



DEVELOPING
YOUNG
ARTISTS
RE-IMAGINING
ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19
THE WORLD



OUR MISSION

East Bay Center for the Performing Arts engages youth and young adults in imagining and creating new worlds for themselves and new visions for their communities through the inspiration and discipline of rigorous training in world performance traditions.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

We at East Bay Center for the Performing Arts passionately believe in the power of art to create beauty and new ways of seeing the world. We believe in the ability of the performing arts to give voice to the silent, to unite peoples of diverse backgrounds, and to help realize the fullest potential of communities and the individuals who live in them. We affirm the importance of connecting the creative and uplifting powers of the arts with children and youth who in their daily lives must contend with systemic poverty, violence, and other barriers to peace, justice, and prosperity. We welcome all who find resonance with and are committed to these beliefs.

WHAT WE DO

We offer diverse youth and young adults opportunities to grow and excel as learners, creators of art, and contributors to their communities. We provide broad and strategic community-based and public school performing arts access programs; rigorous individual and ensemble training; an intensive four-year, interdisciplinary diploma program; advanced internships; and commissions for new works of art. Our students, partners, and audiences deepen their experience and engagement with the life-affirming and community-building impact of music, theater, dance, and media-making from a critical selection of the world's great cultures.

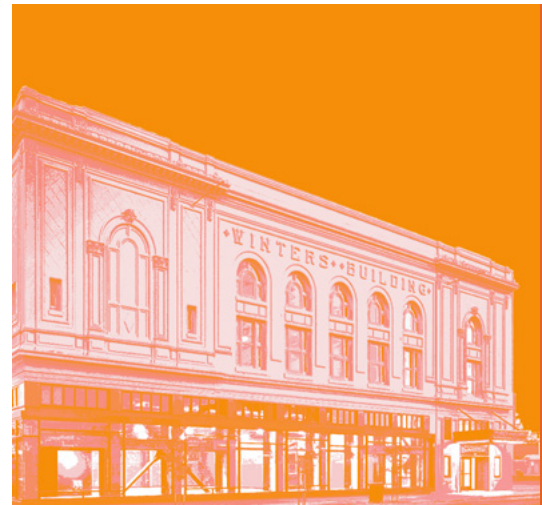
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Since I began my tenure as Artistic Director in 1985, East Bay Center has engaged **over 100,000 youth**, grown a faculty and staff of nearly 100, quietly launched a permanent endowment fund and gained the trust of our community. Through the Center's School and Neighborhood Partnerships Program, one in seven children in local Richmond schools, housing projects and recreation centers are supported annually in the work of self-discovery and creative skills acquisition. Together, we have built a place where artists from around the world celebrate and advocate for the beauty and gifts of every child. And, through our Young Artist Diploma Program, we now support an average of **20 teens to attend college nationally and internationally each year** – building a critical mass of young adults who see the world in a different light than their grandparents and great grandparents.

Technically, writing this annual report is about due diligence and our work of this last year, but it is also about appreciation for your support. Please be certain that all of us at the Center are moved by your participation in our work and grateful for your contributions of resources and spirit. Every bit of new resource that finds its way to the Center helps to define the coming generations. I look forward to navigating there together.

