

YOUNG IMAGINATIONS

Placing Music and Dance at the Core of the Educational Process



Young Imaginations and the Educational Process

Who we are and our contributions to society are an extension and summation of the values and experiences gathered during our childhoods. As adults, it is important to think and reflect about our roots and foundations in the midst of our busy schedules. We must not forget, and should often reflect, if we are to preserve the quality of our culturally diverse democracy and our values for future generations.

The quality of culture and human interaction continues to be compromised as we migrate to the reliance on social media, new technology gadgets and so on. Beyond technology and gadgets, society's core priorities are being challenged, as evident with the continuing struggle our educational system experiences due to budget cuts. We cannot compromise the quality of public education.

At Young Imaginations we realize that even the best planning will fall short of excellence in implementation if we do not pay close attention to what is happening at each school site on every occasion. Educational equity, the ability to work with the needs of children of diverse cultures, and knowledge of child development are the foundations of Young Imaginations' educational work. Our foundations empower our teachers and staff to face changes in society, to grow, and to learn how to best teach children in our rapidly changing society.

We take pride in our 25-year history and in the work of our past four years despite the prolonged budget crisis. Our Young Imaginations supporters have helped us to remain strong over the last 25 years and to be leaders in educational reform. The arts have helped us to become creative adults and Young Imaginations remains dedicated to the mission of "placing the arts at the core of the educational process."

Valerie Jane Chua, Executive Director
Alan Scofield, Founding Director

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CONSULTANTS

Sandi Andersen-Tarica, IT
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 Marianne, Locke, Programs
 David Martin, Webmaster
 Sandra Reinhardt, CPA

ANNUAL PARTICIPANT AVERAGE

6,000-7,000 Students
 32-40 Schools
 18-22 Arts Educators

INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS ARE KEY

Thousands of children in northern California schools have participated in diverse model projects inspired by Young Imaginations mission to “place the arts at the core of the educational process.”

Most recently, a rural school on the southern slope of Mount Shasta became the site for testing how communities and schools work together to benefit children. Approximately 85 students annually have participated in a 15-session curriculum of music/dance/drama that has included three or more community performances each year since 2006. During 2011-2012, the program included the McCloud Preschool, McCloud Elementary School for grades K-8, and the SAFE after-school program. Choral concerts, instrumental programs and a school play brought schoolchildren and the community together.

A key component of the McCloud model is the deep commitment of the community to the children’s participation in performing arts. The Chamber of Commerce, local businesses, media, and the entire school staff work together with Young Imaginations team of three arts educators. This involvement has ignited interest and funding support, with the promise of a grant to McCloud School from The McConnell Foundation for a state-of-the-art sound system and thousands of dollars in individual and corporate donations to replace the loss of funding for public school programs.

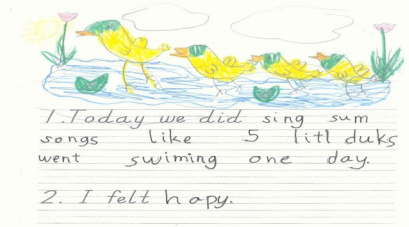
In 2012-2013, Young Imaginations is bringing the model south to San Rafael and Novato, with funding from the Marin Community Foundation, Lumpkin Family Foundation, Keon Family Fund and the Safeway Foundation. The project is titled *Multicultural Music and Dance in Public Schools*. Participating schools are Laurel Dell, San Pedro, and Short schools in San Rafael, as well as Loma Verde and San Ramon schools in Novato. These are schools that, like McCloud, have faced huge losses in funding for the arts which cannot be absorbed by parent organizations or local school foundations.

Over 1,100 children will participate in the Marin County model while McCloud continues to set the example as the pilot site for this project. Young Imaginations’ goal is to build a program for underserved Marin schools that captures the collaborative spirit and the integrated arts approach of its parent model in an economically challenged mountain town far north of the Bay Area.

Co-founder/Board member Dr. Marianne Locke’s advocacy for the arts at McCloud was mentioned in the January 2012 edition of the North State Parent Magazine. Young Imaginations was mentioned in the Mount Shasta Herald for its continued work to develop the arts programs at McCloud.



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www.youngimaginations.wordpress.com



Picture taken after a lunch meeting with YI staff and (some) board members:

Left to Right: Dean, Valerie, Kim, Diane, Alan, Mo, and Mike.

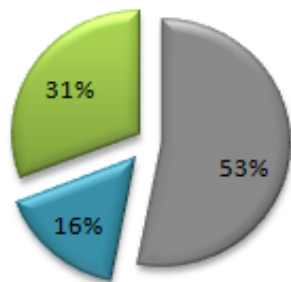
A FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT Dean Yioulos

As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of Young Imaginations, we appreciate the continued support of all of you who are part of the growing Young Imaginations community. We are bound, not merely by our appreciation of the arts, but by a strong belief that the arts adds real value to a child’s education and, thus, belongs in the core of the educational process.

While recognizing the importance of reading, math, history, and science, there is a strong need for, and great value in, exercising and nurturing the creative side of the brain. That is the part of education that breeds self-confidence, self-expression, interactivity, cooperation, trust, and respect for others. Studies have shown that arts education and participation fosters a life-long love for learning. It is the creativity that we nurture in today’s children that will ensure successful leaders of tomorrow.

