

FY21 One-Time Allocation Request-University Bands/Spirit

The Spirit of Houston has been grateful for the additional travel funding provided for FY 20. The addition of \$100,000 permitted the Spirit of Houston to send the full Spirit of Houston to the football games at the University of Oklahoma and University of North Texas. At the University of Oklahoma game, the Cougar Marching Band was able to perform a joint concert with the Pride of Oklahoma immediately following the game for a large crowd. For the University of North Texas game, the band was able to perform alongside the Green Brigade Marching Band at halftime for the largest audience in Apogee Stadium History. The band will also travel to the games at the University of Connecticut, University of Central Florida, and University of Tulsa this year with pep bands and spirit groups. The band had travel planned to the game against Tulane University but the trip was cancelled due to the flooding in September. The funds from that trip were used to send more students on the other trips throughout the year. Aside from the Tulane game, the Spirit of Houston has travelled or will travel to every away game this year in order to support the football team as well as represent the University of Houston in front of new audiences. In addition, the band also travelled and performed at the Bands of America Regional in Katy, Texas on October 5 before a crowd of 9,000 high school band students, parents, and directors. The exposure from the additional travel this year has helped the Spirit of Houston and University of Houston gain a greater presence both around the state and nationally, while also representing our university to audiences that are not as familiar with them as our local crowds.

Our goal is to continue representing the University of Houston at this level. To this end, we request a one-time allocation of \$100,000 for additional travel related expenses during FY 2021. As we work to become more nationally visible as the University of Houston, a one-time amount of \$100,000 for travel will allow us to provide transportation for Spirit of Houston students to support our team at away games, as well as support for our fans and alumni across the country. The purpose of this request is to again travel to all away games next year including a full band trip to Dallas to play Southern Methodist University. We would plan to travel with the largest groups available to continue representing the University of Houston and performing for fans and alumni nationally at all other games. We would also use the funding to support travel to perform at the Texas State 6A Marching Contest in November of 2021 to perform as the exhibition band after the preliminary competition in the Alamodome. This would allow us to perform for some of the best bands and students in our state and recruit for the future of the program, while also representing the brand of our university in front of a large audience from all over the state. Travel money would also continue to help fund transportation to parades and other events that come up throughout the year in the city of Houston.

For FY 21, we are requesting a one-time allocation of \$75,000 to support the University of Houston Cougar Marching Band in a purchase of new uniforms for the 2021-2022 school year. The funding would serve as the initial payment to begin the process of producing new uniforms for the entire marching band. This payment would be submitted at the beginning of 2020-2021 school year, following a design process involving our staff and a student committee. The uniforms would be created during the 2020-2021 school year and delivered prior to the 2021 football season.

Our current uniforms are at the end of the standard time for uniforms of their quality and in addition the sizes and quantity of uniforms available does not fit the current size of the Spirit of Houston Cougar Marching Band. For the 2019-2020 school year, we are on the verge of not having enough uniforms for the band. We also have students wearing uniforms that are not in proper condition to represent the University of Houston. With the new order, we would work with our students and the Fred J. Miller Uniform Company to create a new look for the University of Houston that falls in line with or more identifiable look from the 1970s and 1980s, while also having updated qualities that reflect a modern sensibility. In addition, we plan to explore options to make the uniforms last better and be more durable

across their life span to ensure that the University of Houston is always represented at its highest level in the look of one of its most visible student groups.
