

Lifting Up the Lives of our Young People  
through the Healing Power of Art

**EAST BAY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS**



Annual Report 2019 - 2020

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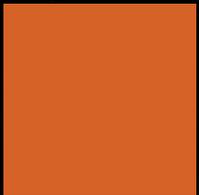
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**Dear Friends,**

We celebrate each of you as extended family, give thanks to you and renew our commitment to our mission, our vision and our values.

However, this year – make no mistake – has been different. These are high stakes times.

We want to share with you the way we are keeping our students nurtured and our work alive and evolving, and the determination of our alumni navigating our world during a time of change. I hope you will, as I do, take heart in these young adults' passion, joy and aspiration for our community. The reality of that joy and resilience, their love of life, justice and art is a call for both healing and solidarity.

Thank you for being with us. Writing this annual report is about due diligence and our work of this last year, but it is also about appreciation for your support. We recognize that our work is lifted by your contributions of resources and spirit. Every bit of new resource that finds its way to the Center helps to define the coming generations.

We hope you know how honored we are and how committed we remain.

In peace and solidarity,



Jordan Simmons  
*Artistic Director*



# FACULTY

**Akwasi Abrefah**

*Steel Pans*

**Philip Amo Agyapong**

*African Music and Dance*

**Francis Kofi Akotuah**

*West African Drumming*

**Ceressa Allen**

*Hip Hop Dance*

**Bryan Alvarez**

*Brass — Trombone*

**Kwesi Anku**

*West African Music and Dance*

**Tiffany Austin**

*Voice*

**Ezra Bristow**

*Samba, Hip Hop Dance*

**Ashley Brown**

*Ballet, Modern, Yoga*

**Isaac Butler-Brown**

*Percussion and Brass*

**Cesar Cancino**

*Piano, Musical Theater*

**Leslie Carter**

*West African Dance*

**Jason Chiu**

*Piano*

**K.J. Dahlaw**

*Dance*

**Ruthie Dineen**

*Piano*

**Khalil Doak-Anthony**

*Guitar*

**Sebastiao Felix**

*Capoeira, Samba*

**Allyson Flores**

*Music, Piano*

**Mara Fox**

*Brass, Jazz*

**Lolis Garcia**

*Son de la Tierra, Director*

**Norman Gee**

*Theater*

**Eli Goldlink**

*Piano*

**Jonathan Hampton**

*Voice*

**Hiyas Hila**

*Richmond Chamber Ensemble Director, Piano*

**Miya Hisaka**

*Iron Triangle Urban Ballet Director*

**Katie Issel Pitre**

*Voice, Theater*

**Nikita Jew**

*Ballet*

**Carla Kaufman**

*Double Bass*

**Joe Kelly**

*Steel Pans*

**Aaron Kierbel**

*Percussion*

**Betty Ladzekpo**

*West African Dance*

**CK Ladzekpo**

*West African Dance and Music*

**Andrea Landin**

*Cello*

**Kwaku Manu**

*West African Music and Dance*

**Tanya Marie**

*Theater*

**Lydia Martin**

*Percussion*

**Maurice Nunn**

*Theater*

**Eliza O'Malley**

*Voice*

**Joe Orrach**

*Theater Tap, Poetry*

**Ryan Pate**

*Guitar, Music theory, Digital music*

**Achyutan Pattillo**

*Drums*

**Dr. Artemio Posadas**

*Son de la Tierra, Director*

**Sly Randolph**

*Drums*

**Teyahnee Ridgle**

*Hip Hop*

**Chelsea Riley**

*Aerial Dance*

**Matt Roads**

*Drum line and Double Bass*

**Tarik Rollerson**

*Hip Hop Dance*

**Emily Ryan**

*Voice*

**Dana Salzman**

*Voices of Reason Director*

**Candace Sanderson**

*Violin, Chamber music*

**Jonathan Seiberlich**

*Brass- Tuba*

**Alan Shearer**

*Violin*

**Jordan Simmons**

*Iron Triangle Theater Director, Capoeira*

**Allie Simpson**

*Strings - Viola*

**Annie Smith**

*Voice*

**Paul Smith-Stewart**

*Bass, Guitar, Composition*

**Richard Squeri**

*Stage Combat*

**Linda Steele**

*Ballet, Modern, Hip Hop*

**W. Allen Taylor**

*Theater*

**Valerie Troutt**

*Voices of Reason Director*

**Javier Trujillo Jurado**

*Guitar*

**Atim Uddofia**

*Theater*

**Carolyn Walter**

*Woodwinds*

**Deontae Watkins**

*Hip Hop*

**Jamar Welch**

*Hip Hop*

**Howard Wiley**

*Richmond Jazz Collective Director*

**Janet Woodhams**

*Richmond Chamber Ensemble Director, Flute*

