

Raise the Roof update

Through the generosity of many longtime donors and institutions, we have raised \$450,000 towards our goal of \$800,000 in support of procuring and building out a permanent home, expanding programming and creating a solid operational reserve account! Although this is certainly encouraging, we continue to depend on our community to take us across the finish line. Please visit www.destinyarts.org/campaign to learn more about our efforts. Additionally, we are seeking volunteers who can offer their time and skills. These in-kind gifts are as good as money in the bank. Please email JoAn@destinyarts.org to learn about current opportunities and to sign up to volunteer. *Let's make this next move together!*



Destiny donor piggy bank

LET'S ALL RISE UP TO *Raise the Roof!*

Join our first community fundraising drive to help Destiny raise \$800k to move to a larger, longer-term home.

Our goal is 100% participation from the Destiny community by June 30, 2010.

www.destinyarts.org/100percent

See enclosed postcard for details

Destiny Enthusiasts *Get Their Move On!*

On January 23rd, we held Destiny's First Annual Move-A-Thon — twelve hours of back-to-back movement classes taught by some of the best instructors in the Bay Area, including Destiny instructors. More than 200 people, ranging from toddlers to seniors participated! The array of classes was dizzying — from yoga to Afro-Puerto Rican Bomba, salsa and Capoeira to body music, physically integrated dance, hip-hop, hula, chi gong, self-defense and sparring to street theater. In addition to the classes we threw a freestyle dance party courtesy of seven amazing local DJs. Following are the instructors and DJs who helped make this day a complete success. All of these artists donated their time and talent in support of our Raise the Roof campaign. Thank you!! Instructors: Corey Action, Jenay Anolin, Antonio Castro, Sarah Crowell, Anthony Daniels, Michele Elefante, Dr. Alex Feng, Luis "Xago" Juárez, Rosa Gonzáles, Fredrika Keefer, Akimasa Moore, Damie Nazapas, Rashidi Omari, Cynthia Renta & Elliot "Toby" Borrero, Salim Rollins, Denice Simpson, Judith Smith, Sonsheree Giles, Keith Terry, Indra Thandani. DJs: Daneekah, DJ Fuze, Kwesi, Selecta Green B, DJ Serg, Vinny Ras, DJ Zita.

SAVE THE DATE: *Moving for Peace* SPRING PERFORMANCE EVENT

Don't miss Destiny's spring outdoor festival and performance event!

Saturday, June 12, 2010
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
(performance at 3:00 pm)
Destiny Arts Center parking lot

The show will feature over 100 dance, theater and martial arts performers, ages 3–18, from onsite and Project DESTINY school programs.

Food, games and fun for the whole family.

Bring sunscreen, and a beach chair and have a blast!

Suggested Donation:
\$5 adults | \$3 youth 18 & under
free for youth under 5



Move-A-Thon participants get into it!

PHOTOS: DAVID RIEMER



on the MOVE

Make This Summer a Destiny Summer

Destiny offers a fabulous array of summer programs for youth ages 3-18 for nine weeks starting June 23. The programs include martial arts and hip-hop dance classes for 3-18 year olds, modern/jazz dance classes for teens, and 5 weeks of Camp Destiny day camp for 7-12 year olds. Check www.destinyarts.org for more information!



Camp Destiny youth having fun



DAYPC performers in Asylum

Asylum Brings Community Together

The Destiny Arts Youth Performance Company, a group of twenty talented teens from over twelve different East Bay high schools, once again dazzled the community with their original dance/theater/martial arts production titled Asylum. The group co-created this piece in collaboration with co-artistic directors and other professional artists and premiered at Laney College Theater in March. Fourteen 7-12 year old Destiny Junior Company members, five martial artists from the Destiny Arts Youth Martial Arts Team and three guest performers joined the cast. Audience members were impressed and shared the following accolades:

"Destiny Arts Center is a Bay Area treasure! Never stop your fantastic work! Love you!"

"This was a strong performance that had multiple life lessons. I think that it should be shown all over the country and I hope it will. Thanks."

"I love Destiny Arts Center! I cannot wait for the next show! I hope Destiny can last forever!"

