

# Youth in Arts®

## ANNUAL REPORT Fiscal Year Ended July 31, 2008

### Building Arts Skills Year by Year The STARS Model



Sausalito/Marin City students collaborate on a batik mural

One of the challenges Youth in Arts has grappled with in recent years is how to help schools create richer, more comprehensive arts programs that address students' needs at all grade levels.

We're not alone. A new independent study by SRI International found that despite California's 2000 adoption of comprehensive standards in music, dance, theatre and visual arts, 89% of schools are unable to provide a sequential program across all these art forms and 29% have no sequential arts program at all. Schools lack instructors to implement programs, as well as curriculum, training, and other resources.

To help bridge this gap, Youth in Arts has launched Sequential Thematic Arts Reaching

Students or STARS. The model combines standards-based arts lesson plans with training for artists, teachers and volunteers. Youth in Arts is working with both the Larkspur and the Sausalito/Marin City school districts to pilot the program. Funds have been provided by both districts and by the Corte Madera Larkspur Schools Foundation. Seed funding for assessment has been provided by the Marin Community Foundation.

STARS has generated great excitement within the participating communities. Teachers have expressed new commitment to integrating the arts into their work, and have commented on the growing pride students show in their art.

In the Larkspur schools, a parent group has formed to help shape the program. Youth in Arts has trained parent volunteers who have in turn helped create classroom art supply kits and develop new community arts events.

In Sausalito/Marin City, the district has expanded STARS themes to after school hours, working with Youth in Arts to create a daily, arts-infused program for K-8 students. The Twilight Program is also building new links to the community, developing partnerships with arts and service organizations and bringing in parents and other volunteers for activities and events.

Youth in Arts was also delighted to share the work of STARS students with our broader Marin community at the first ever Youth in Arts Day at the Marin County Fair.

Building arts learning communities lies at the heart of the STARS project. We look forward to continuing this work in the year ahead. For more, see community-created websites at [ncvisualarts.googlepages.com](http://ncvisualarts.googlepages.com) and [twilightprogram.blogspot.com](http://twilightprogram.blogspot.com).

## Artists in Schools



Artists in Schools (AIS) brings professional artists into pre-K-12 classrooms for several weeks, a semester, or even a whole year. In 2007-08, as we developed the STARS model, we intensified our artist training and worked in-depth with teachers. We also built links to other Youth in Arts programs.

Zenon Barron with Hamilton student Last year, AIS served over 7,000 students in 287 classrooms. In addition to student performances and exhibitions at school sites, we featured student art at our Italian Street Painting Festival and in a huge maze created with STARS families for Youth in Arts Day at the Marin County Fair, which also featured activities led by AIS artists.

Through STARS, we provided artist trainings on planning, curriculum development and assessment, and we led 2-hour workshops for grade level teams of teachers to offer hands-on experience with art forms and plan the year's program.

Links to our other programs included Family Day performances by AIS artists at the Italian Street Painting Festival and a featured performance in the Youth in Arts Presents series by *Ensamble Ballet Folklorico* led by AIS artist Zenon Barron. Students from Zenon's classes at Hamilton Elementary were able to attend the professional performance, learn music, dance and costuming at school, and then present their own show. The connections gave children a rich understanding of the art form and a chance to see their teacher as a working artist.



Photo by Susan Fan-Brown

## VSA arts

VSA arts is an international program dedicated to helping people with disabilities learn through, participate in, and enjoy the arts. Youth in Arts is the Marin County affiliate for VSA arts and our program is one of California's most extensive, providing in-depth sessions for children and young adults with physical, cognitive, and developmental disabilities.



Photo by Peter Rodgers

In 2007-08, we served 285 VSA arts students in 28 Special Day classrooms. We also served students with disabilities in mainstream classes, reaching a total of approximately 1,250 youth with physical, developmental, emotional and psychological disabilities. Program Director Nydia Gonzalez traveled to Washington, DC to represent California at the national VSA arts conference and has since been named Vice President of the state chapter.

We have been working to increase accessibility in all our programs, so that youth served through VSA arts can enjoy other aspects of our work. For example, we added accessible stations on Children's Avenue at the Italian Street Painting Festival that allowed children in wheelchairs to enjoy the fun.

## Youth in Arts Presents

Formerly the Performing Art Series, Youth in Arts Presents provides live theater, music and dance for K-8 students by local, national and international touring companies.

The 2007-08 season included 28 performances by 13 companies for a total audience of over 10,000. We provided over 1,500



*Ensamble Ballet Folklorico*





Manding Jata

scholarship seats for low-income students, maintaining our commitment to making live arts economically accessible.

We revamped our study guide design, focusing on links to standards and hands-on activities. We also established a sponsorship program enabling local businesses

and community organizations to bring classes to the theatre to enjoy educational performances.

### Italian Street Painting Festival

Our fifteenth annual Italian Street Painting Festival featured perfect weather, delicious food, lively performances and gorgeous artwork created by volunteer artists. The theme of the event was Celebrating the Spirit of Youth and artists blended classical and contemporary images of childhood with original visions of the concept of "youth".



Genna Panzarella, 2008 Featured Artist. Photo by Joy Phoenix.