## About the Bells



Among the Anlo Ewe of West Africa, the double iron bell (*Gankogui*) is often described as the metronome in classical musical ensembles. In English, it can be called a timekeeper. Resembling a human figure, the bells in combination can also reproduce tonal patterns mirroring speech, and thus can speak in a kind of surrogate voice, merging poetic meaning and music. When a child is born in traditional culture, the child may receive a bell connecting it to society as well as a rattle (*Axatse*) connecting it to the earth. At this time of change in our world, we chose the image of *Gankogui* for its beauty, its connection to our Deep Roots Wide World curriculum and for all it evokes. We all need to be timekeepers.

# About the Center

## who we are

Founded in 1968, 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 rigorous training in world performance traditions.

We 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 highest potential of communities and the individuals who live in them. And we believe in 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.

## what we do

Annually, East Bay Center provides instruction and mentoring to 3,500 students through public school partnerships, and an additional 500 students through our main site programs, which includes 130 7th-12th graders enrolled in our six-year, tuition-free college readiness 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.

With COVID came shelter-in-place orders and school closures, along with an immediate need for us to rethink how to effectively continue working with our 4,000 students and their families, many of whom were among those hit hardest by the pandemic. Center staff and faculty quickly and creatively shifted 95% of our instruction in music, theater and dance, as well as wraparound/support services, to virtual platforms and on-line delivery, essentially continuing our work uninterrupted – both through our main site programs, as well as our work in the schools.

Our community faces unprecedented challenges, and we are committed to sustaining our programs, supporting our students and their families, and deepening our partnerships with other front-line agencies and our local schools in the coming year and beyond.

We hope you will be inspired by our work and consider joining us on this journey.





TIME of CHANGE

East Bay Center was founded immediately after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968 as a local Richmond response to the unrest, anger, frustration, and need for change. Today our foundational values remain rooted in civil rights, equity and justice, and yet, as a community we all bear witness to how these values have been continually tested by the weight of racism and violence. We understand that restating our values is not enough. As we grieve with our Black community for the lives of Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, and so many more, we know there is a clear call to action:

We at East Bay Center understand the call to organize.

We understand the call to work collectively to create an equitable environment in which our children can achieve their fullest potential.

We understand this work must integrate protest, voting, advocacy, direct action, moral reasoning and the power and imagination of culture and the arts.

At East Bay Center we have held a special trust: the engagement of children, youth and young people's imagination through an intentional focus on arts from across the Diaspora – so that they might fulfill a new and better vision of our community and world. We are conscious of the responsibilities and boundaries this work requires and proud that East Bay Center has always been grounded in the beauty and imagination of Black culture and the inspiration of all of our ancestors.

We want you to be certain that we are more resolved than ever. We are committed to being a resource for our Black students and community where they may find safety, joy, and expression through performing arts. We are committed to uplifting and celebrating the narratives and art of local Black artists and innovators, so that our students and community feel empowered to affect change. Through our students' work, our faculty commissions, our partnerships with our local schools, residents and other community organizations who are committed to justice and beauty, we will do everything in our power to lift up this moment going forward as a time of change.

