

# Youth in Arts®

Fiscal Year 2013-14

## *Every Artist Starts Somewhere*

At Youth in Arts, we are working hard to create and sustain learning, mentorship, exhibition and performance opportunities for the teens who will be the future of the arts in our community.

Our "Intensive Arts Mentorship" or I AM include our successful *cappella* program `Til Dawn, along with new, experimental "lab" projects. Our long-range vision is to house multiple companies offering distinct opportunities in visual, performing and new media forms for North Bay teens with a passion for the arts.

In 2013-14, we tested the concept of a "Teen Corps" with teens of different abilities creating new work together. This generated two summer intensives—with our "Teen Leadership Institute" this past summer resulting in a Fall YIA Gallery exhibit "Listen to What We Say."



***"Beyond the skills our students are gaining, their authentic voices are being unleashed, heard and honored. That has immediate impact and life-long significance." —Melissa Jones Briggs, Mentor Artist, I AM***

This Fall, in partnership with Next Generation Scholars—a college-bound program for low-income youth—Mentor Artists Melissa Jones Briggs and Suzanne Joyal are working weekly with students on skills in writing, performance and visual art. Their final projects, linked to the "Creative San Rafael" initiative (inset) will be murals inspired by students' responses to quotes from well-known San Rafael artists. Monologues by students will also be performed at live events and shared on the Creative San Rafael website.

In the coming year, we look forward to expanding this work. We plan to add support for all I AM students (including `Til Dawn) leading towards success in college admissions. This may range from audition workshops and visits from arts college consultants to online tools for building resumés and portfolios.

We already know the future is bright for the dedicated teens making their way to Youth in Arts on weekday evenings to participate in the I AM program. Our goal is to support them in illuminating even more vividly all the possible paths the arts can offer them.



## Creative San Rafael

Creative San Rafael is a collaborative effort from arts and business organizations to enrich and enliven downtown San Rafael as an arts destination. In 2014-15, partners are working on the "Creative Voices" public art project, creating banners and murals inspired by quotes from prominent artists with links to San Rafael, like Isabel Allende, Carlos Santana, James Hetfield, Bret Harte and many more.

As a founding Creative San Rafael partner, Youth in Arts has been working with kids of all ages to create images inspired by artists from our local area—past and present—who have made remarkable contributions to the arts. This has ranged from creating the background to a new mural with preschoolers visiting our gallery to working with a small group of `Til Dawn students who want to explore skills in the visual arts. For more, visit [creativesanrafael.org](http://creativesanrafael.org).

***"A path is a mark we leave behind for others to follow."  
—Christian, Loma Verde Kindergartener***



## Engaging Community

### The Walker Rezaian Creative HeArts Kindergarten Arts Program

In 2012, Youth in Arts helped to develop the Walker Rezaian Creative HeArts Kindergarten Arts program, working with Walker's family to build a curriculum celebrating creativity and friendship—ideas that 5 year-old Walker embodied. The program is granted to one Title I school in Marin each year, offering in-class instruction, workshops for families, and an exhibit and a community reception at YIA Gallery in San Rafael. The goal is not only to provide a wonderful year of art for kindergarteners, but to build the school's capacity for incorporating art into their continuing curriculum.

Last year's inaugural recipient Loma Verde experienced great success with the program, which culminated in a fun, art-filled celebration at YIA Gallery in May 2014. This year's recipient is Bahia Vista in San Rafael's Canal Neighborhood. We are looking forward to working with Bahia Vista's kindergarteners through the Walker Rezaian Creative HeArts program and to seeing all they will create together.

## A Creative HeArts Story



*Students reflecting on their work*

Mentor Artist Suzanne Joyal quickly became aware of "Andy", a Loma Verde kindergarten student in the Walker Rezaian Creative HeArts program. Andy had trouble listening and waiting to speak. He couldn't complete assignments as his teacher requested. Even when it came to coloring, Andy—who is color blind and has low overall sight—could not put the "correct" colors in their place. In his entire brief school experience, he had little experience with success.

