

# Annual Report

# 2015

*A look back at another year of*

**HELPING YOUTH FIND THEIR**

**VOICES**

**through arts mentoring and education**



Create Now

**1** MISSION

COUNT  
LESS

Youth

VISION

WHO **NEED**

joy, opportunity, hope, support,

**Create Now.**

## OUR MISSION

Create Now helps youth find their voices through arts mentoring and education.

## OUR VISION

Everyone has the opportunity to create a better future for themselves and inspire others with their creative talents. Through Create Now's arts mentoring programs and experiences, youth in need and their community have the opportunity to heal and explore their unique creative self-expression and passions.

## WHO WE SERVE

Create Now serves kids ages 2-21 who have been abused, neglected, abandoned, orphaned, or left homeless. Often times, these youth are runaways, teen parents, victims of domestic violence, children of prisoners, substance abusers, gang members or incarcerated. The children we serve come from poverty-stricken families with histories of violence, substance abuse and neglect. Create Now also reaches disadvantaged students in Title 1 schools who are at-risk of dropping out.

*Create Now's*

**Creativity**

**Immediacy**

**Connectivity**

**Efficacy**

# CORE VALUES

**Creativity:** We foster creative exploration and self expression. From overcoming adversity to discovering new passions and inspiration in life, our unique programs create real results.



**Immediacy:** Our focus is on helping youth that are most in need now, with the urgency and hands on approach that saves lives.



**Connectivity:** We connect diverse people and organizations through creative arts. We connect kids with mentors and life opportunities plus corporations with communities and philanthropic endeavors. Create Now is the place to make a difference through the arts.



**Efficacy:** Our comprehensive programming delivers life-changing results. We create programs that are relevant and meet the needs of the youth, and the agencies that we partner with and serve.





Create JOY Create EXPERIENCES



Create DREAMS

Create FREINDSHIP



# A letter from Our founder

Dear Friends, Colleagues and Partners;

Create Now celebrated our 19th year of service in 2015. Our Board of Directors shifted and seven terrific new members joined, which brought fresh energy, new ideas and more connections.

Our arts programs target the "forgotten children," the most troubled kids who have fallen through the cracks. Last year, 20,651 were in foster care in Los Angeles County. 67,301 students in our schools were homeless. Over 45,000 gang members were active in 450 gangs, which has increased over the last five years due to the lucrative narcotics trade.

Research proves that arts education provides therapeutic impact with regard to health, cognition, social interaction, trauma, stress reduction, anxiety, confidence, abuse, and most of life's challenges. The children that Create Now serves desperately need the healing power of the arts. It's up to all of us to help them find a positive way to overcome their obstacles, and to develop skills that can lead to jobs and careers.

We increased our cash revenue from \$90,699 in 2014 to \$147,362 in 2015, which is a 62% increase. This enabled Create Now to serve 1,844 of the most vulnerable youth in the region through our innovative programs.

In fact, we launched two new programs that we're very excited about:

(1) Our *Digital Media Lab* taught 15 disadvantaged neighborhood children at the Hope Street Family Center how to tell their personal stories through graphic design, plus audio and video production. Their artwork was projected on cutting-edge technology in a 360° full-dome theatre at Vortex Dome located near Downtown through Vortex Immersion Media; and

(2) *Fashion Design*, which was implemented with 12 homeless youth, ages 9-15, at the LA Family Housing shelter in North Hollywood. Our workshop culminated with a fashion show for all the residents at the shelter, with the young designers helping to prepare professional models for the runway where they received accolades for their amazing couture.

Thanks to this increased funding, we were able to lengthen our arts programs to give the students a deeper education, which included lessons in how to break into the music industry. 10 abused, neglected, abandoned and orphaned teenage boys from Hathaway-Sycamores group home in Pasadena visited our recording studio for 12 weeks where they learned how to engineer and produce their original music into professional demos.



Create CONFIDENCE Create SMILES



Create Now embarked on our second year of partnership with the prestigious LA Promise Neighborhood (LAPN) initiative sponsored by the Youth Policy Institute and the Department of Education. 30 children in the 5th and 6th grades at Ramona Elementary School in East Hollywood (where only 50% of the students graduate) took our guitar classes with teaching artist Megan Hook. A group of 6 teenage foster boys from New Dawn group home in Walnut also learned guitar with musician Mike Madariaga. These kids had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to perform their songs on the stage of the iconic House of Blues in Hollywood to a packed audience that included their families and friends.