*In community,*  
**Staff and Faculty of East Bay Center**

# CORE PROGRAMS

## SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

### **Provide weekly online music instruction**

to 3,500 youth in South Richmond public schools and expand virtual grade-appropriate and culturally relevant curriculum materials in music, dance, and theater to the entire 28,000 TK-12 students in the West Contra Costa Unified School District.

## CORE INSTRUCTION

### **Provide 80+ virtual group**

**classes** as part of our main site program in the fall and spring at no cost to local children and youth – we're able to serve 500 students each session.

## SUPPORT SERVICES

### **Continue to provide enhanced emergency services to our community.**

Since mid-March, when Shelter-in-Place orders closed the Center's building, we have provided intensive levels of assistance to students and their families – including emergency services/assessments coordinated by our on-staff social workers and cash distributions from our own Emergency Fund to local families experiencing immediate crisis for food/housing insecurity, as well as challenges with legal, medical and government aid access.

## YOUNG ARTIST DIPLOMA PROGRAM

### **Sustain intensive long-term college readiness**

**mentoring**, training and leadership development/civic engagement projects within the six-year tuition-free Young Artist Diploma Program for 130 youth in grades 7-12. In 2019/20, through individual tutoring and mentoring, we helped assure that 22 12th-grade Diploma Program students completed high school and submitted their college applications.



# One hundred



**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.



**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.

# Alumni



**Genevieve Simmons** *Violin, Piano, Son, West African Music and 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.



**Olivia Conner** *Piano, Voice, Theater*  
In August 2018, Olivia directed the dark theater piece, “The Pillowman,” by Martin McDonagh, at the Center. Olivia 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 McElhane** *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.

# One hundred



**Devun Amoranto** *Piano, Cello*

Devun was one of the hardest working students at the Center. He is attending UC Berkeley where, as a first-generation college student, he is double majoring in Music and Computer Science.



**Isaac Coyle** *Jazz Bass*

Isaac played with a number of Allstar Jazz bands in high school and even toured to Japan. He is now attending Berklee School of Music with a full scholarship.



**Kiana Hu** *Violin, Voice, Steel Pan*

Kiana is currently studying classics at Stanford University. In her free time, she sings with Stanford O-Tone East Asian Acapella group and plays with Cardinal Calypso Steelpan Band.



**Jett Lim** *Jazz Trombone*

In high school, Jett was selected for several Allstar Jazz bands, playing at Carnegie Hall and touring Europe. Jett is now attending Peabody Institute Jazz Program at Johns Hopkins University.



**Quetzalli Muñoz** *Son de la Tierra*

A student at UC Berkeley, Quetzalli is the first in her family to attend college. She is focusing on pre-med with dreams of going into the field of global surgery.



**Rune Simmons** *Capoeira*

Rune began his studies at the Center at age 5. With an interest in economics and cognitive science, Rune is attending UC Berkeley and received a \$12.5k Ahlsten Scholarship for academics and service.



**Alyssa Villanueva** *Theater*

Born in Belize, and raised in Richmond, Alyssa draws on Kriol as a second language in her dramatic writing. She is studying at the prestigious theater program at The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.



**Ainsley Walker** *Dance*

As a dedicated leader in dance classes at the Center as well as an honors student in math and science, Ainsley is poised for success. She is attending Barnard College on a full scholarship.



**Paloma Wood** *Voice, Theater*

Growing up in both Napa and Richmond, two very different communities, Paloma learned a lot about inequity and is a social justice activist. She is now attending Howard University.



**Jonathan York** *Voice, Piano*

Through his lessons at the Center Jonathan honed his skills as a performer and leader – one with a clear artistic and personal voice. He now attends UC Riverside.



