



Vallejo Teaching Artists
Annual Report
FY 2020-2021



Artwork by Naomi, Grade 8

Helping our students to envision their dreams and reach for their goals.

Our 8th graders create sculptures of themselves and write biographies about who they imagine they might be in 10 years.

In the upcoming school year, graduates from our class of 2012 have been invited to return to our school to reflect on their past vision of themselves and to share words of wisdom with the current class of 8th graders.

Our Mission

The mission of Vallejo Teaching Artists is to provide safe and supportive spaces for the youth of Vallejo to develop and share their artistic craft, to express their creative voice with confidence, and to influence the landscape of social justice. We value its purpose for the important impact youth have on humanity. We are committed to empowering youth to create artistic works that represent, honor, and celebrate the diversity of our social and cultural differences. We are dedicated to building visual and performance literacy that supports academic, social, and emotional learning toward reaching individual potential.

Our Vision

Vallejo Teaching Artists envision equitable art spaces that support, guide, and advocate for youth artistic expression and growth. We encourage youth to be socially responsible by building empathy, empowerment, and perseverance. We create high-quality, meaningful curricula that integrate creative practice with standard-based content. We thoughtfully collaborate with educators to help facilitate student access to educational outcomes and academic standards, using the arts as a medium. We believe that the arts should be embraced as essential to the holistic development of each person.



Message from Our Board

In 2009, a group of Vallejo parents prioritized and raised funds for local artists to provide their children at the Vallejo Charter School with a strong Visual and Performing Arts program, one that enhanced and expanded their child's academic experience.

For the past twelve years, the artists have worked tirelessly to build on that vision and to expand it in hope of ensuring that every child in Vallejo receives equal access to the Arts.

Last year, in the grips of a pandemic, we went to work on building the structure to help us fully realize this ambitious goal. Through the creation of **Vallejo Teaching Artists**, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, we are prepared to expand our programming and outreach as we return to normalcy.

After a difficult year, we realize we have so much to be grateful for and we could not have accomplished a lot of our work without the support of our partners – the teaching artists, classroom teachers, VCUSD school staff and administrators, funders, parents, and, of course, our students.

At the end of the day, they are the reason we do the work we do. Inside our first Annual Report you will get an opportunity to learn more about us and our accomplishments this past year.

We are Vallejo Teaching Artists and together we can make a real difference.

James Orlando, M.S.

Treva Nervis, M.A.

Stephan, Betz, Ph.D.

President

Vice President

Secretary Treasurer



Vallejo Teaching Artists embrace the standards set by the California Department of Education and are working to provide Vallejo students with quality arts education.



Artwork
by
Jordan
Grade 8

“The California Arts Standards provide guidance toward achieving a common goal: for all California students to fully participate in a rich and well-rounded arts education. An arts education helps children and youth make sense of the world, communicate their unique ideas across boundaries, and discover who they are as individuals and as members of various groups. Students who experience a quality arts education, one that seeks to honor the aesthetic and enduring over the efficient, have an opportunity to engage in complex and nuanced thinking around meaningful work (Eisner 2002).” ¹

Vallejo Teaching Artists (VTA) believe that a robust arts program increases compassion and academic outcomes, as findings support in a Rice University study, “students’ arts learning experiences significantly improve educational outcomes. Fostering and supporting these experiences lead to improvements in student discipline, writing achievement, and compassion for others.” ²

As VTA art instructors, we see the positive impacts in working with teachers to weave the arts into core classroom curricula and observe up close the benefits that the arts hold in helping students gain a greater understanding of difficult concepts through visual representation.



Artwork by
Madalynne
Grade 8

Improving access to arts education is also an equity issue for Vallejo students. California Alliance for Arts Education reports, “Disadvantaged and at-risk youth are often barred from school arts programs in favor of remedial instruction in reading and math. This practice contradicts research evidence that quality arts education provides even greater learning benefits to disadvantaged youth than their advantaged classmates.” ³

For all these reasons and more, Vallejo Teaching Artists are committed to our community and dedicated to bringing joy, laughter, and learning to our students’ lives.

¹ California Arts Standards for Public Schools, Prekindergarten Through Grade Twelve. Sacramento: California Department of Education, 2019.

² Daniel H. Bowen and Brian Kisida, “Investigating Causal Effect of Arts Education Experiences: Experimental Evidence From Houston’s Arts Access Initiative,” *Houston Education Research Consortium* 7, no. 4 (2019): 1-28.

³ Status of Arts Education in California Public Schools. California Alliance for Arts Education, https://www.artsed411.org/resources/status_of_arts_ed_in_public_schools. Accessed 5 July 2021.

