

Performing Arts Workshop: Programs at a Glance



- **Artists-in-Schools** places artists in Bay Area public school classrooms, where they teach residencies in Creative Movement, Theater Arts, and World Dance for students from preschool through middle school. Children of all abilities enjoy an exhilarating and affirming introduction to artistic expression while building skills such as critical thinking, communication, cooperation, and aesthetic and kinetic awareness.
- **Artists-in-Community** serves young people with tailored arts instruction in settings such as after-school programs, transitional housing facilities, and county community or court schools. The goal is to utilize the arts to develop academic, critical thinking, and social skills as well as enhance efficacy by strengthening esteem, knowledge, and respect.
- **Professional Development Program** workshops give educators ways to strengthen concentration, enhance verbal and non-verbal communication skills, and encourage their students' participation and imagination through the arts. The program also offers artist internships that train artists to teach the creative process to young people using the Workshop's methodology. Internships provide mentorship and observation opportunities in conjunction with our Artists-in-Schools program.

For more information about our programs, please contact us at (415) 673-2634 or info@pawsf.org



Performing Arts Workshop
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San Francisco, CA 94123

WORKSHOP *Notes*

Newsletter of the Performing Arts Workshop • Fall 2003

Honoring a Lifetime of Dedication



Performing Arts Workshop's Founder, Gloria Unti, Honored for her Life Achievements at the 2003 WAVE Awards

On October 9, 2003, Gloria Unti, founder of the Performing Arts Workshop, received a lifetime achievement award at the 2003 GirlSource WAVE Awards Reception and Luncheon. Each year, the WAVE Award is presented to four exceptional women over the age of 70 who exemplify achievement, vision, and excellence.

Since 1960, Gloria Unti has dedicated herself to advancing the arts as a force for education, individual empowerment, and social change through her work in schools and community centers. Ms. Unti founded the Workshop in 1965 and continues to serve as a consultant and member of the Board of Directors. The energy and passion for the arts that has sustained Gloria throughout her life was evident at the WAVE reception. "We must keep the arts alive, we must struggle and fight for the rights of our children to have the arts in the curriculum. We must fight for the arts," Gloria exclaimed at the end of her remarks.

At the reception, a video presentation was shown, illustrating each awardee's journey of success. Gloria's story was one of inspiration and determination. Through her identification with at risk youth and her compassion for the arts, Gloria continues to live her life giving others what inspired and gave her direction at a young age.

Gloria was a little girl when she immigrated to the United States and did not speak much English. She was labeled a "challenged learner" and was placed in the back of the class. Gloria channeled her frustrations through sports but never felt like she had much talent until she learned to dance. Gloria discovered her passion and love for modern dance and has been sharing that zest with others for decades. Gloria found a personal sense of value in dance and discovered that she had a voice that was important. She shares that experience with other artists and challenges them to find their own voice: "What is it that

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The Workshop Voted Best of the Bay

In its 29th annual Best of the Bay awards, the 750,000 readers of the San Francisco Bay Guardian voted Performing Arts Workshop the Best Local Non-profit. The Guardian reported, "Our readers know the importance of dancing, writing, dressing up, and simply playing make-believe. Perhaps that's why they voted for Performing Arts Workshop as their favorite local nonprofit. The organization brings artists to schools so students can learn how to dance to world music or write a stellar satire. Its professional-development program lets teachers hone their own performing arts skills. There's nothing like a math teacher who can boogie."

"The San Francisco Bay Guardian's Best of the Bay Awards are a San Francisco tradition that we are thrilled to be a part of," said Tom DeCaigny, the Workshop's Executive Director. "We are honored that The Guardian's readers value our work and recognize the tremendous importance of bringing arts education into our city's schools."

The Guardian "Best of" idea originated in 1974 to celebrate the artists, poets, entertainment venues, politicians, nonprofits and businesses that make San Francisco one of the most vibrant cities in the world. The San Francisco Bay Guardian was founded to be an alternative to, and competitive with, the local daily newspapers. It has since become Northern California's largest circulation newsweekly. ■



Best Local Nonprofit

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City Funds To Support Arts Program at IMPACT Community High School

The San Francisco Juvenile Probation Department and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have awarded Performing Arts Workshop a grant to provide an arts integrated program at IMPACT Community High School and day treatment program. In collaboration with the San Francisco Family Service Agency, the San Francisco Unified School District and the Juvenile Probation Department, the Workshop is serving youth on probation with quality educational services. The purpose is to teach useful and creative problem solving skills through class discussions, writing exercises, topic-related field trips, service learning projects and other art-based projects.

IMPACT High currently serves 20-25 post-adjudicated youth who are committed to making positive changes in their lives by getting off probation and returning to a traditional academic setting. The Workshop's project will teach creative writing, drama, and visual art as independent disciplines as well as use the arts to enhance the teaching of established curricula. The arts/academic integrated program helps encourage students to explore and discover academic subjects in a meaningful and creative way and enables students to acquire skills to express themselves through traditional and non-traditional communication.