Through LAPN, we also provided our *Create a Mural Now* workshop to children living at the San Fernando Gardens Housing Project in Pacoima, where 2 out of 3 students are behind grade level. Master teaching artist Manny Velasquez led the classes, along with his assistant Juan Reyes, an up-and-coming young artist who lives there.

Many more programs took place, which you can read about in this report, including a *Video Production* workshop for teenage boys on probation living at Boys Republic group home in Silverlake, a variety of classes in writing, dance, and jewelry at Vista Del Mar in Culver City, plus the *Art of Illusion* (Magic) at Covenant House in Hollywood.

Abused, neglected and abandoned children at Hillsides group home in Pasadena had a brighter holiday season, which is a time that is very depressing for them, when they learned *Improv Theatre* at Hillsides. These kids also got to build their own cities using recyclable materials through our *Create a City Now* program.

During our *Cultural Journeys* program, 962 youth, sometimes accompanied by their families, got to experience live concerts and plays at Walt Disney Concert Hall, Hollywood Bowl, Pasadena Playhouse, Theatre West, Skirball Museum, Royce Hall, Cal Tech, Geffen Playhouse, Alex Theatre, Road Theatre, Hudson Theatre, "The Nutcracker" at the Dolby Theatre, Pasadena Convention Center, Cirque du Soleil's "Kurios," Ringling Brothers Circus at STAPLES and the premiere of "Star Wars" at LA Live.

In addition to our programs, Create Now shared a variety of resources and opportunities, like tickets to sports events, a Fashion Branding internship, dance classes at the Los Angeles Ballet Company, plus art workshops, conferences, free tutoring, a bookmark contest, and casting opportunities on Disney Channel's "Make Your Mark" TV series. The information we shared about these events reached thousands of the neediest kids in the community through our partners, such as social workers, probation officers, rehab specialists and mental health professionals.

We also distributed hundreds of diapers, toys and beauty products at the LA Violence Intervention Coalition (LAVIC) through our collaboration with New Directions for Youth in North Hollywood. At their inaugural festival, Create Now gave hundreds of families the opportunity to bond as they made special snowflake wands and other fun arts and crafts projects.

I hope that you will join me in transforming the lives of youth in need, so we can all Create Now.

With gratitude,

# 20,651

children in foster care in the greater Los Angeles Area this year

# 67,301

children in our school system were homeless this year



Jill Gurr

Founder and Executive Director





We are proud to report that 2015 was  
**ANOTHER REWARDING  
AND SUCCESSFUL YEAR**  
for Create Now programs!

---

---

The next few pages feature just some of the programs we wish to highlight as examples of the various ways Create Now touched the lives of youth in need of creative arts. To start off, check out our “Programs at a Glance” to see an overview of youth engagement with Create Now in 2015 and how much we’ve grown since last year!

---

---



# OUR PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE 2015

**1,844**  
youth reached

Many of whom were

**NEW** TO WORKING WITH US



**62%** increase in REVENUE  
allowed us to reach

**735** MORE YOUTH THAN WE DID LAST YEAR

*and MOST importantly*  
**COUNTLESS SMILES!**

we culminate all of our programs with fun parties for the kids and gift bags that include special Certificates of Completion and other lasting souvenirs.

# FASHION DESIGN PROGRAM

## Fashion Design Workshop with LA Family Housing

LA Family Housing provides housing and resources for Los Angeles' neediest families. The youth at LA Family Housing have lived without the basic amenities that most people take for granted. Perhaps more significantly, they have been deprived of the stability, support, and hope that allows other children to thrive, experience joy, and reach their full potential.

