

P.A.W. 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.
- **Professional Development Workshops** give educators ways to strengthen concentration, enhance verbal and non-verbal communication skills, and encourage their students' participation and imagination through the arts.
- **Artist Internships** train artists to teach the creative process to young people using P.A.W.'s methodology. Internships provide mentorship and observation opportunities in conjunction with our Artists-in-Schools program.
- **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 self-efficacy by strengthening self-esteem, self-knowledge, and self-respect.

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



Performing Arts Workshop
Fort Mason Center, C-265
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WORKSHOP *Notes*

Newsletter of the Performing Arts Workshop



Winter 2003

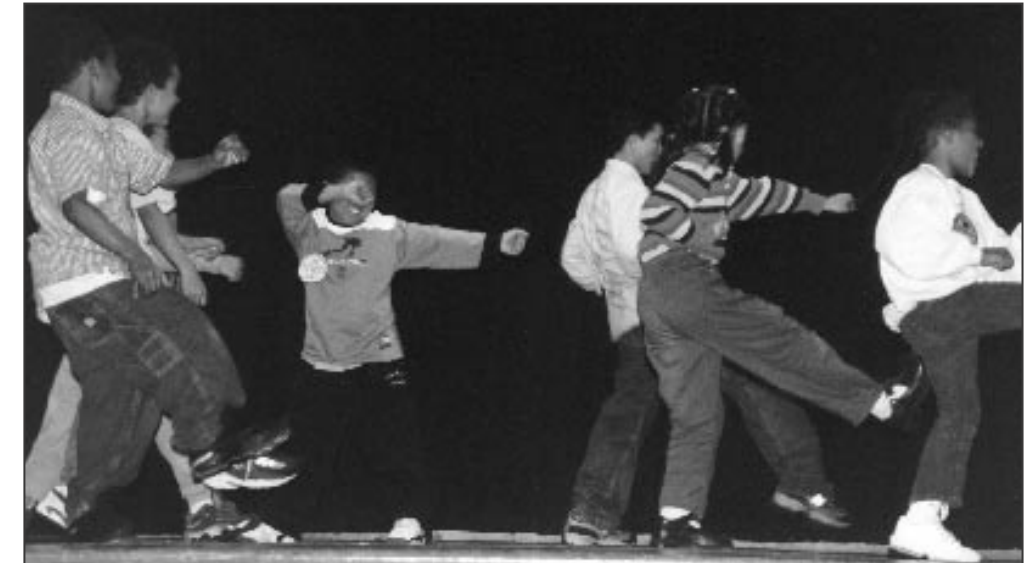
Artists-in-Community Program Reaches Youth in At-Risk Communities

Performing Arts Workshop's work with youth in at-risk communities has grown over the past few years, reaching an ever-larger number of under-served young people in locations outside the traditional public school environment. P.A.W. is serving these youth through after-school arts programs, our work in transitional housing facilities, and arts and education programming in county community or court schools. In order to better accommodate these expanding services outside of traditional public school settings, P.A.W. has formally established the Artists-in-Community Program (AIC).

The AIC program will serve young people in at-risk communities with tailored arts instruction. The goal is to utilize the arts to develop academic, critical thinking, and social skills as well as enhance self-efficacy by strengthening self-esteem, self-knowledge, and self-respect. Gary Draper, Performing Arts Workshop's Artistic Director, reports "this is an opportunity to do what P.A.W. does best, provide meaningful art experiences for the most under-served population of young people. Gloria Unti (P.A.W.'s founder) started this work at Telegraph Hill Community Center in 1955, and her long-standing commitment to social justice is reflected in the evolution of our current teaching methodology."

One of the new AIC program sites in 2003 is Impact Community High School in San Francisco, a community day school for truant youth who are involved in the juvenile justice system. P.A.W., with generous support from the Zellerbach Family Fund, was invited by the San Francisco Juvenile Probation Department to collaborate with Family Services Agency and the SF Unified School District to bring a semester-long curriculum of integrated arts services to 20 young people.

