In Spring 2016, Youth in Arts celebrated our 45th Anniversary—and the milestone of reaching the “one million students served” mark—with a grand “Travel the World” themed gala supporting programs for PreK-12 students of all abilities in the North Bay.

This was the largest gala fundraising event ever hosted by Youth in Arts, and we were able to raise over $30,000 to support our PreK-12 programs for students. Fund-A-Need auction bidding allowed us to expand the Walker Rezaian Creative Hearts Kindergarten Arts Program to a second site in the 2017-18 school year.

Held at the Marin Center in San Rafael, the event featured the traveling installation of our 2016 “Rising Stars” Marin County High School Art Show, along with “Travel the World” demonstrations by our diverse roster of Mentor Artists. Among the highlights, June Li created a giant-scale art piece showing young artists’ work featured and exhibited at YIA Gallery in downtown San Rafael;...gave 2,200 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 local schoolchildren;...provided free programs reaching over 36,000 individuals in total. These children and family members participated in Youth in Arts activities at absolutely no cost;...showcased 150 works of art by high school students from nearly every school in the county at the “Rising Stars” Marin High School Art Show;...helped us celebrate our 45th anniversary in the year our total students served reached the one million child mark.

Thank You!

For more information on our work and stories about the kids we reach, please visit our website at youthinarts.org.
Engaging Community

The Walker Rezaian Creative HeArts Kindergarten Arts Program

Each year, kindergarteners at a selected low-income school in Marin receive a visual arts program plus family workshops and an exhibit and celebration at Youth in Arts. This amazing opportunity comes through the generosity of the Walker Rezaian Creative HeArts Fund, established at Youth in Arts by 5 year-old Walker’s family, to celebrate his life and love of the arts.

In 2015-16, Laurel Dell students worked with Mentor Artist Suzanne Joyal to learn drawing, painting, mixing colors, working in three dimensions and more. Fifteen giant Guatemalan kites created at Family Art Nights added beauty to the whole school.

A gallery exhibit at Youth in Arts featured the kindergarteners self-portraits in a fanciful recycled cardboard “art world” focused on a “weather” theme linked to class curriculum.

All Laurel Dell K classes visited the gallery to play, create and celebrate their artistic accomplishments. With support from donors at our 45th Anniversary Gala, we will be able to expand this wonderful program to two sites in 2016-17!

Finding a Voice

A Visual and Performing Artist Shines through “I AM” Programs

Youth in Arts “Intensive Arts Mentorship” (I AM) programs amplify the creative voices of a new generation of young artists. Siena Starbird, a junior at Marin Academy, joined “Til Dawn as a new member in Spring 2016. Siena has also been twice featured in the “Rising Stars” Marin County High School Art Show at YIA Gallery, winning prizes both years and “Best in Show for Painting” in 2016. As a participant in C Street Project, our I AM program for visual arts teens, Siena helped to create a featured square at Italian Street Painting Marin 2016. We look forward to hearing and seeing much more from Siena as she continues to grow and learn, as an artist and a young leader in her community.

Reaching All Learners

A Mentor Artist Innovates to Provide Access

When she came to our “Arts Unite Us” program last year, Katie Issel Pitre was an experienced opera, creative movement and theatre artist who had worked with students of all ages. However, she had never experienced a Special Day Classroom (SDC) serving children with disabilities. Katie attended a YIA artist training and learned from our staff artists how to create Visual Cue Boards, common felt board tools for communicating with students who struggle to process spoken instructions.

Katie quickly took her cue boards to a new level with her “Arts Unite Us” students in SDCs at Olive and Edna Maguire schools. In each class, she led students through a series of interactive, improvisational songs. She created a cue board specific to each song, making new felt icons by hand between classes, based on students’ additions to the songs. As she pulled each piece out of her bag, students were thrilled to see their parts of the story included.

In one class at Edna Maguire, Katie carried the board to a 9-year-old boy with Cerebral Palsy. Although mostly immobile, he leaned over to touch the bus cord to “stop the bus” (and the song) and then touched the cord again start it up again...all to squeals of delight from the class.

Katie has earned rave reviews from classroom teachers. Her innovative approach and her calm, yet strong presence help her empower students of all abilities to learn and share their creativity.
**“Travel the World” with Youth in Arts**

**Kids Learn Art Skills and the Value of Diversity**

The Artists in Schools “Travel the World” program fills gaps in children’s arts learning at school while introducing them to cultures around the world. As just one example from the past year, at Laurel Dell School, Mentor Artist Shawna Alapai’i taught traditional hula music and dance across the grade levels.

Children were able to see Shawna’s professional company perform traditional hula at their school. Then, with support from the California Arts Council, children worked in class with Shawna over multiple weeks to learn Hawaiian songs, dances and stories.

They created a grand performance at Laurel Dell’s popular “Del Sol” Spring festival. Family and friends were able to enjoy the children’s formal procession and class-by-class music and dance performances.

Shawna was just one of over 40 mentor artists helping students “Travel the World” through the arts last year. Great work, Shawna. Mahalo! (Thank you!)

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**“Art lifts up our spirit.”**

—Laurel Dell student

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**“My heritage is Black, Cherokee, and Passamaquoddy. My dad is white. I am from no one race. I am a pot stirred with greens and blues and rich waters to become café au lait brown...I am an artist. I am from everywhere and nowhere.”**

—Siena Starbird, I AM workshop reflection

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**“I see you, I respect you, I acknowledge your energy and presence.”**

—Mentor Artist Katie Issel Pitre at the end of each class session
**2015-16 Youth in Arts Donors...**

- provided nearly 18,000 PreK-12 students with over 2,000 hours of creative visual and performing arts instruction and experiences;
- produced interactive family events for 6,250 parents and children to make and share art together;
- enabled 7,000 children to “Travel the World” with artists from around the globe offering authentic experiences in world art forms;
- funded programs for 1,200 students of differing abilities through our unique “Arts Unite Us” model;
- empowered ‘Til Dawn A Cappella to inspire an audience of 27,900 people, including over 10,000 other youth, with their powerful music;
- gave 2,200 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 local schoolchildren;
- provided free programs reaching over 40,000 individuals in total. These children and family members participated in Youth in Arts activities at absolutely no cost;
- showcased 150 works of art by high school students from nearly every school in the county at the “Rising Stars” Marin High School Art Show;
- helped celebrate our 45th anniversary in the year our total students served reached the one million child mark.

**Thank You!**

For more information on our work and stories about the kids we teach, please visit our website at youthinarts.org.

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**Youth in Arts Staff and Board of Directors**

**Staff**

- Miko Lee Executive Director
- Austin Willacy ‘Til Dawn
- Carol Slucum Financial Controller
- Jen Daly Communications/Development
- Suzanne Joyal Artists in Schools
- Morgan Schueller Program Manager

**Board**

- Deb Bennett
- Naom Tamura
- Susan Feder
- Kele Gasparini
- Bruce Hopper
- Rich Storek
- Linda Sudduth
- Maura Tokarski
- Sheila Tuffanelli

**Plus many dedicated donors under $500**

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**Fiscal Year 2015-16**

**Celebrating Our History and Envisioning Our Future**

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A global-themed dinner from An Affair To Remember Catering, a live auction of travel packages, and music from ‘Til Dawn A Cappella rounded out the evening. We are so grateful to our 45th Anniversary sponsors, especially our lead sponsor the Buck Family Fund of the Marin Community Foundation, and to all the students, artists, friends and supporters who made our anniversary celebration possible. Thank you!