

Performing Arts Workshop
Fort Mason Center, C-265
San Francisco, CA 94123



Performing Arts Workshop: Programs at a Glance



Photo by Al Tamanaha

- > **Artists-in-Schools** places artists in Bay Area public school classrooms, where they teach residencies in Creative Movement, Theater Arts, World Dance, Music, and Creative Writing 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@pawfs.org

WORKSHOP *Notes*

Newsletter of the Performing Arts Workshop • Winter 2004



Photo by Al Tamanaha

Performing Arts Workshop Dreams Big After Receiving National Award from the U.S. Department of Education

THE endless possibilities ran through our minds as we anticipated the phone call. Was it the United States Department of Education? Did we receive the grant? The grant we applied for was The Arts in Education Model Development and Dissemination Grant, an award aimed at strengthening arts education in public schools. Our proposal advocated for the expansion of arts education services to economically disadvantaged Bay Area youth, a goal of the Workshop from its inception.

We knew the Department of Education had received 211 applications and only 34 were to be chosen for the national award. Our proposal requested approximately \$200,000 a year for three years to support the Artists-in-Schools (AIS) Demonstration Project, an initiative of our existing AIS program. The goals of the Demonstration Project are to:

- Improve student critical thinking in the arts
- Use the arts to positively impact general academic performance
- Identify effective strategies for teaching at-risk youth
- Use the arts to develop pro-social behavior
- Institutionalize arts and arts education in public school settings

On October 22, 2003, we received a letter from Democratic Congresswoman, Nancy Pelosi, congratulating us on being one of the recipients of the Model Development and Dissemination Grant Program. We celebrated the national recognition of our AIS program model and began to implement services immediately.

With this funding, the Workshop is improving the academic performance of 840 economically disadvantaged inner-city students with an effective 'in' and 'through' the arts curriculum. In addition, we are building on two years of scientific research and evaluation, while documenting achievements of our curriculum model and developing resources and tools for educators.

This grant helps us reach more youth with our services and advances our mission of helping young people develop critical thinking, creative expression, and basic learning skills through the arts. We are extremely grateful for this opportunity to share our successes with a national audience of educators. ■

Electronic Newsletter Coming Soon!



We are excited to announce that in addition to our current newsletter we will begin publishing an electronic newsletter this spring. Our hope is that those of you who use e-mail regularly will help us save costs by switching over to the electronic version. **Please send your name and current e-mail address to Katie Heindel at info@pawfs.org.** We will continue to send out our paper newsletter until further notice. Thank you for your support in this transition!

Making the Arts Matter

CALIFORNIA is a state of vibrant art and diverse culture. Whether a major cultural festival, a small poetry gathering, or a single artist working with fourth graders in a local school, the arts contribute to the health of our state in many ways: arts education for children, economic vitality through jobs, commerce, and cultural tourism, and a visible demonstration of cultural diversity and city pride.

But now, with drastic cuts by the Legislature to the California Arts Council (CAC), the agency that funds excellence in arts and culture, California's culture of creativity is threatened. The agency's budget was slashed by 94% from \$18 million to a meager \$1 million. That equates to less than three cents per person in the state and puts California dead last in per capita ranking in the nation. By comparison, New York allocates more than \$2.00 per person; the national average is \$1.10.

As a result of the cuts, the agency suspended its grant programs for the first time in its history and the largest Artists in Schools Residence program in the nation ceased to exist. Last year, 1,310 artists and arts

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 Fort Mason Center, C-265
 San Francisco, CA 94123
 phone: 415.673.2634
 fax: 415.776.3644
 info@pawsf.org
 www.pawsf.org

Graphic Designer: Seth Goldstein
 Contributing Writer: Katie Heindel

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Founder/Consultant: Gloria Unti
 Executive Director: Tom DeCaigny
 Artistic Director: Gary Draper
 Program Director: Ai Tamanaha
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Teachers and Artists explore kinesthetic learning at a U.S. Department of Education sponsored workshop | Photo by Ai Tamanaha

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organizations, including Performing Arts Workshop, received grants from the CAC to carry out their work, thereby enhancing the quality of life in California. These grants enabled artists to work in their communities teaching valuable and much-needed skills such as creative thinking, team-building, and promoting awareness of other cultures. The skills are the precise ones employers are seeking for the workforce of the 21st century. These grants also enabled organizations to positively contribute to California’s cultural fabric. Additionally, these funds provided additional dollars for many organizations by means of matching requirements.