Jordan Simmons

Artistic Director



board of directors



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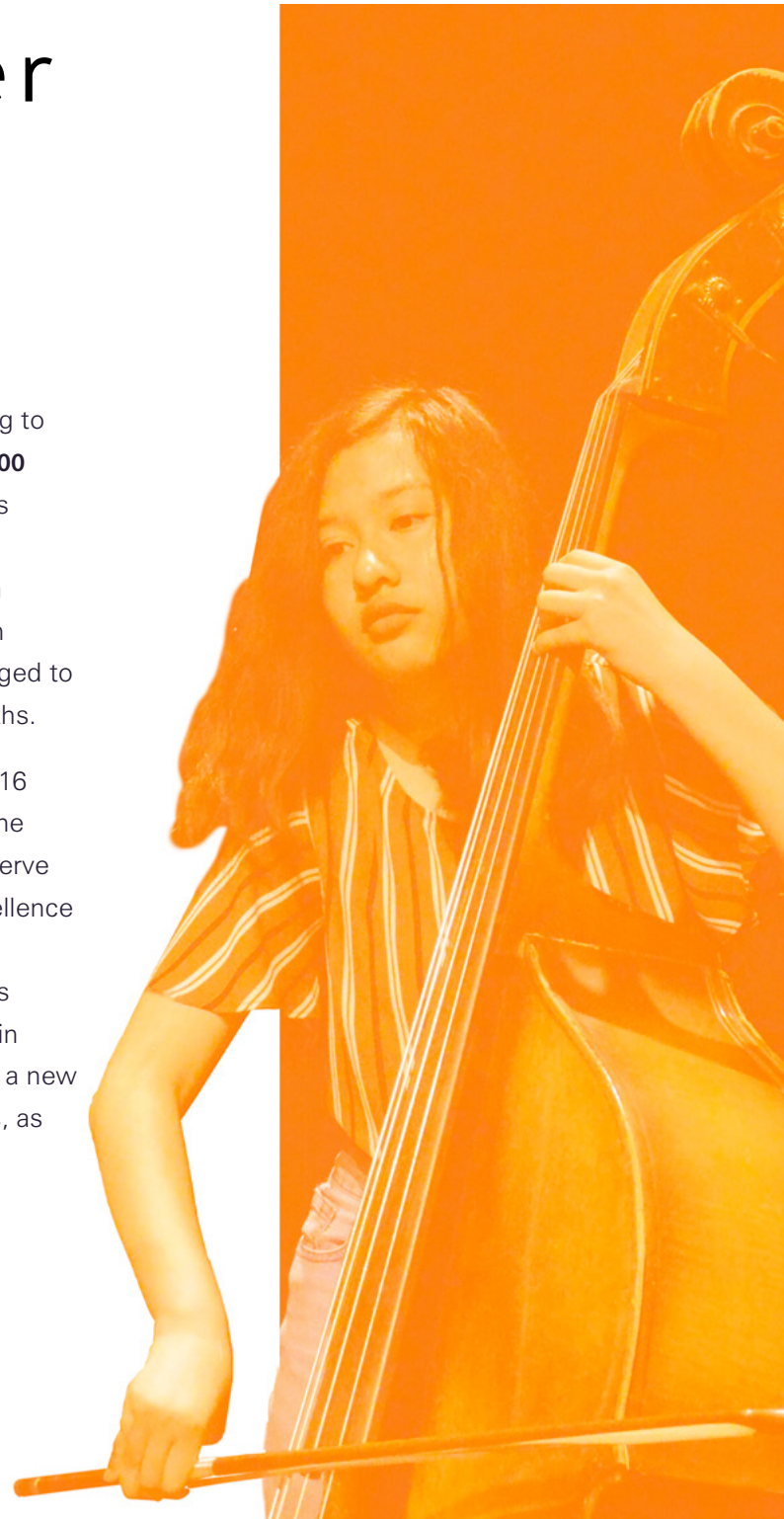
Timothy Thompson-Cook, MBA

Vanessa Whang

about the center

Annually, East Bay Center provides hands-on instruction and mentoring to **3,500 students** through public school partnerships, and an additional **600 students at our Iron Triangle home**, which includes 140 7th-12th graders enrolled in our six-year, year-round, tuition-free Young Artist Diploma Program. Our mission here at East Bay Center goes beyond training in the arts. Center staff and faculty are deeply committed to providing an exceptional, nurturing, and rich environment where students are engaged to discover their inherent gifts, their fullest potential and deepest strengths.

We have used our decades of experience and our recent successful \$16 million capital campaign to transform an aging, inner city facility into the finest arts center in the region, and we have the physical capacity to serve hundreds more young people. We continue to aim at a degree of excellence that has been achieved by only a handful of arts/youth development organizations in the country. In order to accomplish this aim, as well as secure our commitment to coming generations of children and youth in Richmond, we are seeking to both grow our annual fund and increase a new exciting permanent asset fund, to ensure the quality of core programs, as well as the development of new ones for the next 50 years.



50 alumni



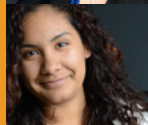
Antoine Hunter Dance

Award-winning African American Deaf choreographer, dancer, instructor, actor, poet, producer, and Deaf advocate. He is founder and Artistic Director of both Urban Jazz Dance Company and the Bay Area International Deaf Dance Festival.



Deanna Yasaki Saxophone

Deanna received her BA at CSU Hayward, MEd Curriculum & Instruction from CSU Bakersfield, and MEd Administration from UC Berkeley. She began teaching in the WCCUSD in 2006 and is now an elementary school principal in Rodeo.



Monserrat Armendaris-Ibarria Dance

Monserrat received her BA in Sociology, with a minor in American Studies and Chicano Studies from UC Merced, and a Masters in teaching at University of Southern California. She is currently an education specialist.