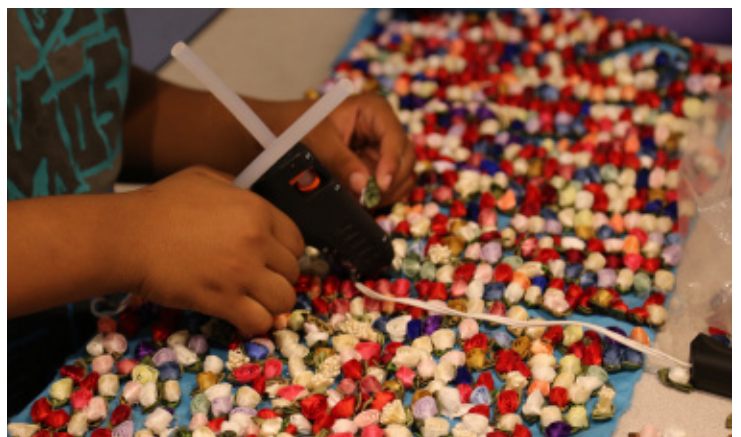
Many impoverished and neglected youth crave to feel normal, and free of the worries that should never plague a child. To provide the youth at LA Family Housing both relief from their daily struggles and an inspiring creative outlet, we introduced a *Fashion Design* workshop. Emore'J, a designer and fashion show producer, and his team mentored a group of 12 youth at L.A. Family Housing and guided them as they used their imaginations to create wild outfits with themes that reflect UTOPIA, like Galaxy, Tropical Fish, Birds, Moon and Fairies.

The workshop culminated in a fashion show hosted at the LA Family Housing facility. During this event, professional models strutted down the runway wearing the gorgeous designs created by the kids. Seeing the models wearing their clothes and being applauded was incredibly meaningful and rewarding for the youth. It created confidence in their capabilities and talent, and also confirmed that they can do whatever they put their minds to. The event was also very fun, filled with food, drinks, performances, and celebratory gift bags for the kids.

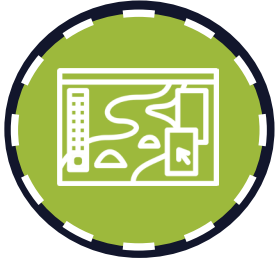
Fashion is not only a fun creative outlet, but it is also a \$25 billion industry that generates 90,000 jobs each year in Los Angeles. Introducing youth to creative activities not only provides emotional relief from their current challenges, but it also gives them tangible skills and inspiration to pursue career paths that allow them to escape the cycle of poverty.



"I always wanted to design clothes, and now I finally got the chance to, and it really is fun!" -Nyarrah



# DIGITAL & WRITING ARTS



## Digital Media Lab

With the Hope Street Family Center



Our neighbor the Hope Street Family Center assists children and families in the community who need health and educational support. Our 12-week *Digital Media Lab* with the kids at the Hope Street Family Center consisted of computer art instruction and culminated in an exciting trip to the Vortex Dome, a phenomenal 360° full-dome theatre where they got to see their artwork projected. All the children, ages 8-15, were thrilled to experience the Vortex Dome and all received gift bags filled with lasting souvenirs.



## Creative Writing Workshop

at Aviva Center



Aviva Center is a group home in Hollywood with 36 teenage girls who have suffered horrendous physical and sexual abuse, and/or abandonment. Thanks to our volunteer Elayna Rice, six of these girls found relief and a positive way to express themselves through our *Creative Writing* workshop. The first week, they chose a picture under the premise of "a picture is worth 1,000 words." The girls then had five weeks to write 1,000 words on whatever story they thought the picture was telling.

The group worked on various ways to tell their stories, such as using a different point-of-view, non-linear stories, and the "Rory's Story Cubes" game. They also discovered opportunities to share their stories through blogs, YouTube videos, slam poetry, and self-publishing with ebooks. The program culminated with each girl receiving a hard-cover book in which all of their stories have been published. In addition to this lasting souvenir that will remind them about their accomplishments, the kids loved the Certificates of Completion they received.

**"I learned a lot in this workshop. One is that I'm a bit camera shy. The other is that I'm a pretty darn good writer!" -Kelsha**

# COMMUNITY-BUILDING PROGRAMS

WORKING AS A TEAM TO CREATE STRONGER AND MORE CONNECTED COMMUNITIES



## CREATE A MURAL NOW

This is one of our most popular programs amongst the youth we reach! During each class, the children are provided with materials and guided by professional artists while they design and create a mural that promotes a positive theme. This collaborative workshop is a fun way for kids to broaden their teamwork skills and enjoy a creative outlet as they leave behind an enduring painting that brightens their environment!

