

Youth in Arts®

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YOUTH IN ARTS WELCOMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SAN RAFAEL, CA – Youth in Arts is thrilled to welcome new Executive Director **Kristen Jacobson**, who brings a wealth of experience and a background in the performing arts and arts education.



Photo Credit: Stephen Texeira

Jacobson, who lives in Novato with her family, is looking forward to working in the Marin community to improve arts access to students who need it the most.

“Art is a social justice issue,” she said. “This is my home and I’m excited to be living here and working hard to bring arts programming to all learners.”

Jacobson is an arts leader, educator, and program designer dedicated to the accessibility of arts education for diverse populations. She came to Youth in Arts from **Alonzo King LINES Ballet**, where as Managing Director of Education, she led initiatives to expand LINES’ programs that promote individuality, creativity and communication through dance and movement learning. Under her leadership, LINES education programs experienced significant growth,

success and impact. Jacobson also serves on the board of the **Arts Education Alliance of the Bay Area** as well as **San Francisco Unified School District’s Arts Education Master Plan** advisory committee. She started at Youth in Arts in early November.

“We are excited to have Kristen join us,” said Youth in Arts Board President Naomi Tamura. “Her leadership style, and dynamic personality is well-suited to build off of the great strides Youth in Arts has made in arts education and advocacy. We are eager to have her lead us to even higher levels in developing young artists of all abilities.”

Prior to her time at LINES and in the Bay Area, Kristen served as the Youth & Community Programs Manager for **Hubbard Street Dance Chicago**, where she was responsible for developing and implementing Hubbard Street’s Youth Dance Program from its inception. She was also instrumental in developing the Adaptive Dance Program, leading the Parkinson’s Project, managing school partnerships and residency program, teaching artist development, family programming as well as

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community partnerships with the [Art Institute of Chicago](#), [Chicago Symphony Orchestra](#), [Chicago Botanic Garden](#), [Museum of Contemporary Art](#) and cultural institutions across Chicago.

With a long history as an arts educator, Kristen's experience prior to Hubbard Street includes work for [Metropolis Performing Arts Centre](#), [Free Street Theater](#), [Chicago Human Rhythm Project](#) and LABCO Dance Company in Pittsburgh. She holds a bachelor's degree in Musical Theater and Dance from Point Park University's Conservatory of Performing Arts and a master's degree in arts in Youth and Community Development from Columbia College Chicago.

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