

**Vallejo Teaching Artists  
Annual Report  
FY 2021-2022**





## 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.

## Our Goals

Empowering youth to share their stories and express their beliefs freely, and with powerful effectiveness, through music, dance, visual arts, theater and new media to authentic audiences of their peers, their families and community members.

Facilitating Arts-centered integration that improves student engagement, comprehension, and performance across subject areas.

Creating youth-based spaces for the Performing and Visual Arts, i.e. an art gallery, dance studios, and theaters.

Offering school site performances from Bay Area artists & arts organizations.

Developing the VTA Internship Program – a program for professional artists who aspire to be a teaching artist by providing professional development that connects the skills of their art forms with effective engagement in their teaching.

Building positive partnerships with arts organizations both locally and globally.

Continuing and developing the VTA Summer Studio – a program that creates an opportunity for students to immerse themselves in their artistic practice and craft.

Promoting Public Visual and Performance art opportunities for students to exhibit their work to our local community and beyond, promoting discovery, discourse, and mutual understanding.





## Message From The 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. In 2019, this vision created the non-profit Vallejo Teaching Artists, Incorporated.

Last school year, 2021-22, was the students' return-to-school experience after the pandemic. Artists supported students with activities for socialization and engagement in social justice studies. We significantly expanded the content of the Youth Arts Magazine, which, after its first edition, was sought after by our community, vendors, and schools. Students celebrated their successes at the Vallejo Open Studios. We added a book club on social justice issues and created a mural at Vallejo Charter School that shows us as one "crew". Students asked the question who is really driving our current reality in their sketch "Animal Takeover". Students created their own songs about their experiences of returning to society after being isolated. They also collaborated in teams to create theme-based music videos where they wrote the script or brought the contents of a book in their unique way.

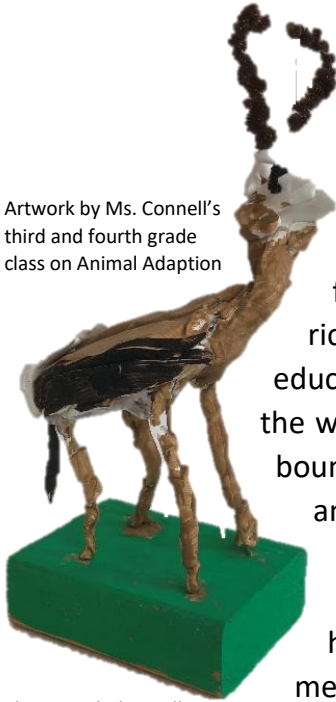
We celebrate with students and teachers our gratitude of being and learning together again. It takes an education village, the teaching artists, classroom teachers, VCUSD school staff and administrators, funders, parents, and, of course, our students to create real learning and a future for our children. Inside this, our second 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.	President
Treva Nervis, M.A.	Vice President
Stephan, Betz, Ph.D.	Secretary Treasurer
Jill Foltz-Santos	Board Member

**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 Ms. Connell's third and fourth grade class on Animal Adaption



The Springbok gazelle by Brandon

“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).”<sup>1</sup>



The Monarch butterfly by Mikaela

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.”<sup>2</sup>

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.

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.”<sup>3</sup>



The Ostrich by Naomi

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.

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

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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](https://www.artsed411.org/resources/status_of_arts_ed_in_public_schools). Accessed 5 July 2021.



The Three banded armadillo by John



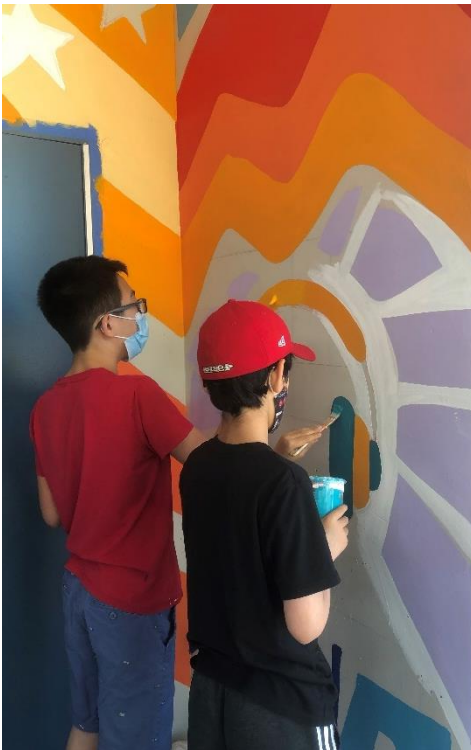
## OUR PROJECTS



**Arts Programing in Schools** brings the creative energy of the arts back into the academic day with a series of consecutive lessons (8-15 weeks) that expose student to visual art, dance, music, theatre, creative writing and traditional folk arts.



**Mural Making in Schools** introduces students to public-art through the collaborative process of creating a mural with a professional muralist.



**Diversity & Inclusion Book Club** is a social justice and art making project that creates a safe and supportive space for student to share their ideas, perspectives, and point-of-view by unpacking and witnessing student truths through lively discussion groups and through the arts.