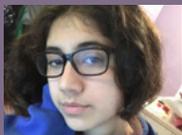
**Alexandra Mendoza** *Voice and Dance*

Alex is currently a Nursing student at University of San Francisco. She also continues to make her voice heard through sharing music, podcasts, and poetry online.



**Noemi Gomez** *Son de la Tierra*

Noemi credits her Center family with supporting her eating disorder recovery. She runs a blog to share her recovery process to inspire and support others and is creating a podcast.



**Maya Flores-Mejia** *Dance and Music*

Maya is studying Kinesiology at CSU Monterey Bay where she has an athletic training internship. She is also involved in Mindful Life, contributing to their album of mindfulness music.



**Ashley Dominguez** *Piano, Percussion*

Ashley attends UC Berkeley where she is majoring in International Relations and minoring in Gender/ Women's Studies. She is doing research on the health impacts of the Chevron oil refinery in Richmond.



**Heaven Robinson** *Theater, Dance*

Heaven grew up in Richmond and got involved in the Center through a local community Center. She is currently a full-time student at CSU Los Angeles.



**Side 2 Side** *Theater, Comedy*

Side 2 Side is a comedian. She has a one-woman show, and has worked with artists such as Patti La Belle, Eddie Griffin and Mikki Howard and also teaches comedy workshops.



**Maria Fernanda Figueroa** *Theater/ Musical Theater*

Maria studies Musical Theatre at CSU Chico, with plans to pursue a masters in social work. She has appeared in productions of "Colorado," "The River Bride," and "The Addams Family."



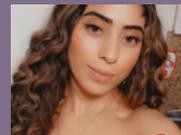
**Arturo Armendaris-Ibarria** *Son de la Tierra, Steel Pans*

Arturo grew up at the Center. He had two Associates degrees by the time he finished high school and is currently a behavioral technician for children with autism.



**Jayla Hernandez** *Percussion*

Jayla is a talented and dedicated drummer. She started attending San Francisco Conservatory of Music in fall 2020 to continue studying percussion.



**Jennifer Jimenez** *Dance*

Jennifer has a BA in Child & Adolescent Development with a concentration in Youth and Out of School Work. She works with Richmond Promise helping high school seniors apply and transition to college.



**Jonathan Valenzuela** *Theater, Dance*

After benefiting from attending summer enrichment programs, Jonathan founded "Support for Summer," a Center project to help other high school students get scholarships to attend summer programs. He is attending UCLA.



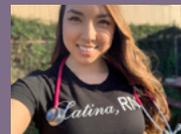
**Alejandra Covarrubias** *Dance*

Alejandra was on a semi-professional cycling team and traveled the country for races. She credits East Bay Center dance classes with teaching her how to move her body for all types of motion.



**Julia (Mendoza) Ocampo** *Dance, Singing, Piano, Acting*

Julia received her Bachelors of Science in Recreation, Park, and Tourism administration, with plans to pursue her Masters in Human Resources while raising her 2-year-old daughter.



**Mayra Figueroa** *Dance*

Mayra graduated from Dominican University with a B.S. in Nursing science and is now a registered nurse. She received mentorship from another Center alum to pursue her career in nursing.



**Tarin Griggs** *Dance*

Tarin is a performance artist and nonprofit administrator specializing in arts and education. She holds an M.Ed. in Arts in Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

# Alumni *(continued)*



**Avery Mitchell** *Theater*

After attending University of Redlands, Avery returned to East Bay Center as a Production Technician and is a key part of many Center performances.



**Gabriel Lambirth** *Guitar*

Gabriel Lambirth is a Dove Award winning Guitarist, Composer and Producer who has played guitar and produced on records for Teyana Taylor, Erykah Badu, Ro James, Andy Mineo, Brandy to name a few.



**John H. Knox** *Piano*

John, graduate of UC Berkeley School of Law, is a partner at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, specializing municipal restructuring and bankruptcy. He lives in Richmond with his family, including other Center alumni.



