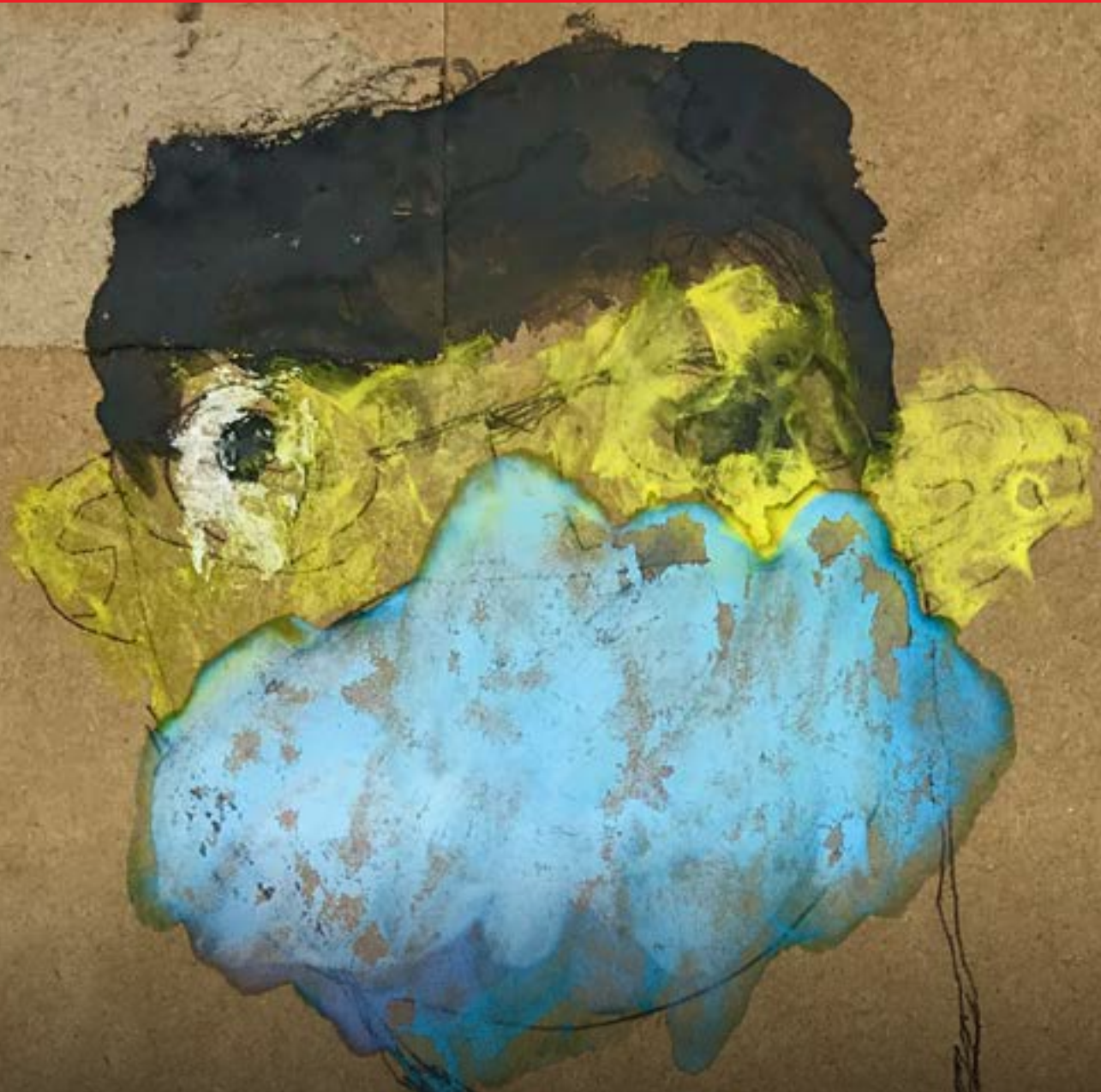


# Youth in Arts

LIVING & LEARNING IN A PANDEMIC WITH YOUTH IN ARTS

Artwork by Samuel Lopez - Boy with a mask during COVID, 2020 watercolor on brown paper - winner of the Congressional Art Contest for the Northern CA District



ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

[www.youthinarts.org](http://www.youthinarts.org)

# STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Youth in Arts' impact is most evident in the stories of those in our programs - our students and Mentor Artists. We invite you to hear from 4 individuals who share powerful anecdotes highlighting the broad-reaching effects of our work and mission.



## SAMUEL

Samuel, a long-time participant in our Arts Unite Us program for students with disabilities, was forced to quarantine at home as a result of the real medical risks of Covid. We wanted him, and all of our students in a similar situation, to understand that their voice always matters, and that their lived experiences can make them stronger. Through virtual learning, our AUU students were able to practice independence, self-expression, and choice-making through their own creative process.

