

## FY 24 One-Time Allocation Request – Instrument Purchase for Marching Band

Throughout recent history, the Spirit of Houston has received considerable support from the Student Fees Committee that has allowed for the purchase of equipment for the programs in the organization. This has included uniforms for all groups (band, spirit, mascots), performance equipment for all groups, and select musical instruments for the marching band. This support has been a large part of the success our students have had and in turn has greatly aided in our recruitment and retention efforts.

Regarding instruments for the marching band, there are certain instruments that are area specific to marching band and are a necessity to provide for students. This includes marching percussion (drumline), sousaphones (tubas), mellophones (marching french horns), and baritones (marching euphoniums). These are instruments that are provided by high schools as well, as they are not used in concert band setting but only for marching band. We have recently purchased a new set of sousaphones and drumline thanks to the committee, and we have been able to move forward a purchase of instruments outside of that group (trumpet, trombone, saxophone, flute, clarinet) that allows us to provide instruments for all students in the band moving forward.

The final remaining group of instruments is now the mellophones and baritones, both of which are marching band specific instruments that are expected to be provided for all students. We currently have a full set of Yamaha instruments that were purchased with the generous support of SFAC. These instruments are all in the 15-20 year old age frame, which is at the end of their lifeline when used every fall outdoors. In addition, there have been advances to these instruments since the most recent purchase that allows for greater musical achievement and ease of playing for the students.

In relation to these instruments, we would like to request a one-time allocation of \$100,000 for FY 2024. This allocation would be to purchase a full set of marching mellophones and baritones, bringing all instruments for all students in the band up to a high-quality level. These instruments, when properly maintained, would have a shelf life of 10+ years and the purchase would have a lasting effect on the band. To this end, we would provide every student in the program an instrument, meaning that no one would ever be turned away due to not being able to afford a personal instrument and no student would ever sacrifice an instrument needed to complete their degree to outdoor concerns such as weather or general wear and tear. This would serve as another major recruiting tool for incoming students and place us within a limited but prominent group of marching bands that offer this for their students.