Through the Walker Rezaian Creative HeArts curriculum, Suzanne began to teach all the students about lines. In one activity, the goal was not to follow any particular pattern or rule, but simply to create as many different kinds of lines as possible. Andy was captured by line-drawing. He drew lines of many shapes and weights. Straight, wiggly, wavy, crazy lines. At the end of the session the class reflected on their work. It was clear to everyone that Andy had created the most lines. All the teachers and peers expressed that Andy's work was excellent. He had not only been successful for the first time ever in school—he had exceeded expectations.

Art can redefine "success" for students like Andy, setting them on a different pathway, sending them in a new direction. We look forward to seeing where Andy's wiggly, wavy pathway will take him!



***"Our daughter had never been in a play before...This class has really helped her overcome her stage fright and allowed her to express her creative side." —Harding Parent***

## Reaching All Learners

### Artists Innovate to Provide Access

For several years, through our "Arts Unite Us" program, Youth in Arts has offered schoolwide visual and performing arts at Harding Elementary in El Cerrito. Harding is a focus site for Deaf and Hearing Impaired students in the West Contra Costa County Unified School District; in the school's overall population, 25% have some form of diagnosed disability.

This year, Thomas Arndt taught in and after school theater to all Harding students. Already a skilled Mentor Artist, Thomas drew additional inspiration from Melissa Jones Briggs who created the original "Arts Unite Us" program at Harding. For example, Thomas talked with Melissa about how the original program incorporated American Sign Language (ASL), and then created his own approach to building ASL into theater activities. As Youth in Arts continues our long tradition of working with students of all abilities, we are thrilled to bring together talented artists like Thomas and Melissa, fostering communication and collaboration to reach more children more effectively.



***"I know that my culture's values and teachings have made an imprint on these keiki's lives. To witness and experience this is what it's all about for me as a Kumu Hula."—Shawna Alapa'i, Mentor Artist***

## Global Citizenship

### Kids "Travel the World" through the Arts

Youth in Arts offers a diverse range of opportunities for children to "Travel the World" through the arts each year. We provide a whole menu of "Travel the World" programs to suit different curriculum

links and budgets. But our greatest impact is through in-depth programs that combine inspiration with practical learning experiences. In the performing arts, one option we offer is a professional "Assembly" performance by a Mentor Artist with their professional ensemble, followed by extensive in-class instruction from this same Mentor Artist, all leading up to a final performance by the students.

This is the approach that Mentor Artist Shawna Alapa'i took at Sonoma Mountain Elementary in Petaluma this year, sharing Hawai'ian Cultural Arts with K-2 students. The children were able to experience a professional performance by Shawna's company *Halau Hula Na Pua O Ka La'akea*. Then, over the course of 10 weeks, Shawna taught children hula steps, songs and traditional rhythms on the *ipu* (gourd drum) and *kala'au* (rhythmic sticks) and even a little bit of *'ukulele* technique! Students finished in May with a performance for their family and friends—from sitting and watching in awe, they progressed to sharing their own voices through traditional Hawai'ian art forms!



***"Til Dawn made such a positive impact on my life. It really did shape me as a musician, performer and member of society. I made life-long friendships, and Austin Willacy taught me so many things about music, and life in general, that I know will stick with me forever." —Chloe Gasparini, `Til Dawn Graduate***

## Finding A Voice

### `Til Dawn in the Family

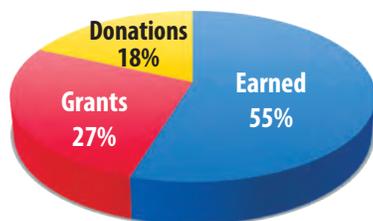
Members of Youth in Arts `Til Dawn a cappella often describe the group as a "family" that sees them through years of high school and beyond. But for the Gasparinis, the idea of `Til Dawn as family is more literal. Three of the four Gasparini children have been members of the group. The youngest, Chloe Gasparini, graduated from the group this year, following in the footsteps of older siblings Drew and Kasie.

All three of these young artists have gone on to remarkable accomplishments after their time with `Til Dawn. Drew Gasparini is a successful singer/songwriter in New York and London. Kasie Gasparini most recently performed in *Mama Mia* in Las Vegas. And Chloe is at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, where she is already performing with NYU N'Harmonics.