Destiny's Tournament Team Excels in Yuba City

On February 19th Destiny's Tournament Team competed at the Shotokan Karate USA West Coast Championships, held in Yuba City, California. The journey was a memorable one — each member performed admirably in the competition. First time competitor and Destiny Junior Company member Nia Spaulding placed fourth in the Kata (forms) competition. Otis Johnson received two bronze medals in both sparring and forms. Maceo Smith was a runner-up in the sparring competition and placed third in the Kata competition. Maceo's big brother, Rumi Smith, won bronze medals in both the sparring and Kata competitions. Daniel Parham took two bronze medals in what was only his second tournament. Jaliya Daniels, competing for the first time in the challenging green belt division, placed second in Kata and third in sparring. The team's next stops are the California State Tae Kwon Do Championships in April and the National Championship qualifier in Oregon in May! Congratulations to all of our phenomenal competitors!

All In the Family

Destiny Arts Center has proudly collaborated with Our Family Coalition (OFC) this year bringing dance and self-defense classes to LGBTQ families and their allies. We are excited to continue the collaboration in the coming years! OFC is a San Francisco based organization promoting the civil rights and wellbeing of Bay Area lesbian, gay bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) families with children and prospective parents through education, advocacy, social networking and grassroots community organizing.



Parent with child in Our Family/Destiny self-defense class 2009.

Spotlight On (a few) Raise the Roof Campaign Volunteers

Our fundraising campaign would not be nearly as successful as it is without the tireless efforts of a handful of dedicated volunteers working on our behalf.

To spotlight just a few... our Facilities Team includes chair **Mark North**, realtor extraordinaire **Scott Stone** from Aegis Realty, financial wizard **David Clayton** and project management diva **Christina Martinez**.

Our Marketing and Communications Team includes chair **John Stormer**, copywriter supreme **Lauren Kerr**, web and graphic design master **Ben Clemmens**, public relations guru **Scott Horton**, and donor relationship software master **Brett LeDove**.

This just scratches the surface of the many volunteers showing up again and again to say "yes" when we ask for help. Thank you!

Volunteer of the Season: Lauren Stevenson



Each year Destiny relies on the generosity and community spirit of countless volunteers. Lauren Stevenson has certainly shown a special degree of dedication. For the last three years, during the Destiny Arts Youth Performance Company's

busy performance season, Lauren has stepped up and done whatever necessary to make sure things run smoothly. Her efforts include (but are certainly not limited to) last minute trips to the drug store for Ace bandages, running the follow spot during all the performances, creating audience surveys, and greeting audience and cast members alike. Her value to our organization cannot be measured and we are extremely grateful for Lauren's unending, selfless service!

Destiny's Peaceful Warriors: Olivia Bernadel-Huey & Neenee Franklin

Olivia Bernadel-Huey has been a martial arts student at Destiny for over nine years. She was the youngest black belt to be promoted in Destiny's history. She has trained hard, competing in local and national tournaments and performed with the Destiny Arts Youth Martial Arts Team.

“I started at Destiny as a Teddy Bear when I was 4 years old. At first the only reason I wanted to learn martial arts was to keep up with my older brother, but I soon realized that it was something I really enjoyed. Over the years I've had many great instructors, my main ones being Sifu Anthony, Sensei Antonio, Sifu Matt, Sensei Caroline, and Sifu Corey. They all taught me not only the invaluable skills and techniques but also a love of martial arts. Their influence and my time at Destiny have made me into the person I am and define the choices I make each day. Though I've received my black belt and have been practicing martial arts for 9 years now, I'm only 13 so it was an especially great honor and surprise to receive the Peaceful Warrior Award. To me, a Peaceful Warrior is someone that lives positively, respectfully and always tries their best to do what is good and right for not just themselves, but others too. In this way, they create peace and change wherever they go. Even though I don't think I've done that quite yet, I know that I can work toward it each and every day to truly become a Peaceful Warrior.”



Neenee Franklin has been part of the Destiny community for seven years. She started as a member of the Destiny Junior Company and then graduated to participate in the Destiny Arts Youth Performance Company where she has performed in major roles in five annual productions. Neenee has also taught in after-school and summer programs at Destiny for five years. Both Neenee and Olivia won the prestigious Destiny Arts Center Warrior's Code Award in December 2009. Here they talk about their experience at Destiny over the years and their commitment to being peaceful warriors.

What memory of Destiny will you always take with you?

NEENE: The feeling...the love, the smiles that everybody has, and the open arms...

What does being a Peaceful Warrior mean to you?

NEENE: Walking with peace and being a leader. Teaching or helping someone else to be a warrior and reach out to others. Being a strong, positive, uplifting leader. A strong girl.

What is the biggest change you've noticed about yourself since coming to Destiny?