## JASMINE

Jasmine, a 5th grade student at our pilot school, Laurel Dell Elementary in San Rafael, has participated in a myriad of Youth in Arts programs including visual arts, dance, and architecture since she was in Kindergarten. We have been a consistent force of creativity in her life and the pandemic didn't stop us from continuing to reach her. Hear more about how YIA has helped Jasmine grow and share her voice with confidence.

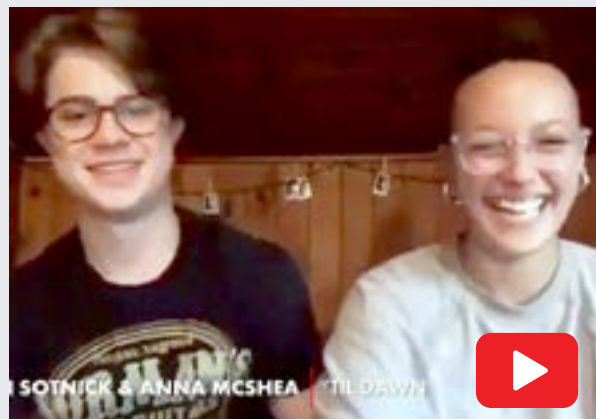


## ORIN

The pandemic didn't stop us from addressing social justice and racism in our community. Through our C-Street mentorship program, 10 selected emerging teen artists collaborated with Mentor Orin Carpenter to explore creative expression, engage in critical conversations, and create impactful artworks to share with the world. The group convened for 6 weeks of process and design, creating a collaborative public artwork to be built in early 2022.

## IAN & ANNA

One program that has undergone significant changes during the pandemic is our award-winning 'Til Dawn teen a cappella troupe, who persevered through Zoom rehearsals for more than a year! Since you cannot harmonize on the platform they shifted focus to wellness and grew their songwriting skills. The SING OUT scholarship fundraiser was hosted virtually and it was one of our most successful to date. 'Til Dawn auditions were held in our parking lot and we saw one of the largest turnouts in its 25 years. Hear from Anna McShea and Ian Sotnik about how 'Til Dawn offered a space to process the challenges of the pandemic.



# SUPPORTING STUDENTS' SOCIAL EMOTIONAL WELLNESS

When schools moved online, students were left with very little space in their school day to process the stress, trauma, and anxiety of this season of crisis. Providing a creative outlet offered them a direct line to joy, imagination, and anger processing. Youth in Arts was insistent that arts education was a part of their everyday experience - whether that be digital, hybrid, or in-person learning.



Our approach has always focused on supporting students' social emotional wellness, but that particular element of our work is more crucial than ever. Thanks to our custom built creative online resource, the YIArts.COR, we reached more than 14,000 students and individuals in a truly challenging and stressful time. The arts, specifically during Covid, offered students and families the opportunity to question the world around them - to be angry or sad; to imagine and dream. The time students spent on the YIArts.COR was often the only time they had to be creative in their new reality of a meshed home and school life. Having those moments to access information and emotion in a different way helped students to process living and learning in a pandemic world.

Now that Youth in Arts' mentor artists are able to be back in the classroom, we continue to offer our students opportunities to heal and grow through art. Our work focuses on sharing and community to help students rebuild after their extended isolation. Youth in Arts builds bridges and access to self expression; a critical key to the ongoing mental health of our youth as well as the re-opening and rejuvenation of our schools and communities.



# INNOVATION AT-A-GLANCE



**3,100** TK-5th grade students in San Rafael received access to full year of digital arts education



**500+** hours of arts education content created for our virtual learning platform, YIArts.COR



**25** Teaching Artists joined YIA as employees



**10** emerging youth artists collaborated to create a social justice mural



**100** supporters danced on C Street in front of YIA to celebrate 50 years of innovative arts education



**1,000** people met us at the Bay Area Discovery Museum for 6 weeks of dance and music performances



**14,000+** individuals reached through digital, hybrid, and in-person programs during a pandemic!

## SUPPORT YOUTH IN ARTS

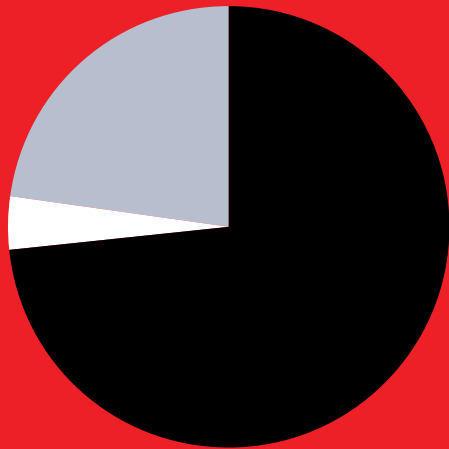
WE ARE GROWING, LEARNING, AND REACHING just like our students, and we cannot do it without you. Join us on our journey as we keep creativity in the classroom and recommit to the belief that the arts are for students of all backgrounds and abilities.

**DONATE**

# FINANCIALS\* 2020-2021

## \$344,277

Earned & Other Revenue



## \$399,841

Contributed Revenue



\*Unreviewed

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