In fact, the only Gasparini still here at Youth in Arts is mom Kele, who generously volunteers her time with our Board of Directors! Luckily, the annual `Til Dawn *Sing Out!* reunion is coming up on December 28 at New Georges in San Rafael. So, we'll have an opportunity to welcome back amazing grads like the Gasparinis (in fact, Drew headlined the inaugural *Sing Out!* in 2013). Don't miss this great new annual event. Ticket information is on the Youth in Arts website at [youthinarts.org](http://youthinarts.org).

## Fiscal Year Ended July 31, 2014

### Revenue Sources



**Earned Income** \$272,926  
**Grants** \$135,000  
**Donations** \$90,902  
**TOTAL** \$498,828

### Cash Donors

#### \$30,000 and above



#### \$10,000 - \$29,999

The Green Foundation  
Kimball Foundation  
Mimi & Kevin Murphy  
Walker Rezaian Memorial Fund

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

Fenwick Foundation  
Miko Lee  
Milton and Dorothy Sarnoff Raymond Fdn

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

Deborah & Bruce Bennett  
Chevron Humankind Program  
Dr. Anthony & Martha Eason  
Sue & John Feder  
The Fungler Foundation / Melanie Nichols  
Italian Street Painting Marin  
Marin Charitable Association  
Peet's Coffee & Tea

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

BioMarin Pharmaceutical Inc.  
Lynn Brody  
Margaret Callinan  
Mike and Kara Dunn  
Fenix Entertainment Group, LLC  
Annette & Fred Gellert, Jr.  
Glea G. Wylie Fund  
Bruce & Linda Hopper  
Kinder Morgan Foundation  
Ruth & Jack Lemein  
Nicholas & Beatriz Lituano  
National Arts & Disability Center  
Tommy & Martin Neville  
One Foundation  
Margaret Crosby Rathmann & John Wick  
Rileystreet Art Supply  
Sterling Bank & Trust  
Will & Leslie Thompson

#### \$500 - \$999

Brody, Walsh & Brody  
William & Lynn Callender  
Bruce Caplan  
Sue & Joe Carlomagno  
Tim Distler  
First Federal Savings  
George & Kele Gasparini  
Rick & Suzanne Herrero  
Iron Springs Pub and Brewery  
Jane Miller  
Doug & Emilie Ogden  
Ingrid Purcell  
Peter Rodgers  
Tangram Community Giving Fund

*Plus many dedicated donors under \$500*

### Youth in Arts Staff and Board of Directors

#### Staff

Miko Lee *Executive Director*  
Austin Willacy *'Til Dawn*  
Carol Slocum *Controller*  
Jen Daly *Communications/Development*  
Nydia Gonzalez *Arts Unite Us*  
Suzanne Joyal *Artists in Schools*

#### Board

Peter Rodgers *President*  
Leda Simonsen *Secretary*  
Tim Distler *Treasurer*  
Deb Bennett  
Carol Cooper  
Sally Dominguez  
Susan Feder  
Kele Gasparini  
Bruce Hopper

### 2013-14

#### Youth in Arts Donors...

...helped 6,002 students access hands-on arts instruction in their school classrooms, inspiring them and building creative skills.

...allowed 9,703 kids to experience professional music, dance and theater through Theater and Assembly Performances.

...enabled 1,101 children to "Travel the World" with artists from around the globe offering authentic experiences in world art forms.

...funded programs for 886 students of differing abilities through our unique "Arts Unite Us" model.

...brought over 4,600 parents, family and friends the joy of sharing in their children's work at school performances and exhibits.

...empowered 'Til Dawn *a cappella* to inspire an audience of 7,750 people, including over 3,000 other youth, with their powerful music.

...gave 1,926 community members a chance to see young artists' work featured and exhibited at YIA Gallery in downtown San Rafael.

...supported free field trips to Youth in Arts, including special, hands-on art activities, for 498 schoolchildren.

...provided free community programs reaching over 12,500 individuals. These children and family members participated in Youth in Arts activities at absolutely no cost.

...reached a total of over 24,000 preschool through high school aged youth, helping the artists of tomorrow get their start today.

#### Thank You!

*For more information on our work and stories about the kids we reach, please visit our website at [youthinarts.org](http://youthinarts.org)*