Director completes individual school registrations for all 2025-26 performances.
- Ongoing– Hobby Center Education Staff are available to present at principal or teacher meetings/ professional development sessions.
- Ongoing – Fine Arts Staff coordinates Bus Transportation for all participating schools, disseminates Curriculum Guides and communicates arrival logistics to all participating schools.

V. 2025-26 EXXONMOBIL DISCOVERY SERIES PERFORMANCES

Performances at 10:00 am and 11:45 am unless noted:

Jan. 20-22, 2026 | Musiq & NobleMotion | *Free Rein*

Feb. 4-6, 2026 | Mercury Chamber Orchestra | *Mozart: Cats and Mice*

Feb. 17-19 & 23-26, 2026 | Urban Souls Dance Company | *Colored Carnegie* (originally commissioned by Performing Arts Houston)

Mar. 24-26, 2026 | Chapman Dance | *Dance to Connect*

Additional High School Matinee Performances may be available for Crosby High School students for the 2025-2026 School year.

VI. FINANCIAL VALUE

The Hobby Center is committed to eliminating the financial barriers for schools and to offering the ExxonMobil Discovery Series as a free resource, including reimbursement for bus transportation.

Performance tickets are valued at \$25 per person of direct expenses. Your district's estimated attendance is 564 5th grade students and 58 teachers and chaperones. The total value of 622 tickets is **\$15,550**.

Bus transportation is estimated to be valued at **\$4,383.99**. Coding and reimbursement procedures will be established by districts and communicated to individual schools so that all billing is processed between administration and the Hobby Center directly through monthly invoices.

Total Financial Value: \$19,933.99

VII. SIGNATURES

Authorized signatures below indicate acceptance by Crosby Independent School District and the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts of this Memorandum of Understanding.

Agreed to and executed by:

The Hobby Center for the Performing Arts:



01-15-26

Deborah Lugo
Vice President of Programming and Education
The Hobby Center for the Performing Arts

Date

Crosby Independent School District:

Authorized Signature

Date

Printed Name

Title