Workshop teachers have learned through experience at the Robeson and Rivera Academy to create alternative arts-integrated lesson plans for traditional academic subjects in order to address the needs of diverse learners. For example, artists initiated lessons such as "The Science of Spinning" where students examined the electrical systems of DJ equipment, and "The History of Hip-Hop Music/Culture," which involved using contemporary music as a way to study 20th-century African-American history and the poets of the Harlem renaissance. ■

NEA Recognizes the Workshop's Commitment to Special Education

The National Endowment for the Arts has granted \$10,000 to Performing Arts Workshop in support of three special education programs it offers through CultureCore. CultureCore is a consortium of eight arts providers who have promoted arts education in San Francisco schools with support, for the past 10 years, from the Department of Children, Youth and Their Families. The Workshop provides in-school programs in movement, theater, dance and visual arts to CultureCore participants.

The grant is given in recognition of the work done by Performing Arts Workshop and will be used to evaluate, document and disseminate the successful results of the program, as well as evaluate participating artists. Ai Tamanaha, Performing Arts Workshop's Program Director, speaking on behalf of CultureCore, said, "We value the strong CultureCore collaboration and the support that has strengthened our special education residencies over many years. We are grateful for our school partnerships that allow our services to reach a wide range of students with special needs." ■



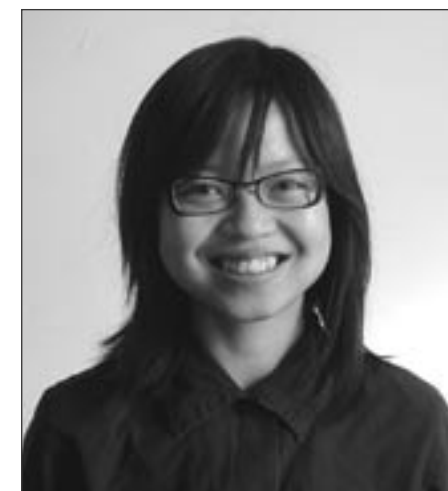
Students in a special education class at Yick Wo Elementary School

The Workshop Welcomes Three New Staff Members



Katie Heindel, who worked as the Recreation Coordinator at the Paul Robeson and Diego Rivera Academy, joined the staff of the Performing Arts Workshop as the part-time Development Assistant in August 2003. Her duties span from public relations to marketing and research. In addition to her duties at the Workshop, Katie is studying for her PhD at the California School of Professional Psychology and working at the Art Institute of California as a Student Success Instructor. Katie is thrilled to be working again with Performing Arts Workshop.

Thien Lam joined the Workshop as a Program Assistant in November 2003. Before joining the Workshop, Thien was the Arts Education Program Assistant at the San Francisco Arts Commission. She has played numerous roles in the arts arena and has worked with various non-profit arts organizations both in the Bay Area and in New York City, from which she originally hails. Thien's responsibilities at the Workshop will include program support for Artists-in-Schools, Artists-in-Community, and the Professional Development Program, as well as assistance with artistic management, community outreach, marketing, and general operations. Thien holds a B.A. degree from Williams College.



Maricela Leon-Barrera joined the Workshop in November 2003 as the Arts Instructor at Impact Community High School. She currently teaches History, Drama, and Creative Writing, while incorporating the Workshop's mission for providing basic learning and critical thinking skills, as well as an outlet for creative expression through the arts. Maricela is a native San Franciscan who went through the City's public school system and obtained her B.A. from UC Berkeley, where she majored in Ethnic Studies and minored in Education. She has dedicated her time mentoring, teaching and advising youth of all ages in various settings, including the Academic Talent Development Program, the Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts and serving as UC Berkeley's School/University Partnership Advisor at Mission High School. She is committed to serving the needs of San Francisco youth and is an advocate for Bay area arts programs.

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you want to say? Put it out in front and make that powerful. Make it a personal statement." Gloria's tenacious attitude and triumphant story inspires all who have a passion and vision for the arts.

At the award ceremony, Gloria resisted the attention the WAVE award brought to her and insisted that the Workshop deserved the award. "I can't separate myself from the Workshop. That is where my heart is. It is the commitment that is so beautiful. We have an extraordinary staff. I want to thank the staff for their dedication, intelligence, and the creative energy they have given to all the children," she said. Her dedication and belief in the Workshop is clearly evident, and Gloria's humble demeanor and gracious heart is why the Performing Arts Workshop is such a success today.

GirlSource, the host of the WAVE awards, is a nonprofit organization that provides meaningful leadership and paid employment opportunities for low-income young women 14-18 years old. The purpose of the WAVE awards is to link older women to the next generation. The young women who participate with GirlSource were inspired by the accomplishments of the WAVE award honorees. ■

In Memory of Michael Pegues

Performing Arts Workshop would like to recognize the generous donations made in memory of longtime friend, Michael Pegues. Michael was a composer and singer who studied under Workshop founder, Gloria Unti, at the Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center. Ms. Unti remembers Michael for his kind spirit and high energy. We will miss him and his contribution to the art community, and thank everyone who donated to the Workshop on his behalf. ■

Buffalo Exchange Dollar Sale

We would like to thank the Buffalo Exchange, LTD, for making the Performing Arts Workshop a benefactor of the dollar sale at their two San Francisco stores. The Buffalo Exchange is a clothing store that buys, sells, and trades retail items. In September, the Buffalo Exchange raised \$620 to be used for the general operations. Thanks, Buffalo Exchange! ■