**Kabreshiona Smith** *Dance, Theater*

Bre is a dancer, teacher, entrepreneur, and deeply spiritual soul. Bre shares her love for nurturing body and soul by leading movement and dance classes, specializing in faith-based movement.



**Vanessa Cajina** *Trombone, Jazz*

Vanessa is a lobbyist for KP with extensive experience in state budget issues and expertise for issues pertaining to healthcare, social services, and non-profit organizations.



**Quinn Monteiro** *Drums*

Quinn is a drummer who has performed with groups, as well as soloed around the Bay Area. He has produced his own short film featuring his music.



**Andre Rivers** *Theater*

Andre Rivers has his own production company, Dre Rivers Entertainment. He is an experienced event manager, sound engineer and show host, working a large variety of events.



**Aisha Walls** *Dance*

Aisha was inspired to get her Doctorate in Physical Therapy from UCSF/SFSU as a dancer. Aisha has worked with many established choreographers, taught dance, and is also a practicing physical therapist.



**Saydi Castro** *Dance, West African*

Saydi is a student at UC Davis, studying Animal Science. She is also working on launching an online clothing/fitness boutique with her sister.



**Rosemary Gutierrez** *Dance*

Rosemary is a receptionist at a veterinary hospital. Her greatest joy is being a mother to her little girl.



**William Southall** *Voice*

William goes to Berklee College of Music, where he studies songwriting, arranging and music technology. He also arranged music for his former high school's Acapella group, which was both performed and recorded.



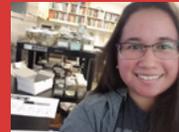
**Nigel Bess** *Music*

Nigel graduated with a BS in Mechanical Engineering at UC Santa Barbara. He taught himself Ukulele and Computer Programming on the side and he's currently working as a software engineer in Santa Barbara.



**Aliyah Morgan** *Dance (hip-hop, African dance, modern)*

Aliyah is completing her undergraduate studies in Nursing and Public Health Relations. "When I was younger, I didn't know how to express myself emotionally so I danced it out, and I loved it."



**Perla Ponce** *Theater, Film*

Perla is studying Biology with the goal of getting her PhD. She has completed an internship at the California Academy of Sciences, fieldwork in Baja California and helped translate a field guide into Spanish.



**Kai Pierce** *Piano, Voice*

Kai Pierce is a singer, songwriter, pianist. He started with East Bay Center when he was 11-years-old. Today, he is a singer and accompanist for the Oakland Interfaith Community Choir and a part of the group TheH!veM!nd.



**Troy Richardson** *Capoeira, Theater*

When he's not working as a restaurant chef in San Francisco, Troy loves to play and dance around with his daughter. In the future, he plans to join the U.S. military.



**Julissa Garcia** *Dance, Voices of Reason*

Julissa started at the Center when she was 3 and grew to become a teaching assistant. She has a BA in Psychology from UC Irvine and works as a behavior technician.



**Allyson Flores** *Piano, Flute, Voice*

Allyson was teaching assistant for the Musicianship class at the Center. She is attending UC Santa Cruz where she plans to receive her Master's in math through a 4+1 program.



**Briana Washington** *Music*

Graduated Boston's Berklee College of Music, now teaching, music directing and performing. Released her first album in 2019 as "Miss. Washington." She worked on BET's Black Girls Rock and performed with Beyonce's original female band.



**Britani Washington** *Voice*

Britani graduated from Berklee College of Music in 2019 in Professional Music. She currently resides in Los Angeles, where she works at an entertainment management company and is pursuing her dreams in music.



**Joshua Dandan** *Violin*

Joshua was a member of Chamber Ensemble at the center and Concord Adult Symphony. He is a senior at St. Mary's College at California, studying Finance Data Analytics.



**Franco Dandan** *Music*

Franco Dandan began taking piano lessons from Hiyas Hila at the Center in 2010. He recently graduated from Berklee College of Music majoring in Contemporary Writing and Production with the Class of 2020.



