

Youth in Arts®

Fiscal Year 2012-13

Innovative Ideas, Real Impact

On December 29, Youth in Arts will host the `Til Dawn Sing Out alumni reunion concert. Alumni from the late 90s to last year's graduates will come together with current members to sing and and share stories. In planning the event, we have been hearing from many young adults who made `Til Dawn part of their lives during high school. And it's clear that `Til Dawn is an idea that simply works. In both their post-high school successes and their lasting ability to articulate what the group meant to them, `Til Dawn alumni show us why the program has thrived for two decades. Right now, we are in a period of great experimentation and innovation at Youth in Arts. We are full of good ideas--but we are really looking for the ideas that work. We want to refine and grow programs that show real results for our students, so that they can all look back at their time at Youth in Arts as the springboard to a creative and successful life.



"In `Til Dawn, I not only learned about my own voice—both literally and figuratively—but how it got along with others."

--Parker Sims, `Til Dawn Graduate 2001

Youth in Arts Teen Corps

Inspired by the impact of `Til Dawn over many years, Youth in Arts is now working to establish a new program providing teens with mentorship in visual arts, theater and new media. Youth in Arts Teen Corps will be a year-round program for high school students collaborating to create public art, performances and digital media. Students will have a chance to work deeply in an art form they love and to challenge themselves as they learn.

Youth in Arts Teen Corps will include students from all backgrounds and of differing abilities--a model we have used with success in our "Art Unite Us" programs (read more inside).

A step towards establishing Youth in Arts Teen Corps was our first summer intensive held in July-August 2013 at Youth in Arts. Originally envisioned as a theater program, the intensive quickly took an interdisciplinary approach. Students mixed visual arts, theater and digital media to share voices and visions. The results were exciting and we are looking forward to an equally rich mix of art forms and ideas in the new group.

Want to be a part of Youth in Arts Teen Corps as a student, supporter or volunteer? Let us know--we look forward to hearing from you!



"I looked all over the Bay Area to find a program in theater with special needs students. Knowing how to connect with people of all abilities...that's invaluable. That's why I want to come back."

-- Kate, Summer Intensive student



Reaching All Learners

“Arts Unite Us” Continues to Succeed and Grow

In 2008, staff member Nydia Gonzalez initiated “Arts Unite Us” as a special project to address social isolation among special education students. Many people don’t realize how little contact general and special education students can actually have during the school day and how few opportunities students of different abilities have to meet and work with one another. Our goal through “Arts Unite Us” was to change all that.

We began by adding “sharing sessions” to each special education residency, making students’ work more visible at school, along with performances for mixed audiences.

“I never expected to make a friend.”

—Terra Linda Arts Unite Us student about his connection with a differently-abled peer

Then we took “Arts Unite Us” to the next level with a first-of-its kind collaborative theater residency at Tamalpais High School. The result was a “Best of Festival” performance at the school’s annual One Acts Festival, written and produced by a group of advanced drama students and special education peers. And the experience had a remarkable impact on students, generating change beyond the theater walls. For example, last Fall, two students successfully advocated to include special education students in Tam’s Fall orientation for the first time. According to special education teacher Michael Lovejoy, “Arts Unite Us” has changed how his program is viewed across the entire district.

Building on this success, “Arts Unite Us” has continued to grow. This year, the collaborative residency program was expanded to three new sites and two new art forms—Percussion with Mentor Artist William Rossell at Redwood High, and Latin Dance with Nydia and Mentor Artist Stephanie Bastos at Terra Linda High. And of course we piloted the summer intensive featured on the cover of this report.

“When’s the next play? I want to do this every day!”

—Cole, Summer Intensive member and Cypress School student

This Fall, Youth in Arts decided to group all our programs for special needs students under the banner of “Arts Unite Us,” acknowledging how accessible programs benefit us all as we share our voices with one another. Some of our residencies (formerly VSA) will still be tailored just for special education classrooms, but even here we are adding opportunities for youth to connect via their artwork at school and in exhibits at our YIA Gallery. There is more that unites us than divides us—this innovative program proves that essential truth each day.



Rae and Jessica’s Story

Rae has been a student in Youth in Arts programs for years, studying with Mentor Artist Marty Meade and building set pieces and props for the Tam High theater project in 2012. Rae has a true love of drawing and painting. It is a challenge for her to communicate verbally, and she can be overwhelmed by the loud chatter of, for example, a theater rehearsal.

This summer, Rae joined Youth in Arts’ summer intensive—the seed for our new Youth in Arts Teen Corps. There she met Jessica, a developmentally typical student from San Rafael High. A member of the Davidson Middle School team that created the mural on the facade of Youth in Arts’ building, Jessica also loves drawing and painting, but was not so sure about performing onstage.

Working with Mentor Artists and staff, Rae and Jessica decided to present their original script as an animated video. This built on their passion for visual art and introduced new skills around camerawork and digital editing. Both girls overcame real challenges—for Jessica of singing and introducing the video onstage, and for Rae of voicing her character in the recorded soundtrack.

And both rose to the occasion beautifully. Their smiles as the audience enjoyed the video were lovely to see. We hope to keep working with Rae and Jessica as they grow as artists and young women.