Paola Meza Rojas Voice

Paola joined the Young Artist Diploma Program at the start of her junior year at Kennedy High in Richmond, and now attends San Francisco State University studying music.



Simmie Foster Piano

Simmie followed an educational path that would lead to a BA in Molecular & Cell Biology from UC Berkeley and an MD & PhD from Yale. She's currently an Instructor in Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School.



Jamar Welch Theater, Hip Hop Dance

Jamar was the Artistic Director/Co-founder of the Hip Hop Dance Company, "Housin' Authority." He has worked with Michael Jackson, Madonna, Usher, Beyoncé, and Diana Ross, while also teaching at the Center for 20 years.



Danny Sandoval Jazz Saxophone

Danny started playing semi-professionally when he was 16, playing up to five nights a week in San Francisco, paying his way through college. He now works at the California Health Care Foundation in Sacramento.



Mayra Padilla Dance, Theater

Mayra received a BS in Applied Physics from UC Davis and a PhD in Neuroscience from UC Berkeley. Today, she is the Dean of Institutional Effectiveness & Equity at Contra Costa College and is VP of the Center's Board of Directors.



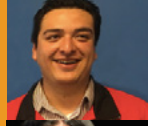
Isabel Hurley Saxophone

Isabel graduated from Dartmouth College in 2019 where she continues to focus on Jazz at the Hopkins Center for the Arts at Dartmouth.



Gonzalo Rucobo Dance, Steel Pans

In 2005, Gonzalo co-founded Bay Area Peacekeepers, a gang intervention program designed to touch those individuals that the community and society had given up on. He continues to serve as ED of this organization.



Ricardo Esquivias Son, Violin

Ricardo attended Sarah Lawrence College, where he studied dance. After graduation, he worked as an AmeriCorps volunteer, teaching dance to children. In 2011, he joined the staff of City Year New Hampshire.



Joel Calderón Double Bass

Joel has worked closely with Center faculty to develop a student music group at Richmond High, a group that is now 25 members strong. Joel attends UC Berkeley where he studies Astrophysics and Music. Astrophysics and Music.



Joaquin Quintana del Carpio Violin, Son

Joaquin hopes to one day recreate the Center's model in other underserved neighborhoods in California and beyond. He is currently studying International Business at San Francisco State University.



Selah Laigo Piano, Ballet, West African Dance

The Center has been a second home to Selah since the age of four. Selah now studies Humanities at Dominican University.



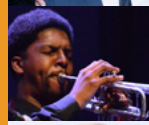
Chloe Dichoso Voice

Chloe is currently attending California State University Long Beach, where she is studying public health and music.



Richard Zhu Piano

Richard continued studying piano at UC Berkeley, as well as earning his BS in Business. He is currently a Vice President of Investment Solutions at Merrill Lynch. He also serves as Treasurer on the Center's Board of Directors.



Marshall Hooper Trumpet

Marshall graduated from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, with a Major in Business Finance. He credits the mentorship he received at the Center for his success.



Father Maseo Gonzales Hip Hop Music

Fr Maseo founded El Padrecito Ministries, a nonprofit which brings faith and the arts together in the service of empowering youth. Over the years, he has provided guidance to over 10,000 youth throughout the country.



Abigail Armendaris Hip Hop, Ballet, Son

Abigail is studying theater design/criminology at Contra Costa College, pursuing a career in lighting design and juvenile reentry programs. Currently, she is studying in Ghana and dancing at the Ghanaian National Theater.



Monique Woods Voice

Monique is a Bay Area vocal artist who goes by the stage name "MoeSoul," performing with local and national recording artists. She also works for the Alameda County Probation Department as a Juvenile Institutional Officer.



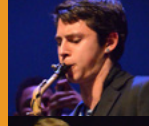
Henry Benitez Guitar, Steel Pans, Voice

Henry moved with his family to California from El Salvador at the age of 9. Henry attributes the Center for his deep commitment to his community. He graduated from UCLA in 2018 and hopes to attend law school in the near future.



Matt Eakle Flute

Matt began studying flute at the Center soon after it opened in 1968. He has gone on to become an accomplished jazz and classical flutist, playing with musicians such as Dave Grisman, Bonnie Raitt and Jerry Garcia.



Liam Collins Saxophone

Liam graduated from UCLA, with a degree in Ethnomusicology and as a member of the UCLA Jazz Orchestra. He is now pursuing a graduate degree abroad at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.



