

# OLDTOWNSCHOOLofFOLKMUSIC

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## **Old Town School of Folk Music's Eric Delli Bovi embarks on a Rock Crusade through a Chicago Community Trust fellowship**

**November 18, 2009, Chicago** – **The Chicago Community Trust**, metropolitan Chicago's community foundation, today named nine Trust Fellows for 2010. Eric Delli Bovi, the Old Town School's director of external affairs, is among these nonprofit executives and selected from nearly 100 applicants for his demonstrated leadership and commitment to field of community arts education.

The Trust Fellowship is a significant investment in the leadership talent for nonprofit organizations and supports excellence in the sector. All were selected for their creativity, originality, and potential to make important contributions in the future. The Fellowship is designed to elevate the careers of Chicago leaders and increase their future impact on the Chicago metropolitan area.

Eric Delli Bovi has been awarded \$30,000 to pursue professional development opportunities that support both his administrative and artistic pursuits and enhance the Old Town School's growth as a major institution for rock and popular music. Delli Bovi plans to travel the country to visit various rock and roll "hot spots" in order to engage professionals in the industry. In 2010, Delli Bovi is heading to such places as the annual NAMM conference in Anaheim, the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, the Experience Music Project in Seattle, and Rock & Roll Fantasy Camp in Hollywood.

His objective is to generate dialogue and share resources that may result in local and national collaborations. "As a leading community arts school, Old Town School staff members spend a lot of time assisting smaller organizations achieve success in building their programs and operations. I'm thrilled to get the opportunity to gather new ideas and resources from these venerable institutions in order increase access to music education in Chicago and beyond," explains Delli Bovi upon news of the fellowship.

### **About Eric Delli Bovi**

**Eric Delli Bovi** is the director of external affairs for the Old Town School of Folk Music, the nation's largest community arts school. He is currently leading the school's \$18 million campaign to construct an expanded state-of-the-art educational facility in Lincoln Square. Since joining the staff of the Old Town School in 2000, Delli Bovi rose to become education outreach director, creating and expanding arts programs that serve over 11,000 children and teachers throughout Chicago. He was promoted to development director in 2004, and then served as an interim executive director in 2007. As director of external affairs, he now supervises fundraising, marketing and retail operations.

[www.oldtownschool.org](http://www.oldtownschool.org)

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Delli Bovi was elected to the Americans for the Arts Emerging Leaders Council that serves to cultivate the next generation of arts professionals, and is a trained site visitor for the Accrediting Commission for Community and Precollegiate Arts Schools. He is also a professional percussionist and educator, and has performed with many talented musicians across a range of styles and influences. Delli Bovi holds a bachelor's degree in social studies/secondary education from Ithaca College and a master's degree in applied professional studies from DePaul University.

## **About the Old Town School of Folk Music**

The Old Town School of Folk Music teaches and celebrates music and cultural expressions rooted in the traditions of diverse American and global communities. Founded in 1957, the Old Town School of Folk Music provides a wide range of nationally accredited music, dance, theater, and visual arts courses to people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.

The School's critically acclaimed concerts showcase some of the finest and most diverse local and touring artists, and events like the *Chicago Folk & Roots Festival* and *World Music Wednesdays* make music accessible to all with free and reduced-priced programs. The Old Town School of Folk Music has dramatically expanded over the past decade to become the largest independent community arts school in the United States.

The Old Town School owns and operates two facilities situated in Lincoln Square and Lincoln Park. The Old Town School is expanding its operations by constructing a state-of-the-art education across the street from the main location in Lincoln Square, with groundbreaking scheduled for late 2010 and opening for operations in 2011. For more information, please visit [www.oldtownschool.org](http://www.oldtownschool.org).

## **About The Chicago Community Trust**

For 94 years, The Chicago Community Trust, our region's community foundation, has connected the generosity of donors with community needs by making grants to organizations working to improve metropolitan Chicago. In 2008, the Trust, together with its donors, granted more than \$100 million to nonprofit organizations. From strengthening schools to assisting local art programs, from building health centers to helping lives affected by violence, the Trust continues to enhance our region. To learn more, please visit the Trust online at [www.cct.org](http://www.cct.org).

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