

Youth in Arts®

Fiscal Year 2011-12

Intensive Arts Mentorship, Changing Lives

Last year, Youth in Arts served over 30,000 students, offering a broad array of programs in schools and the community. More important, we provided in-depth experiences impacting students' skills and understanding. Focusing on approaches that effect real transformation through the arts, we honored youth voices, promoted global citizenship, taught the value of reaching all learners, and fostered in-depth mentorship between students and artists. We'd like to share a few stories, reminding you that the students, artists and teachers profiled here reflect experiences happening through Youth in Arts across our North Bay community. Read more online every day at youthinarts.org/blog.

Celebrating Youth Voices



The Davidson Mural Team

One of our most intensive programs in 2011-12 was a year-long effort by Davidson Middle School students to create a community history mural in downtown San Rafael. Led by Mentor Artist Brooke Toczylowski, the project ran during and after school and even over breaks.

Hundreds of Davidson students worked with Brooke to learn mural art techniques and contemplate their own visions of local history through a "mini mural" project on paper. A leadership Mural Team of 17 students went much further, ultimately creating a forty foot-long painting now installed at 917 C Street on the facade of the building housing Youth in Arts' offices, gallery and store.

**"I can't even believe I did this...
Wow, practice makes you better!"**

--Nicole, Mural Team Student

The project is an example of "arts integration," where the creative process integrally links with other academic curriculum. "It's different than just doing an art project around a theme from the class," explained YIA Director Miko Lee. "Creating the mural *was* studying history. The students did all the research, made choices about what was important and how to present it. Brooke and the classroom teacher facilitated the process and helped them with the art and history skills, but they did it."

The project had support from the Fenwick Foundation, County of Marin and the MacPhail Family, which has owned the building since the 1800s.

With the mural in place, the team helped curate an exhibit on their process at the YIA Gallery. At the opening, Brooke commented on the students' inclusion of themselves in the mural, representing ongoing artistic contributions to the community. "They are the future," she said, "and the future is so bright!"

"What I learned is that we had a community here...We all did it together."

--Jessica, Mural Team Student

Global Citizenship

“Around the World” at Venetia Valley School

In May 2012, hundreds of pre-K through Grade 8 students at Venetia Valley School went around the world at a Youth in Arts’ “Passport” event, offered through our Artists in Schools program. Artists from six different regions introduced students to Chinese Brush Painting, Egyptian Hieroglyphs, Mesoamerican Music, West African Drumming, Brazilian Capoeira and Italian Street Painting. Teachers helped to choose art forms based on curricular needs in the classroom. Students learned to say “hello” in each artist’s language, and many arrived with “passports” in hand (created with classroom teachers), which were stamped as they went along their journey.



“Multicultural and inspirational...it made us come together as a community to celebrate our differences through the arts.” --Yoana Landin, Venetia Valley Teacher

Venetia Valley teacher Yoana Landin took the lead in bringing Passport to Venetia Valley and received a standing ovation for her efforts from her colleagues. Fellow teacher Alexa Sakellariou called the event “one of the highlights of our year... We got to see students light up and shine in ways that are not always achievable in the regular classroom environment.”

Youth in Arts has been expanding our “Around the World” program offerings, which include assemblies, workshops for middle and high school social studies classes and global art exchanges between children across the world.

Reaching All Learners

“Arts Unite Us” Students Glyn Peterson & Jake Severin

In 2012, Tamalpais High School’s Glyn Peterson and Jake Severin participated in an innovative collaboration between advanced theater students, like Glyn, and students from Jake’s special education classroom.

“Arts Unite Us” aims to build understanding between students of different abilities through collaborative creativity. For this project, Glyn and Jake worked as part of a group with Mentor Artist Melissa Briggs to create, stage and perform an original one act play. The project drew rave reviews from peers, teachers and parents and was even featured in the local newspaper.



Afterwards, the students reflected. Talking about the writing experience, Glyn noted, “Some lines were from certain individuals...I had a line, ‘My camera’s with the sharks!’ That was from Jake...” “I was going to say that!” Jake broke in. “You did say it,” Glyn smiled. “But then some lines really were from everyone... all our voices coming together.”

Asked if he was excited to be in the paper, Jake said “No. Maybe I should be on YouTube!” He was more interested in discussing the next play--both he and Glyn plan to participate in 2013, when “Arts Unite Us” will expand to three new sites and hopefully launch a summer program incorporating video production—you might see Jake on YouTube after all!

“It felt so good to be on the stage with [this group]...it was amazing.” --Glyn Peterson



Mentoring Young Artists

`Til Dawn 2012 Graduate Austin Smith

Austin Smith has graduated from Youth in Arts `Til Dawn a *cappella* ensemble, but he's still singing. Smith is currently a vocal major in the Popular Music Program at USC, founded in 2009 to train musicians whose interests lie outside the traditional classical and jazz routes. The program has already launched some industry successes, and Smith is excited to be involved. At this advanced level, he relies on skills developed at Youth in Arts. "`Til Dawn trained my ear, my sense of intonation, my ability to blend...how to pick up harmonies on the spot...I'm a better musician for it."

Smith is also enthusiastic about the support and life skills the group provided, which he attributes in large part to the mentorship of `Til Dawn Director Austin Willacy. He says Willacy's artistic vision is intertwined with a deliberate effort to build community. "The more connected and trusting the people in the group are with one another, the more powerful and effective the music will be." Smith is still in contact with Willacy, and says the same is true of other alums, even many years after they graduate high school. He calls Willacy "a friend and source of infinite wisdom."