**Delphina Wedell** *Music*

Delphina graduated from UC Berkeley's College of Environmental Design this year with a Bachelor of Art degree. She will be starting her internship in October in Porto, Portugal.



**Nancy Murray-Garcia** *Son de la Tierra, Theater*

Nancy is a freelance artist in both the cosmetic and regional music industries. She has an aesthetician license from Avalon School of Cosmetology.



**Grace Signorelli-Cassady** *Ballet*

Grace is an attorney who has represented criminal and civil clients and drafted numerous amicus curiae briefs that have been filed with the Supreme Court. She received her J.D. from Harvard Law School.



*This list reflects the total donations for the period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. East Bay Center is grateful for every donation received and we do apologize if we have inadvertently omitted anyone from this list.*

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*This list reflects the total donations for the period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.*

### **100,000+**

California Arts Council  
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William and Flora Hewlett Foundation  
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### **50,000 -99,999**

The California Endowment  
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### **25,000-49,999**

Crescent Porter Hale Foundation  
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### **10,000-24,999**

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### **2,500-4,999**

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# in- kind donations

22

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Autodesk  
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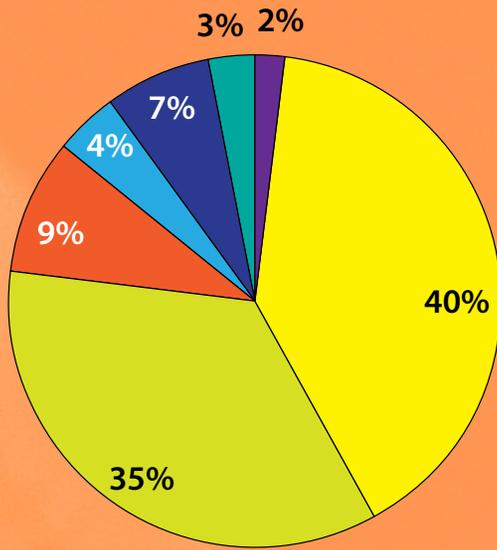
# Revenue

## Contributed Income (77%)

- Corporate **2%**  
\$69,877
- Individuals **40%**  
\$1,218,794
- Foundations & Government **35%**  
\$1,068,165

## Earned Income (23%)

- Contracts **9%**  
\$267,842
- Tuition and Performance Fees **4%**  
\$109,534
- Distribution Income **7%**  
\$220,000
- Other Income **3%**  
\$93,591

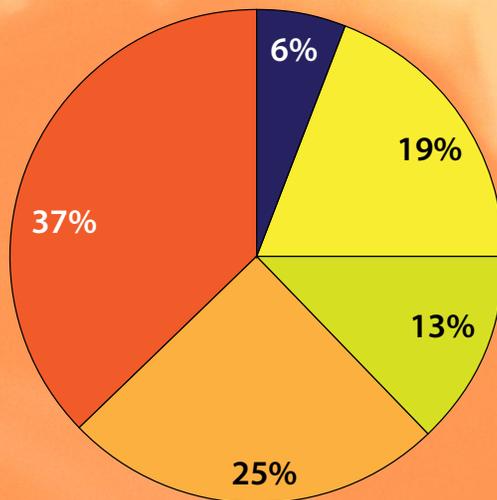


## Revenue Distribution

FYE 6 | 30 | 2020  
TOTAL \$3,047,803

# Expenses

- Administration and General Operating Expenses **19%**  
\$549,094
- Fundraising and Communications **13%**  
\$394,886
- School and Neighborhood Partnerships **25%**  
\$731,106
- Young Artist Diploma Program,  
Main-site Training and Productions **37%**  
\$1,092,351
- Occupancy **6%**  
\$176,057



## Expense Distribution

FYE 6 | 30 | 2020  
TOTAL \$2,943,494

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