Pablo Puente Voice, Piano, Aerial Dance

Awarded a full scholarship to Wesleyan University where he is currently studying music, Pablo works as an intern at the Center during his summers.



Malachi Whitson Jazz Percussion

As a graduate of the Brubeck Institute at University of the Pacific, Malachi has performed with major artists such as Bobby McFerrin and Joshua Redman. He is currently studying at the Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz at UCLA.

50 alumni

**Genevieve Simmons Violin, Piano, Son, West African Music & Dance**

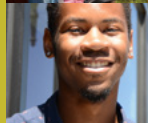
Genevieve graduated from Yale University with degrees in cognitive science and music, and has gone on to teach English in Hong Kong and travel.

**Andre Taylor Theater**

Andre graduated from UC Santa Barbara in Spring 2016 with a BA in Theater and is currently pursuing acting and other creative endeavors in Los Angeles.

**Aubyn Banwell Son, Steel Pans**

Aubyn is a second-generation alumnus of East Bay Center — her father Matt Eakle was also a Center student. Aubyn studied Studio Art at University of Puget Sound and now practices regenerative, sustainable agriculture.

**G'bari Gilliam Hip Hop, West African Dance**

G'bari received Honorable Mention in World Dance Forms from the National YoungArts Foundation, and went on to major in Dance and Sociology at UCLA. G'bari currently is a core member of Versa-Style Dance Company.

**Maame Korley Cello, Steel Pans**

Maame aims to major in public health, she is “passionate about food justice and healthy food distribution,” and women’s health “because of the abundant need for advocates in many places like Ghana and India.”

**Camila Quintana del Carpio Piano, Flute**

Camila studied at UC Berkeley, where she earned a dual degree in Environmental Science and Forestry, and recently became a registered forester. While at UC Berkeley, she supervised the Center’s college prep and tutoring program.

**Dolores “Lolis” Garcia Traditional Mexican Music & Dance**

Lolis has been with the Center since a young age, first, as a student and now as faculty/staff member, teaching Traditional Mexican music and dance, as well as co-directing *Son de la Tierra*, one of the Center’s resident companies.

**John Dandan Piano**

After graduating from Berklee College of Music, John founded the Dandan Performing Arts Center, which provides access to high-quality music and arts education to underserved communities in San Lorenzo and the East Bay.

**Howard Wiley Jazz Saxophone, Drums**

Howard has received the Thelonious Monk Scholarship, Downbeat Instrumentalist Award for Best Soloist and MVP Award for the Grammy All-American Jazz Band. He became Director of the Center’s Richmond Jazz Collective in 2013.

**Jorge Luis Garcia Film**

Jorge studied cinema at San Francisco State University. His most recent accomplishment was the screening of a film he wrote/directed/co-produced, *Guardia de mi Hermano* (My Brother’s Keeper), at Cannes Film Festival in May 2018.

**Blessing Ojeh Modern Dance, West African Dance, Hip Hop**

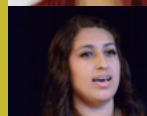
Blessing went on to study at Columbia University, majoring in psychology and evolutionary biology, with plans for a career in medicine or healthcare management.

**Noah Simpson Hip Hop**

In High School, Noah was inducted into the National Honor Society for Dance Arts. He joined Chapkis Dance Family where he competed in the Hip Hop International World Championship, World of Dance Finals, and America’s Got Talent!

**Maritza Rivera Voice, Son Jarocho**

Maritza credits the Center with helping her to apply to and receive multiple scholarships to attend UC Riverside, where she earned a BS in Business Administration. She now works in Human Resources at UC Berkeley.

**Janelly Briseño Voice**

As a first generation Mexican American and first generation in her family to go to college, Janelly attended UC Davis and graduated in 2019.

**Camille Bauman-Jaeger Classical Voice**

Camille graduated from Barnard College with a BA in Architecture and from Carnegie Mellon University with an MS in Computational Design. She is now pursuing a career as a freelance designer, architect and writer.

**Marshall Hooper Trumpet**

Marshall graduated from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, with a Major in Business Finance and credits the mentorship he received at the Center for his success.

**Darius Drooh West African Dance, Modern Dance, Ballet**

After high school, Darius traveled to New York on a fellowship from the Alvin Ailey Dance Company. He continues to live/work in NYC, working with choreographers such as Anthony Burrell and Carlos dos Santos Jr.