With reduced funding from the state, as well as foundations, corporations, and individual donations, and losses from ticket sales from canceled performances, many arts organizations formerly funded by the CAC are now at risk for their survival. The organizations most susceptible are those small- and medium-budget organizations serving California’s diverse populations and those in rural counties. With no majority population, California represents one of the most diverse states in the nation with residents representing a wide variety of cultures, customs, and communities. While the agency strives for equity in its grant programs, because of suspension of grants, multicultural groups are disproportionately feeling the cuts with greater emphasis.

However, there is hope for all of these areas.

With your help, we can keep the California dream alive for thousands of young people, artists, and average Californians by urging your local elected officials to restore funding to the CAC to a meaningful level. If you don’t know your elected representative, go to the California Arts Council Web sit (www.cac.ca.gov) and locate him or her by typing in your zip code. Call, write, or fax your state senator, Assembly member, and the governor and tell them you are a concerned constituent who cares deeply about this issue. Success in restoring meaningful funding to the California Arts Council lies in your effective communication with your representatives. Tell them how you feel and don’t let arts, culture, and creativity become tarnished in the Golden State. ■

Performing Arts Workshop to Benefit from Princeton “Triangle” Events

ON March 13 and 15, 2004, the Princeton Club of Northern California will present Princeton University’s legendary musical, comedy revue, “Ding the Triangle”, as a benefit for Performing Arts Workshop. The show, a celebration of youthful spirit and hope, is composed of completely original material reflecting the interests and tastes of today’s college students. It is the “quintessence of youthful irreverence”. The performances promise to be evenings of good fun and good fortune for the Workshop. ■

We look forward to seeing you there –reserve your tickets now!

Saturday, March 13 Carol Channing Theater, Lowell High School 1101 Eucalyptus, San Francisco	Shows start at 8:00 pm (PG-13) \$10 students/\$15 Adults Informal reception afterward
Monday, March 15 Osher Marin JCC, Hoytt Theater, 200 N. San Pedro Road, San Rafael	Mail check payable to PCNC, 267 Locust Ave, San Rafael, CA 94901 Questions? Phone orders? Contact Von Bloom at (415) 243- 2286 or ybloom@lpslaw.com

JustGive: A Unique Way to Give Online

DID you know that you can support Performing Arts Workshop with a click of your mouse? JustGive.org, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to connect people with the charities and causes they care about and to increase overall giving, offers innovative ways to support the Workshop. You can register the Workshop as a place where friends and family can make a gift donation for your wedding. Or you can create your own Charity Wish List so friends and family members know what charities to donate to in your name. You can also find your friends Wish List and make gift donations to their favorite charities. Or you can simply make a donation directly to the Workshop. You can find JustGive on our website at www.pawsf.org/support.html and look for the graphic above. ■



**UPCOMING EVENTS
 FEATURING WORKSHOP ARTISTS**

Takami Craddock - Performing Arts Workshop Artist
 & Toumei MoBu (Modern Butoh) Dance Group
 “Footprints Lost in Sand III”
 Benefit Performance on March 6th @ 8pm
 Yugen/Noh Space (2840 Mariposa St @ Florida St., San Francisco)
 Followed by “Appreciation Party” discussion & feedback
 \$15 & up or any donation will be appreciated

Main Performance:
 May 13, 14, 15, 21 & 22
 8 pm @ Yugen/Noh Space
 \$15
 Information & Reservations: (415) 621-7978

Upcoming Events is a new, ongoing section of our newsletter, announcing Workshop artists’ performances in the Bay Area.

The following poem was written by Jasmine, a talented creative writer and a sophomore at Impact Community High School. The piece was inspired by a writing assignment in a class taught by Maricela Leon-Barrera, the Performing Arts Workshop Lead Arts Instructor at the school.

I am Jasmine

I am from my mother’s womb,
 Where the sperm met the egg
 and made the baby, me
 My mother waited nine months to see me

I am from Africa,
 where all African Americans were at one time
 where now my distant relatives are starving
 Many have no clean water to drink

I am from Louisiana,
 where when it gets hot,
 it gets hotter than gumbo
 where people eat lots of spicy food,
 where people love to have a parade

I am from the planet Earth,
 where all the humans live,
 where it’s not hot like the sun,
 where it’s not cold like Jupiter,
 where we only dream about beings from other
 worlds

I am from dust
 and I am from stars,
 where everything that ever was, –was
 And so then,
 am I