Global Citizenship

“Passport” Programs for All Ages

The cultural and artistic diversity of our Mentor Artist Roster allows us to bring the world to students through the arts. In the past two years, we’ve been exploring how to make the most of this opportunity with creative new approaches we call “Passport” programs. The Passport Event is a full day of artmaking—students get to experience visual and performing art from around the world. Passport Workshops are one or two-session experiences linked to curriculum for Grades 6 and above. Master Artists visit multiple social studies classrooms in a day to present a Workshop across the grade level.

“One of the keys to teaching history is bringing it to life. Youth in Arts takes our classrooms to different parts of the world.” —Ted Cosgriff, Teacher, Davidson Middle School

The Passport Event is a big undertaking, but each year we have more schools taking advantage of this amazing opportunity. So far nearly every school that has held a Passport Event wants us back! Passport Workshops started as a pilot project at Davidson Middle School, but our newly redesigned website at youthinarts.org will make it easier for schools to plan their own series of Passport Workshops aligned with their curriculum. We look forward to “traveling” with many more students in the year ahead!



Engaging Communities

YIA Gallery Offers Education, Connection and Fun

Did you know Youth in Arts operates one of the only children’s art galleries in the U.S.? YIA Gallery in downtown San Rafael features 6-7 exhibits each year showcasing the work of PreK-Grade 12 artists and exploring the ideas behind their art. YIA Gallery is also becoming a venue for great happenings linked to exhibit themes, from a dance party blending Mexican and Haitian traditions to “Pop-Up Shops” featuring local artists and art-making nights with family and friends. Plus, we offer field trips to local school groups with special hands-on arts activities absolutely free, thanks to our sponsors.

“What a wonderful field trip! Thank you so much for a great experience in the Gallery. We will be back for sure next year!” —Colleen Beery, Second Grade Teacher

Gallery exhibits in 2012-13 were sponsored by Autodesk, Bank of Marin, Umpqua Bank, the Mary Donovan-Kansora Memorial Fund and the Creative Work Fund. We are grateful to these sponsors, to individual and in-kind donors, and to our fabulous volunteers for helping us celebrate young artists and provide a space for children to exchange ideas through the arts.



Mentoring Young Artists

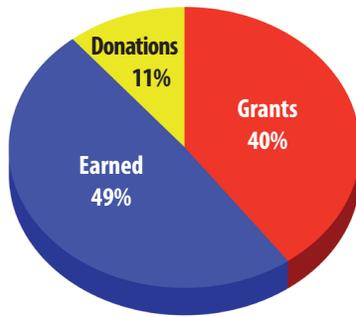
‘Til Dawn Alums Become the Teachers

Many of our talented ‘Til Dawn alumni go on to become teachers and mentors themselves. Several local middle and high school vocal programs are led by ‘Til Dawn alumni, and this year Youth in Arts added 2008 ‘Til Dawn graduate Erin Greenwell to our Mentor Artist roster. Erin is teaching workshops and residencies in vocal music in local schools via Youth in Arts, as well as continuing her active performance career. Erin and fellow ‘Til Dawn alumna Lilan Kane are also the founders of “Own the Mic,” Marin’s first vocal music summer camp—passing their wisdom to a new generation!

“As a ‘Til Dawn alumna, I know first hand how empowering music can be. Now that I’m teaching, I strive to see that spark of self-confidence in my students. Music is a gift you learn to give to yourself, and Youth in Arts helped me see that.” —Erin Greenwell, Mentor Artist

Fiscal Year Ended July 31, 2013

Revenue Sources



REVENUE

Earned Income \$279,784

Grants \$231,438

Donations \$63,865

TOTAL \$575,087

EXPENDITURES

Programs \$438,851

General Admin \$48,386

Fundraising \$52,692

TOTAL \$539,929

Cash Donors

\$30,000 and above

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
Marin Community Foundation

\$10,000 - \$29,999

Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
The Green Foundation
Thomas J. Long Foundation
Kenneth A. Lester Family Foundation
Crescent Porter Hale Foundation
Walker Rezaian Memorial Fund
vanLoben Sels/RembeRock Foundation

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Mimi & Kevin Murphy
California Arts Council
The George L. Shields Foundation
Fenwick Foundation
Milton and Dorothy Sarnoff Raymond Fdn.

\$2,000 - \$4,999

Dr. Anthony & Martha Eason
The Funger Foundation
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Marin Charitable Association
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Bank of Marin Community Fund

Plus many dedicated donors under \$500

\$1,000 - \$1,999

Deborah & Bruce Bennett
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The Jones-Smith Foundation

\$500-999

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Bruce Caplan
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Pamela Levine Arts Education Fund

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2012-13 Youth in Arts Donors...

...helped fill gaps in arts education across the North Bay, making our communities more desirable places to live and raise a family.

...funded programs that reached a total audience of over 30,000 students, teachers, parents and community members.

...covered 55% of all expenses, keeping costs low for schools that use our services.

...supported arts in over 400 public and private classrooms, serving students of all ethnic and economic backgrounds and abilities.

...provided free field trips to YIA Gallery and free community programs. Over 10,000 people attended Youth in Arts events this year at absolutely no cost.

...funded training for parents and teachers, so they could help many more students than Youth in Arts could reach directly.

...expanded students' cultural awareness through art from around the world.

...fostered an environment in which youth can find their voices through creative expression.

Thank You!

For more information on our work and stories about the kids we reach, please visit our website at youthinarts.org