
About

Prairie Crossroads Blues Society was formed in 2010 as a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization. The PCBS now has more than 250 members, including 16 member bands. It is governed by a board of directors, and is an affiliate of the national Blues Foundation headquartered in Memphis, Tennessee.

Mission

To **educate** the public to foster an appreciation of the American heritage known as the Blues; **preserve** the Blues tradition so that future generations may come to a knowledge and appreciation of the Blues; and to **promote** Blues music in East Central Illinois.



PRAIRIE CROSSROADS BLUES SOCIETY

*Preserve Promote and Educate the local
community about the blues.*

BITS

Blues In The Schools



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PRAIRIE CROSSROADS BLUES SOCIETY

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Prairie Crossroads Blues Society
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Blues In The Schools



The Prairie Crossroads Blues Society creates opportunities for children to learn about the roots and history of the Blues, and to play some Blues music for themselves!

Since 2012, we have been sponsoring Blues in the Schools programs across Champaign-Urbana with this goal in mind. These programs have included some of these features:

An all-school assembly to showcase Blues music played by a local Blues band

A short concert for parents and classmates at the end of the program

After-school classes in basic Blues harmonica taught by a professional musician

After-school classes in the roots and history of Blues in the US taught by a PhD student in African-American History

Learning to write a Blues song, individually or collectively

A Hohner harmonica for each child in the class to keep

Benefits of the Program

Learning about the roots and history of Blues music is an enlightening experience for these students. It is important to know about this purely American art form. Tying together the history and the music in this way is a deeply enriching experience for children which they are likely to remember for many years to come.

Past Programs

The Prairie Crossroads Blues Society has conducted programs at the following schools in Champaign and Urbana.

Stratton Elementary – Spring 2025

Robeson Elementary – Fall 2024

Yankee Ridge & Thomas Paine – Spring 2024

Dr. Preston Williams School – Fall 2023

Martin Luther King School – Fall 2022

Kenwood Elementary School - Blues Fest 2019

South Side & Bottenfield Schools - Spring 2019

Wiley School - Spring 2019

Urbana Free Library - March 2018

Urbana Adult Education (Harmonicas) - Fall 2017

South Side Elementary School - Spring 2015

Blues In The Library - Spring 2014

Don Moyer's Boys & Girls Club - Spring 2014

Thomas Paine School - Fall 2013

Champaign Blues Brews & BBQ Fest 2013

Library Events - Spring 2013

Garden Hills School - Spring 2013

Champaign Blues Brews & BBQ Fest 2012

Wiley School - Spring 2012

Support for Blues in the Schools

We have received support for our programs from Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, the Urbana Arts Council, the Orange Krush Foundation, Samuel Music, Louie's Dixie Kitchen, Hohner USA and donations from the community. The high level of cooperation we have enjoyed among the Prairie Crossroads Blues Society, our supporters, and the Public School Systems is a great example of community partnership.

We look forward to creating more community relationships of this type in the future. PCBS appreciates your support for these efforts!

**PRAIRIE CROSSROADS
BLUES SOCIETY**

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