Smith was one of fifteen 2011-12 members of `Til Dawn and one of four graduating seniors. Many of the group's graduates go on to achieve professional success and to give back to their community through teaching and service.

"`Til Dawn really is a home for its members."--Austin Smith, 2012 Graduate



Engaging Communities

Julia James and Mary Silveira School in the YIA Gallery

2011-12 was the first full year of programming in the new YIA Gallery, and Mentor Artist Julia James curated one of the inaugural exhibits. The show, entitled "Where We Live," featured landscapes by over a hundred 4th and 5th graders from Mary Silveira in San Rafael. Julia has been working with these students through Youth in Arts for years, in some cases since kindergarten.

The exhibit offered students a chance to share their work with parents and teachers, student school groups and the general public. "Plus it was on Facebook!" Julia noted. "Their first 'published' work!"

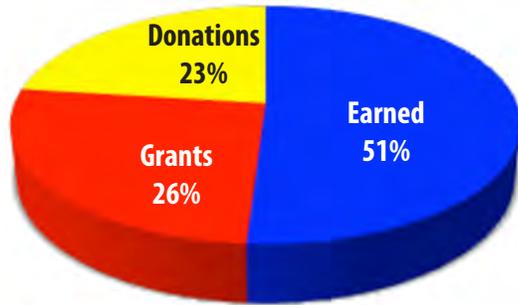
**"We took time to make sure each student's voice was there in the painting."
--Julia James, Mentor Artist**

Many families visited the Gallery during 2nd Fridays Art Walk, and Julia said they were "very proud." Mary Silveira Principal Will Anderson, who also attended the Art Walk event, said "it is critical to recognize [student] efforts...I see the faces of the kids when they are being praised for their work...I believe it leaves a lasting impression."

Youth in Arts Gallery presents six to seven exhibits per year. The Gallery is open Monday-Friday from 10-4, and until 8 the second Friday of each month. Free group tours with hands-on art activities are available by appointment.

Fiscal Year Ended July 31, 2012

Revenue Sources



REVENUE

Earned Income \$284,709
Grants \$144,147
Donations \$132,262
TOTAL \$561,118

EXPENDITURES

Programs \$475,834
General Admin \$60,863
Fundraising \$61,070
TOTAL \$597,767

Cash Donors

\$30,000 and above

California EPDM/Cy Pres Distribution
 Marin Community Foundation
 Peggy Rathmann and John Wick—
 The Rathmann Family Foundation

\$10,000 - \$29,999

Creative Work Fund—a program of
 the Walter and Elise Hass Fund
 Fenwick Foundation
 Margaret A. Cargill Foundation
 National Endowment for the Arts
 The Edith and Herbert Lehman
 Foundation, Inc.

\$5,000 - \$9,999

California Arts Council
 May G. Lee
 Mimi & Kevin Murphy
 The George L. Shields Foundation

\$2,000 - \$4,999

Dr. Anthony & Martha Eason
 Joseph & Frances Brucia Foundation
 Leslie & Will Thompson

\$2,000 - \$4,999 (Continued)

Melanie Nichols/Funger Foundation
 Sue & Joe Carlomagno
 Target
 Valentine Capital Asset Management

\$1,000 - \$1,999

Annette & Fred Gellert
 Bill Graham Supporting Foundation of the
 Jewish Community Endowment Fund
 Bruce & Linda Hopper
 Carolyn Wheeler
 Creative Capacity Fund
 CVS Caremark
 Deb Bennett
 Jan Casey Bertrand
 Kele & George Gasparini
 Margaret Callinan
 Phyllis & Max Thelen
 Rick & Suzanne Herrero
 Rotary Club of Marin
 Ruth & Jack Lemein
 Star Insurance Holdings, Inc.
 Sue & John Feder
 The Jones-Smith Foundation
 William & Lynn Callender

Plus many dedicated donors under \$500

Pamela Levine Arts Education Fund

Established by
Laszlo N. Tauber Family Foundation
 Bruce Caplan
 Dan Sheehy
 Mimi & Kevin Murphy

\$500-999

Glea G. Wylie Fund
 Ingrid Purcell
 Joanne Dunn
 Joe & Lisa Allanson
 Mary Noble
 Michael & Kathy Dennison
 Ross Valley Pharmacy
 Wells Fargo Foundation

Corporate Gift Programs

Chevron Humankind
 eScrip
 Piper Jaffray

The Year In Numbers

Students Directly Served: **30,064**
 Audiences for Performance & Events: **37,343**
 Mentor Artist Hours: **3,993**
 Classrooms Served: **465**
 Teachers & Parents at Arts Workshops: **288**
 Mentorship Hours per `Til Dawn Student: **374**

Youth in Arts Staff and Board of Directors

Staff

Miko Lee *Executive Director*
 Austin Willacy *`Til Dawn*
 Carol Slocum *Controller*
 Jen Daly *Communications/Development*
 Keith "K-Dub" Williams *Arts Specialist*
 Nydia Gonzalez *VSA/Artist Training*
 Suzanne Joyal *Artists in Schools*

Board

Peter Rodgers *President*
 Melanie Nichols *VP Program*
 Kele Gasparini *Secretary*
 Mimi Murphy *Treasurer*
 Deb Bennett
 Susan Feder
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 Tim Distler
 Jan Casey-Bertrand, *Special Director*
 Eliot Holtzman, *Special Director*