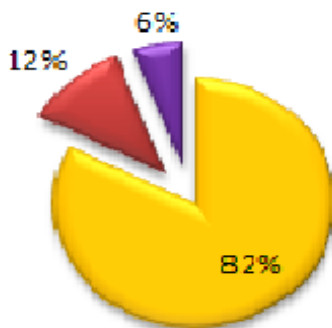
As we embark on our next 25 years, I am heartened by the joy and enthusiasm expressed by the children in our programs and the dedication of our staff and instructors. We have the support of growing numbers of community members who recognize the real value in a strong arts education program. On behalf of the Board of Directors and entire organization, I invite you to visit our programs in action, first-hand. Please contact our Executive Director Valerie Jane Chua for more information.

TOTAL REVENUE: \$216, 863



■ Earned
■ Individual donors
■ Grants

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$207,905



■ Program
■ Administration
■ Fundraising

FINANCIAL SUMMARY September 2011-August 2012

Young Imaginations has had another successful year financially through the efforts of our Board of Directors, staff, teachers, volunteers, and all of our generous supporters. While we are not out of the woods yet, there may be some light at the end of the tunnel as to the prolonged recessionary environment we've experienced. At this writing, we all still wait for our elected officials to handle our country's finances and avoid the so-called "fiscal cliff." Here's hoping they can live up to the job that we elected them to do.

The charts show our income and expenses by category and once again, due to a fiscal year-end push, we were able to end the year on a positive note. We added nearly \$9,000 to our reserve, bringing it to \$50,527. The nearly even split between contributed and earned income is similar to last year, but this year we devoted 82% of expenses to Programs vs. 75% last year. This effort allows us to continue with our mission of placing the arts at the core of the educational process.

To enable YI to continue to bring our multicultural music and dance programs to nearly 7,000 students in the Bay Area and locations north we must continue with these various fundraising efforts. All of us at YI express a big thanks to all of you who have so generously supported YI these past few years and ask that you continue with your wonderful donations. Do spread the good word amongst your friends and colleagues.

Valerie Jane Chua, our new Executive Director, has done a great job in her first full year. And she and her staff have gotten us into the 21st Century...you can stay interactive with us by visiting our blogsite or find us on Facebook now in addition to our website. What we all can never forget is that our children are the future of this great country. The arts have been proven to enhance the educational process so we must maintain our dedication to excellence for the children of northern California.

Ron Tarica, Ph.D., Treasurer

Recipient of the YI Director's Award for Professional Excellence ('01 and '11)

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY

We can only provide music and dance to thousands of children because of everyone's efforts and support. We thank our staff and arts educators for working everyday to share the gift of music and dance to our students. We thank our 34 volunteers and 68 small donors for their time and contributions. We thank our major sponsors, foundations, and corporations.

A special thank you goes out to Stuart Moody, who dedicated 20 years of teaching with Young Imaginations.

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 Pixar Animation Studios



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LIVING OUR MISSION SINCE 1987

In a rapidly changing environment, Young Imaginations is keeping music and dance alive in schools within San Francisco, Marin, East Bay, and Siskiyou counties. At each school, a standards-based curriculum is developed for a multi-week unit of instruction and classes are filled with opportunities for students to experience active participation, development of music and dance skills, and an appreciation for diversity.

Young Imaginations classes help students to:

- Learn songs and singing games, explore instruments, and develop a sense of beat and rhythm
- Improve balance and coordination, learn dances and games, and explore a range of movement possibilities
- Develop self-confidence, group skills, focused attention, and a sense of spontaneous creativity
- Enhance verbal memory through song, understand words through movement, and learn new vocabulary
- Gain awareness of cultural differences through songs, dances, stories, and musical instruments

YOUNG IMAGINATIONS PROGRAMS

Programs are taught by a community of artists/educators who have records of artistic excellence and the ability to teach children in ways that feature their students' active participation in the exploration of world cultures. For 25 years, Young Imaginations has successfully lived its mission to improve education by placing the arts at the core of the educational process, reaching over 150,000 students.

Class content captures the imaginations of children by encouraging them to actively explore new possibilities while learning in an atmosphere of trust and openness. At each school, a quality curriculum is developed for a unit of 12+ weeks or for an entire school year or sequence of years. This happens year after year until we are now teaching the children of our first students.

Multicultural Music with Dance. Children learn the basics. Singing, playing musical instruments, and moving to multicultural music are part of each class.

Multicultural Dance. Children develop dance skills while learning to work with partners and in groups. They develop sensitivity to rhythm, beat, and style as expressed in the dances of diverse cultures and historical periods.

Music of the Americas. This unit focuses on music and dance presented by artists from the United States, regions of Mexico and Central America, and South American cultures such as Brazil and the Andean countries.

Music Around the World. Artists from a variety of countries bring their music and dance to school children. This unit highlights the tremendous diversity of artistic expression from areas including the British Isles, the provinces of China, the Americas, and beyond!

Contact Valerie at vjchua@youngimagination.org or 415-472-7338 to inquire about a program for your school!



For \$50 you can support 12 weeks of multicultural music/dance for one student.

Donate Now!