**Olivya Conner Piano, Voice, Theater**

In August 2018, Olivya directed the dark theater piece, “The Pillowman,” by Martin McDonagh, at the Center. Olivya now attends Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, New York on a nearly full scholarship where she studies pre-law.

**Kalin Freeman Jazz Saxophone**

Kalin was raised a few blocks from Richmond’s Iron Triangle neighborhood and did not learn an instrument until he was a freshman in high school and joined the Diploma Program. He now leads the jazz group, Soul Progressions.

**Victor McElhaney Jazz Percussion**

As a role model for the younger generation and a talented Jazz drummer, Victor demonstrated presence of mind, leadership and resilience. Victor attended USC Thornton School of Music, studying jazz drumming/percussion.

**Jordan Simmons Capoeira, Shakuhachi Flute, Theater**

A Richmond native, Jordan became a Center student in the 1970s and joined the faculty in 1978. He became Artistic/Executive Director in 1985, and is a Capoeira Mestre, shakuhachi teacher, and theater director.

**Rodrigo Perez Trumpet, Son**

Rodrigo’s parents are immigrants from Sinaloa, Mexico and Rodrigo’s devotion to the Mexican Son art form is a testament to his commitment to his cultural roots. He now attends Cal Poly, studying Aerospace Engineering.

**Deontae Watkins Hip Hop**

As a Diploma student, Deontae attended 15 hours of classes/rehearsals a week. He is now starting his own dance crew and is back at the Center as a dance faculty member.

**Pinkie Young Flute**

Pinkie went on to study geology and environmental science at Occidental College where she graduated in 2017. Pinkie now works as a Staff Geologist at Environmental Applications, Inc. in Pasadena.

**Fernando Espinosa Guitar**

In the fall of 2013, Fernando was admitted to UC Santa Cruz on scholarship; the first of his family to do so. He is currently serving in the US Navy and being trained in advanced electronics.

core programs

YOUNG ARTIST DIPLOMA PROGRAM

In the past ten years, nearly 200 teens have received diplomas in the now six-year, tuition-free instructional journey of over 2,500 hours, and many have become the first in their families to attend college, while a growing number have overcome serious stress and trauma related to personal and environmental violence, poverty, learning disabilities, race, gender discrimination and systems challenges. Recent Diploma graduates are attending academic institutions including Boston's Berklee College of Music, UC Berkeley, UCLA, USC, UC Davis, Dartmouth, Occidental, Wesleyan, Sarah Lawrence, Columbia, Yale and Scotland's Royal Conservatory of Theater, a majority on scholarship. The number of Young Artist Diploma Program participants has more than doubled in recent years to a current cohort of 140. This spring, 22 senior high school Diploma students are on track to attend colleges around the country. The market value of the Diploma Program is approximately \$9,000 annually per student. We are able to provide the program for approximately \$5,000 per student.

KENNEDY FAMILY OF SCHOOLS / SOUTH RICHMOND INITIATIVE

In 2017, the Center made a strategic decision to consolidate its access and outreach resources to be used within the Southside of Richmond by partnering with Kennedy Family of Schools staff, WCCUSD leadership, and parents in order to influence school climate, student achievement and well-being. As of fall 2019, the Initiative provides 3,500 students with weekly music instruction at six core Southside schools with pilot programming at three other JFK feeder schools, one neighborhood community center and one public housing complex. In addition to our *Deep Roots Wide World* music curriculum – from classical African drumming to recorder, jazz, orchestral music, Mexican son and steel pans, the Kennedy initiative provides for professional development workshops supporting classroom teachers' use of the arts to strengthen other core academic subjects, artist assemblies, African American focused after school curriculum (*Mafanikio*) and parent/leadership work. The Center's multi-year plan is to gradually engage up to 4,000 children and youth annually with increasingly positive culture and climate impacts in South Richmond schools, improved arts education equity in the district and a clear pathway for individual students from South Richmond to East Bay Center's intensive instructional programs.