NEENE: I walk up tall with my head pointed to the sky.



Project DESTINY in 2010

Project Destiny is an innovative after-school violence prevention program that brings Destiny teachers and curriculum to twenty schools throughout the East Bay. The program gives youth physical, emotional and expressive tools to inspire them towards positive and effective participation in their schools and communities.

This semester we are thrilled to welcome back two talented teachers to the Project Destiny community: Lauren Benjamin and Sam Mende-Wong. We also welcome DAYPC alum Mika Lemoine to our teaching staff. Special recognition goes to Sifu Anthony, who did a marvelous job with the students at Stonehurst Elementary. Sifu is taking a hiatus from teaching for the rest of the semester, and his class is now in the capable hands of Sam Mende-Wong. On February 2nd, students from Rashidi Omari's Hip Hop dance class at Street Academy participated in a showcase focused on unity and non-violence called East Side West Side Let's Unify. The event, held at Laney College Theater, fostered collaboration among Street Academy's various enrichment classes. DAC Artistic Director Sarah Crowell also played an instrumental role in organizing the performance.



Project DESTINY students gig'n!



Letter from The Executive Director

"One day our descendants will think it incredible that we paid so much attention to things like the amount of melanin in our skin or the shape of our eyes or our gender instead of the unique identities of each of us as complex human beings."

—FRANKLIN THOMAS

Watching the recent news about our elected officials and their families receiving hate mail, vicious voice mail messages and even death threats because they cast the "wrong" vote, I am reminded yet again that the skills we teach Destiny youth are more imperative than ever: to celebrate and honor difference; to listen respectfully to other people's ideas; even if you disagree, to state your disagreement in a way that does not attack the other's personhood and humanity; to have the humility to admit that your viewpoint is just one of many and is of no more or less significance than another's.

Destiny has been Growing Peaceful Warriors for more than two decades. We know it takes tremendous strength of character to open ourselves to new ideas and ways of seeing, but we have witnessed over and over again that given the chance, young people rise to this challenge every time, moving past prejudice to acceptance, curiosity and compassion. These traits are far more than a luxury in the world in which these young people are growing up — a technological world that is becoming an increasingly more global community. A successful life will require them to see past their prejudices and embrace difference in many forms. We are so honored to be teaching young people these life-affirming skills and to learn from their challenges and triumphs, as they share the realities of their lives with us.

If you are inspired to help us in this important work in any way, please give me a call at (510) 597-1619 x103 or email me at renee@destinyarts.org. Peace.

Renée

THANK YOU TO ALL DESTINY'S SUPPORTERS

We are extremely grateful to the following foundations, corporations, and government agencies for their generous support:

Government: Alameda County Arts Fund • City of Oakland Cultural Funding Program • Oakland Fund for Children & Youth

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Individual Donations: A very special thank you to the countless individuals who have made donations from \$5 to \$33,000 this year. Destiny Arts Center survives because of the generosity of individuals like you.

In-Kind Contributions: Aarin Burch Productions, Ellen Abel CPA • Aegis Realty • AMICUS – Strategic Environmental Consulting • Alta Alliance Bank • Bakesale Betty • Bay Area Discovery Museum • Gracie Bucciarelli • Catrina Marchetti Photography • Champlin Wireless Communications • Ben Frost aka Soleil • Renée Heider • John Gordon Consulting • Kathy Sloane Photography • Matt Lucas • Lily Marnell • Sam Mende-Wong • Montalvo Arts Center • Oakland Recycles • Project Bandaloop • Rosemary Robinson • Peter Shwartz of Della Ruth Video • Rich Snowdon C.P.C. • Solstice Press • Deontay Wilson • Alfredo Vergara-Lob

...and to individuals who have made donations in amounts ranging from \$5 to \$33,000. Destiny Arts Center survives on the generosity of individuals like you. Each contribution, large, small and in between, is greatly appreciated.

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Destiny Junior Company Co-Artistic Directors

Natasha Jacobs, Ariel Luckey

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Destiny Arts Center runs in-school and after-school programs called

Project DESTINY at the following school sites:

ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOLS

Civicorps Elementary School, Claremont Middle School, Fremont High School, Hoover Elementary School, Lighthouse Community Charter School, Lincoln High School, North Oakland Community Charter School, Peralta Elementary School, Santa Fe Elementary School, Stonehurst Elementary School, Emiliano Zapata Street Academy High School

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Destiny Arts Center exists to end isolation, prejudice and violence in the lives of young people.



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