**Film Making in Schools** introduced students to

filmmaking through the collaborative process of creating a film with a professional filmmaker.

**Youth ART MAGAZINE** introduces student to the field of arts journalism through the lens of creative writing and illustration. YAM is created and managed by students for the youth of Vallejo.



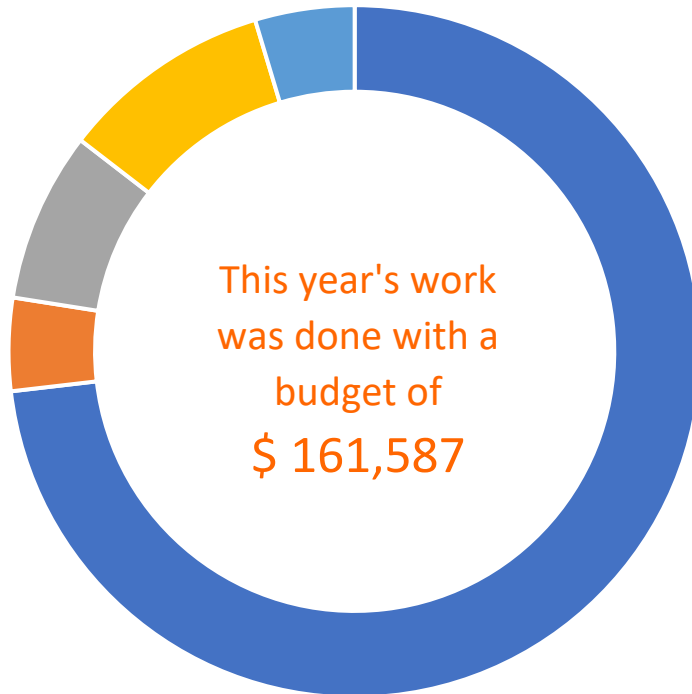
**Music Recording Program** introduces students to the music recording industry as musicians, songwriters, and producers. Our recording studio is managed by youth artists.

**Young Art Makers Space** is a shared VTA space for young artists to exhibit and sell their artworks during the City-wide Vallejo Open Studios.



# HOW WE SPEND OUR FUNDS & THE STUDENTS WE SERVE

## Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget



- Instructors
- Administration
- School Site Collaboration and Support
- Expanded Learning
- Materials

Note: For FY 2021-2022, the funds identified in this budget were contracted directly with the individual VTA instructors.

## The students at the schools we serve.

- 51.6% Hispanic
- 23.4% African American
- 15.3% Asian-American Pacific Islander
- 6.5% White
- 2.3% Multiracial
- .3% Native American/ Indigenous
- .6% Declined to State
  
- 68 % Qualify for free or reduced lunch
- 23.7% English Language Learners
- .5% Foster Youth



100% are creative with a story to tell.



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

**1,198**

CLASSES  
TAUGHT

**3**

FILMS

**1,000**

YOUTH ART MAGAZINES  
DISTRBUTED

**58**

ART  
CELEBRATIONS

**1,092**

STUDENTS  
SERVED

**12**

MUSIC VIDEOS

**9**

SCHOOLS  
BENEFITTED  
(In our After School Clubs)

**1**

MURAL

**336**

AFTER SCHOOL  
CLASSES

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

Alibi Bookshop  
Anchor Pantry  
Artiszen  
Club Stride Inc.  
City of Vallejo's Commission on Culture and the Arts Grant  
Rhonda Coyle  
Senator Bill Dodd  
Ethnic Notions Fine Art Gallery  
Gretchen Zimmerman – Gardenside Studio  
Kids N Film  
Carol Lewis  
Loma Vista Farm  
New Pacific Studio  
Nervis Family  
Noll Design  
Nolan & Jill Santos & Kids  
Darcie H. O'Brien  
One People Tribe  
Orlando-Barrett Family  
Monique Rutherford  
Solano Community Foundation's Education Plus Grant  
Solano County Library  
Stephan Betz  
The Joint  
Vallejo Arts & Entertainment  
Vallejo Center for the Arts  
Vallejo Charter School  
Vallejo City Unified School District Expanded Learning Program  
Vallejo Navel & Historic Museum  
Vallejo Open Studios  
Vallejo Project

## A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO VALLEJO CHARTER SCHOOL

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



# Together, We Can Make A Difference

Yes! I support creativity for community through Vallejo Teaching Artists. Please accept the following contribution to be directed to:

- Vallejo Teaching Artists to use as they see fit.
  - Music
  - Visual Arts
  - Dance
  - Theatre
  - Industrial Arts
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Social Justice
  - Arts Scholarships
  - Arts Advocacy
  - Youth Art Magazine
  - Teaching Artists Training

Donor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my donation for:

- \$25
- \$100
- \$500
- \$50
- \$250
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Check Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Donations can be mailed to:  
Vallejo Teaching Artists  
925 York Street, Vallejo, CA 94590



To donate with your credit card, please visit [www.VallejoTeachingArtists.org](http://www.VallejoTeachingArtists.org)  
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