ADVANCING PROGRAM EQUITY AND IMPACT THROUGH STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Over the years, the Center has developed a robust in-house practice of helping our students integrate their training with their lives outside of the Center. In April 2018, with key individual donor investment, the Center hired its first full-time Director of Student Support Services, dedicated to increasing the range and scope of services that our youth – indeed all youth – need to thrive in challenging artistic, academic, and community environments. Overall, Center resources now include three MSWs on staff, as well as three MSW interns and a network of direct services, programs and partnerships that provide Center students and families with timely and professional wrap-around support. Student Support Services also include year-round college readiness support programs for 140 Young Artist Diploma students, as well as annual professional training for all 75 Center staff and faculty on topics from understanding a trauma-informed lens to adapting curriculum for different stages of youth and young adult development.

operations

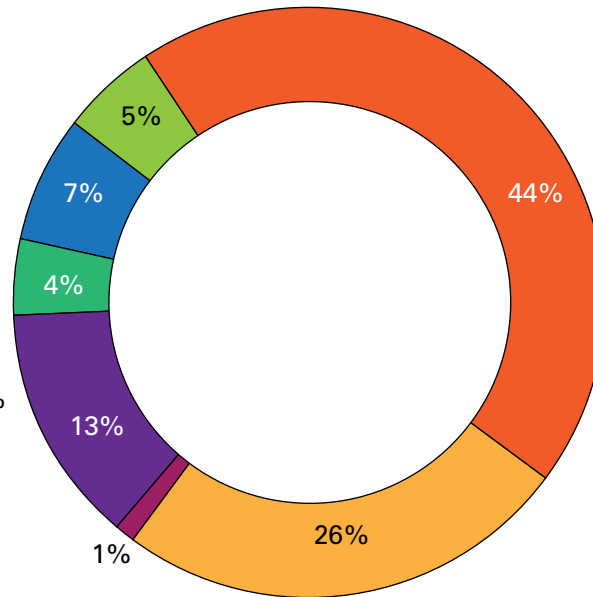
— Revenue Distribution

Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019

Total \$2,821,640

Earned Income (29%)

- Other Revenue 5%
- Distribution Income 7%
- Tuition and Performance Fees 4%
- Contracts 13%



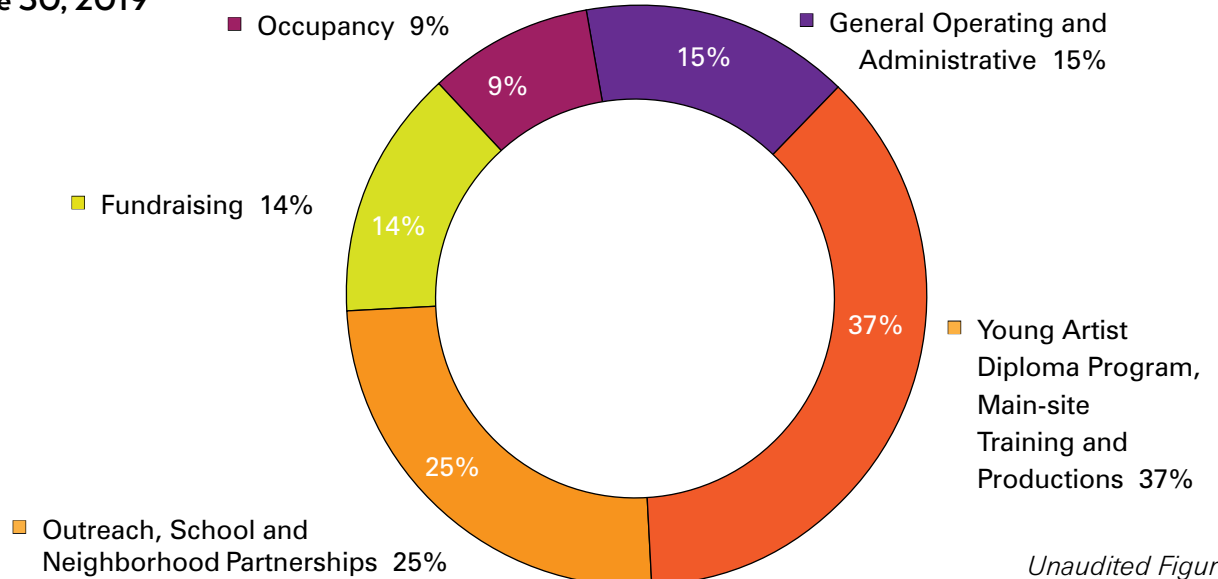
Contributed Income (71%)

- Foundations and Government 44%
- Individual 26%
- Corporate 1%

— Expenses Distribution

Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019

Total \$2,707,505



Unaudited Figures

institutional funders

This list reflects the total donations for the period of July 1, 2018 through October 1, 2019.

\$100,000+

California Arts Council
ELMA Music Foundation
S.H. Cowell Foundation
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William & Flora Hewlett Foundation

\$50,000 - \$99,999

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\$1 - \$249

Arkin Tilt Architects

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