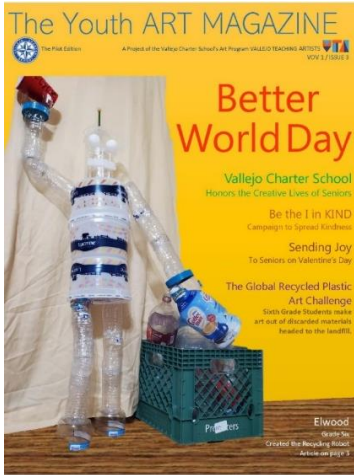


Artwork by Kahari Grade 8



is building community through:

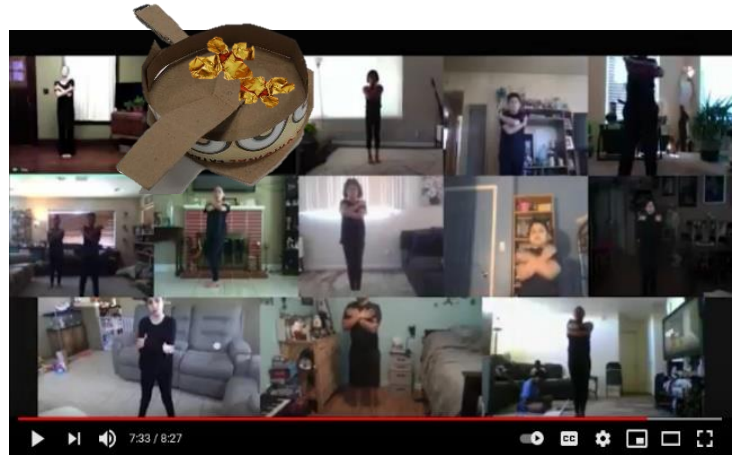
✓ PARTNERSHIPS



This year, Vallejo Teaching Artists and Vallejo Charter School partnered to celebrate Better World Day. Students honored the creative lives of seniors in our community with a virtual, visual presentation. The streaming event featured kindergarten through eighth grade students leading our community in crew greetings, showcasing senior art with student reflections, and in presenting their own art through performances, poetic readings, and musical creations. Our success with Better World Day was celebrated and featured on the cover of our first printed issue of the Youth Art Magazine.

✓ COLLABORATIONS

Students, classroom teachers, and our teaching artists came together to enhance the academic experience of studying the Gold Rush by creating a multimedia project including art, music, dance, and spoken word.



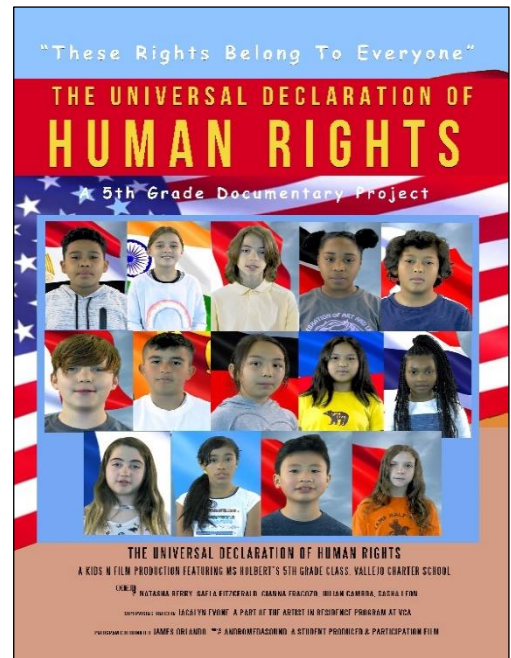
GOLD RUSH A Multidisciplinary Film

✓ CELEBRATIONS



Students dance to tell stories

We challenge our students to bring their authentic selves to the creative process. We celebrate their bravery by ensuring that they are seen by a supportive and caring community.



A film in partnership with Kids N Film Production

HOW WE SPEND OUR FUNDS & THE STUDENTS WE SERVE

Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget



- Instructors
- Administrative
- School Site Collaboration and Support
- Fundraising

Note: For FY 2020-2021, the funds identified in this budget were contracted directly with the individual VTA instructors.

The students we serve.

36.8%	Hispanic
25.1%	African American
18.0%	Asian
15.0%	White
3.7%	Two or more races
1.2%	Pacific Islander
.2%	American Indian
52.2%	Qualify for free or reduced-price school lunch.



100% are creative with a story to tell.



This past year, Vallejo Teaching Artists delivered for their students – our accomplishments in numbers ...

838

CLASSES
TAUGHT

22

VIDEO ART
LESSONS

3

YOUTH ART
MAGAZINES

48

ART
CELEBRATIONS

475

STUDENTS
SERVED

76

AFTER SCHOOL
CLASSES

6

SCHOOLS
BENEFITTED
(In our After School Clubs)

1

MULTI-
DISCIPLINARY
FILM

231

HOME ART KITS
DELIVERED

Just imagine the possibilities for our year ahead.
Your support can make them a reality.



MANY THANKS TO ALL OF OUR DONORS AND COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

Anonymous - A Very Small Art Fund

New Pacific Studio - Educational Grant

The Solano Community Foundation - The Education Plus Grant

Vallejo Center for the Arts

The City of Vallejo - Commission on Culture and the Arts Grant

Vallejo City Unified School District

The Orlando Barrett Family

The Nervis Family

Stephan Betz

Darcie H. O'Brien

Noll Design

The Oddfellows - San Pablo Lodge 43

The International Kids N Film Festival

Vallejo Open Studios

Club Stride Inc.

Vallejo Project

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO VALLEJO CHARTER SCHOOL

We would like to acknowledge the commitment and continued support of the Vallejo Charter School for their enthusiastic willingness to develop and implement the Arts at their school. We are proud to have partnered with them for over a decade and we look forward to an exciting future ahead.