Incoming Festival Director Laurie Vermont's first event included a new Family Day activity on Saturday morning, accessible areas on Children's Avenue, ASL interpreted performances, and our first "ISPF Eve" celebration for sponsors and donors.

In total, the event included 180 sponsored squares created by 417 professional and student artists, and over 1,000 Children's Avenue squares.

The sixteenth annual Italian Street Painting Festival will be held June 13-14, 2009. The theme—Faces of the Renaissance—will encompass both the rich portraiture tradition of the Renaissance Era and a broader spirit of renewal, art, culture and innovation.

### 'Til Dawn

'Til Dawn, Youth in Arts' high school *a cappella* ensemble, is our most intensive program for students with a commitment to study and performance. 'Til Dawn builds their repertoire around positive messages and social awareness. The group holds an annual series of retreats with Director Austin Willacy to explore issues like environment and culture.



'Til Dawn, 2008. Photo by Miko Lee.

'Til Dawn performances include arrangements of popular songs as well as original numbers by members. This year, 'Til Dawn provided 39 performances for a total estimated audience of 21,700, including 3,700 schoolchildren who benefit by seeing older peers as artists and leaders.

'Til Dawn also appeared on the KFOG Morning Show just before their performance at the Italian Street Painting Festival. KFOG—one of the largest and most highly regarded music stations in the Bay Area—was so pleased with the group's performance that they played a recap the next day!

Youth in Arts is going green! We can keep you informed and save paper if you'll send your email address to [yia@youthinarts.org](mailto:yia@youthinarts.org).

For more information on any Youth in Arts program, contact our staff at 415-457-4878.

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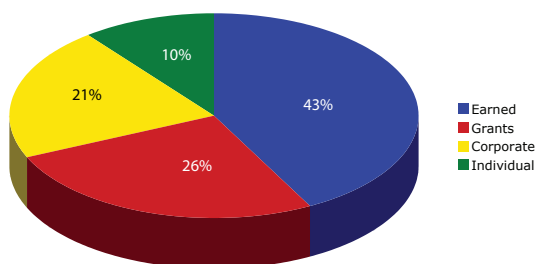
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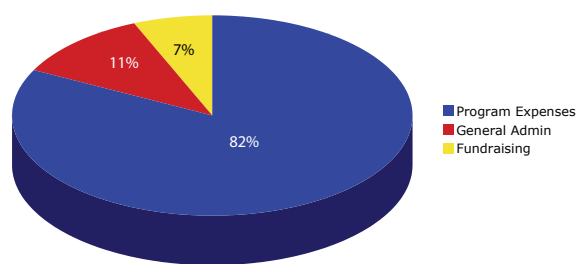
## Fiscal Year Ended July 31, 2008

### Revenue Sources



Revenue: \$949,321

### Expenditures by Category



Expenditures: \$978,846

*Expenditures exceeded revenue due to depreciation and unrealized loss on investments.*

### Cash Donors

#### \$50,000 & above



MARIN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

#### \$20,000 - \$49,999



Corte Madera Larkspur  
Schools Foundation



YEHWICK FOUNDATION



The Special Hope Foundation

#### \$10,000 - \$19,999

Citi Foundation  
First Five of Marin  
Irene S. Scully Family Foundation  
Milagro Foundation  
Potrero Nuevo Fund/ Tides Foundation  
The George L. Shields Foundation

#### \$5,000 - \$9,999

AT & T  
Autodesk  
Bank of Marin

California Arts Council  
Claire Giannini Fund  
Eastbourne Capital Management  
Frank Howard Allen  
In Memory of Jack Purcell  
Joe & Sue Carlomagno  
Kevin & Mimi Murphy  
PG&E  
The Haldan Family  
van Löben Sels /Rembe Rock Foundation  
Wells Fargo

#### \$2,000 - \$4,999

Bruce & Linda Hopper  
Debbie & Bill Hemphill  
Jones-Smith Foundation  
Morgan Stanley  
Salient Wealth Management  
Will & Leslie Thompson

#### \$1,000 - \$1,999

Bank of America  
Bill & Lynn Callender  
Circle Bank  
Craford & Craford Benefit Consultants  
Darrow Foundation  
Eliot & Margot Holtzman  
First Federal Savings & Loan of San Rafael  
George & Kele Gasparini  
Glea G. Wylie, Charitable Fund  
Hamilton Ink  
ImageMovers Digital

In Memory of Alex Moore  
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Julie & Tom Ballard  
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Max & Phyllis Thelen  
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Melanie Nichols/The Fungler Foundation  
Mesa Beverage  
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Ragghianti Freitas LLP  
Rileystreet Art Supply  
Samuelson Schafer  
Seagate Properties, Inc.  
Susan & John Feder  
Target  
The Mechanics Bank  
VSA arts of California  
Westamerica Bank

#### Pamela Levine Fund for Arts Education

Diane Bauman  
"New York Gang"  
Mimi Murphy

#### Corporate Matching Gifts

Chevron Corporation  
Levi Strauss  
Macy's  
Mill Valley Market Shop & Give  
Piper Jaffrey  
Charles Schwab  
Wells Fargo

**Plus hundreds of other dedicated donors under \$1,000.**

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