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Youth participating in a P.A.W. residency as part of the Richmond District After School Collaborative

P.A.W. Investigates the Role of Art in Learning

Performing Arts Workshop, with funding from the California Arts Council (CAC), is assessing its work in San Francisco public school classrooms. Over the past three years, Dr. Richard Seigesmund has assisted P.A.W. in developing two rubrics, or evaluation forms, that allow P.A.W. staff, working with the classroom teacher, to gauge the success of its teaching methodology. The 2002-2003 school year evaluation is taking place in two elementary schools and a community school for youth on probation. Further, the assessment will examine two types of teaching—that done "in the arts" and "through the arts."

Teaching "in the arts" refers directly to teaching artistic disciplines—dance, theatre, and/or creative movement. Teaching "through the arts" is the use of the arts to provide instruction in other core subjects,

such as language arts, social studies, and mathematics. When teaching "through the arts", the Performing Arts Workshop artist works closely with the classroom teacher to develop a lesson plan that will deliver the curriculum content in an original and creative way, making the core subject accessible to all students.

Currently, Performing Arts Workshop conducts assessments at Mission Education Center Elementary School, a school for newcomer children who are beginning English Learners, at John Muir Elementary School, whose students come largely from low-income families, and at Impact Community High School, a collaborative community day high school for juvenile offenders. P.A.W. sends artists to each school, and randomly selects six children from each class to participate in the assess-

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Visit the P.A.W. Web site! www.pawsf.org

Performing Arts Workshop (P.A.W.) is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping young people develop critical thinking, creative expression, and basic learning skills through the arts.

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Performing Arts Workshop Asks--and Receives More

In December 2002, The St. Paul Companies, Inc. Foundation and the Insurance Industry Charitable Fund (IICF) awarded Performing Arts Workshop a \$10,000 unrestricted grant. The gift is twice the amount requested and was awarded "in recognition of the excellent services P.A.W. provides to the community." Karen Chin, CEO of the IICF pointed out that "these grants are given to carefully selected non-profits that provide exceptional programs." The grant will support the organization's Artist-in-Schools program.

Performing Arts Workshop's Executive Director, Tom DeCaigny, said, "I feel heartened, in this era of budget cuts, to have the value of our work and our unique methodology affirmed by this generous grant. We will use it to advance our mission—to help young people develop critical thinking, creative expression and basic learning skills through the arts."

Performing Arts Workshop's Artists-in-Schools program provides students of diverse backgrounds, talents, and abilities with dynamic, first-hand experiences in drama, creative writing, music, and creative movement. Classes take place in the public schools and emphasize the development of children's social, language, and motor skills in an exhilarating and affirming environment.

The St. Paul Companies, Inc is a 150 year old, Minnesota based, company providing property-liability insurance to businesses and other organizations—from sole proprietors to Fortune 500 companies.

The Insurance Industry Charitable Fund (IICF), of which St. Paul Companies is a member, is a donor directed fund of the East Bay Community Foundation. It is the IICF's mission to bring California's insurance industry together to encourage local, in-depth community grants and participation. The IICF strives to be more than a "check-giver" by encouraging volunteerism through its annual award-winning Bridge Week program as well as by providing mentoring and community visibility. ■

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Artists Anne-E Wood and Beth Robinson, who have significant experience and success working with at-risk youth at the Robeson and Rivera Academy, are currently teaching at Impact High. They are working with Impact teaching staff to integrate creative writing, music therapy, and Augusto Boal's Forum Theatre techniques into the more traditional language arts and math curriculum. The students will also work hands-on with projects that offer practical experience in the arts including a CD recording, marketing project, and a screenplay writing workshop.

Another new AIC site funded by the Zellerbach Family Fund is the Rock La Fleche County Community Day High School in Oakland. Rock La Fleche serves expelled youth, many of whom are in the foster care and juvenile justice systems and who have gang affiliations, substance abuse issues, and other pre-delinquent behaviors. P.A.W. was invited by the Alameda County Office of Education to provide four 23-week residencies, including four hours per week in Creative Writing/Theatre Arts taught by Anne-E Wood and two hours per week of Hip-Hop movement taught by Elizabeth Matlack. In total, P.A.W. is serving 40 students. Other existing AIC sites include the Hamilton Family Center, a transitional housing facility in San Francisco, and various after-school sites as part of the Richmond District After School Collaborative. There are currently plans for expanding the program to other San Francisco and Oakland sites in 2004. ■



St. Paul Companies also sponsored the IICF Recipient Reception, pictured here, which allows non-profit representatives to meet IICF Board members and other community leaders. P.A.W. Executive Director, Tom DeCaigny, and Founder, Gloria Unti, are shown with Clark Johnson, a member of the IICF Executive Committee.

Experienced Non-Profit Professional Joins P.A.W. Board

Matt Florence, Director of TechSoup, a project of CompuMentor, has recently joined the P.A.W. Board of Directors. CompuMentor is a national organization that provides technology information and assistance to non-profits. Additionally, TechSoup works with corporations to give donations of technology products to community organizations.

Prior to coming to San Francisco, Matt worked for several non-profit agencies in Boston, including serving as Executive Director of MOCAA, a people of color GLBT organization, the AIDS Housing Corporation, and starting Citizens Against Homophobia. While living in Boston, he also served on several non-profit boards and advisory boards.



Matt Florence

Matt joined Performing Arts Workshop's board of directors because the arts have been a source of personal growth for him. He feels that the artistic expression he learned in grade school was incredibly valuable and that "by being on the board of P.A.W. I am able to use my experience in non-profit management to help ensure that others have similar means of developing and expressing themselves."

Matt is a Tennessee native and holds a degree in social anthropology from Harvard University. In his spare time he writes and is a self-proclaimed "crackerjack card player." ■

ASSESSMENT - Continued from page 1

ment. Six children from a class not receiving P.A.W. instruction are also selected as a control group for the study. The evaluation is based on interviews with the children, written and verbal feedback from the artists and teachers, classroom observations, and completion of two rubric forms.

The first rubric is designed to analyze and document the students' prelinguistic skill development in the areas of Resistance, Perception, Conception, Expression, Reflection, and Re-vision. The second rubric is a teaching assessment and provides an opportunity for teachers and artists to evaluate their classroom performance as well as for P.A.W.'s Artistic Director, Gary Draper, to analyze the quality of teaching. Class dynamics, aesthetic valuing, lesson plan structure, analytic skills and class management are some of the criteria for the classroom teacher assessment. The feedback allows P.A.W. to develop specific training to address teaching techniques.

This is the third year of P.A.W.'s assessment of student learning in the arts and the second year of support by the CAC. The CAC, through the Arts Education Demonstration Project, is interested in showing how model arts programs improve learning for all students. As a result of past assessment, Performing Arts Workshop has been successful in developing its teaching methodology, improving overall student performance in the classroom, and disseminating its model methodology to new schools. ■

Generous Contributions Give the Gift of Creativity



Performing Arts Workshop's annual end-of-the-year fundraiser, the Holiday Campaign, has so far raised \$8,443 for the organization. Thanks to our loyal supporters and some new friends, we will be able to provide 10 additional residencies for Bay Area public schools. Residencies are what we call our 15-week series of challenging and fun classes in creative movement, theater arts, and world dance. These residencies provide children of all abilities the opportunity to develop essential skills of critical thinking, communication, cooperation, and aesthetic and kinetic awareness.

The Board of Directors has made growing the size of the P.A.W. circle of friends one of its priorities. In this time of diminished public funding and restricted foundation grant making, we want those individuals who believe, as we do, that every child deserves to experience the transformative power of arts education, to join our cause. By enlarging our base of support, we reach further into the community, building a stronger foundation to expand the work we do, and ultimately enabling us to reach more young people. We hope to make every one of our donors and supporters an ambassador for P.A.W. and the miracle that arts education can be in young people's lives.

Your contribution gives our children the powerful gift of creativity. It is a gift that will give back to them for a lifetime.