### CREATE A MURAL NOW AT LA FAMILY HOUSING

25+ children ages 3-15 at LA Family Housing homeless shelter developed an inspiring mural thanks to the expert guidance of artist Brandon Johnson of "Bigfooters." Brandon led fun interactive lessons with engaging instructional videos and his warm, supportive demeanor earned him the adoration of all the kids he worked with.

Upon completion, the mural was mounted in the cafeteria at LAFH where the 60 families living at the shelter can be inspired by it daily. For the kids who worked on the mural, seeing it every day serves as a permanent reminder that they are capable of using their imaginations and talents to create great things.



Precious Boone coordinates the activities at the shelter. Describing the workshop, she says:

"Brandon engages the youth to think critically about what they have created and what it means for them. The entire process has built confidence in the children to be proud of what they create. They take ownership! I hear it in every 'Look at what I made!' or 'Look at the colors I used!' It is uniquely theirs, and they are proud of this fact."

### CREATE A MURAL NOW AT SAN FERNANDO GARDENS

Create Now partnered with Youth Policy Institute (YPI) and Los Angeles Promise Neighborhood to engage more than a dozen children to create a mural in the low-income housing project "San Fernando Gardens" in Pacoima - one of the poorest neighborhoods in Los Angeles. We were thrilled that Pacoima's Master Muralist, Manny Velasquez and Gardens resident, 21-year old emerging artist Juan Reyes, were able to mentor these youth and teach them art skills and teamwork and the value of beautifying community spaces.



A few words from mentoring artists Manny Velasquez and Juan Reyes:

Manny noted, "It's amazing to see how much fear the older youth have when it comes to painting and drawing, but they all had fun. I got to be the grandpa with these young people, especially the little ones."

Juan remarked, "I'm grateful I was able to work with Manny and the kids. Once they started painting, everything was real quiet. It was great seeing them focused, and I got really inspired myself."

---

---

# CREATE A CITY NOW WITH RECYCLABLES

---

---

AT HILLSIDES

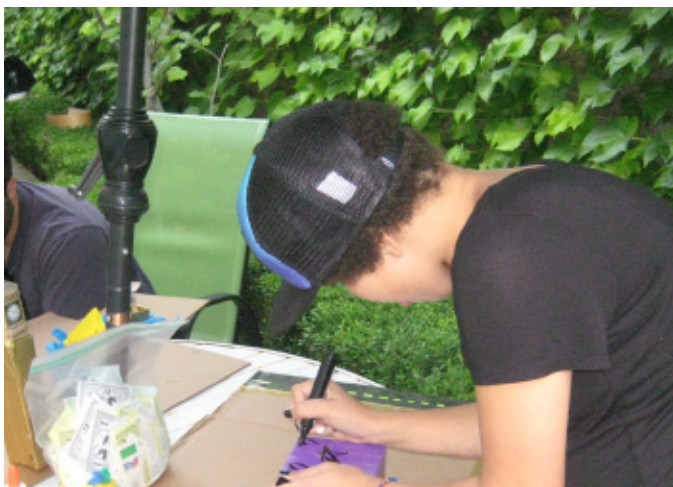


Hillsides in Pasadena provides residential treatment services to vulnerable children who can't live at home, who suffered trauma and who have severe emotional, psychological and behavioral challenges requiring specialized care.

During this workshop, the youth used recycled materials like cardboard tubes, plastic containers, boxes and other trash to design their own cities. In addition to using their imaginations to create cool projects, the kids learned an important lesson: a lot can be created with little! Many troubled and impoverished children are keenly aware of the material things and resources that they do not have access to and often fall victim to thinking they cannot be successful because they do not have the necessary tools. It is invaluable to teach these kids that the most important tools they need to succeed are not something money can buy. Perseverance, creativity, and hope are the most powerful resources a person can have, and all of these youngsters are just as capable of wielding their natural abilities and potential as anyone else.

## *So what did these talented, imaginative youth create?*

Maya built "the City of Love," so whoever meets there will fall in love and be happy forever. Latrina worked on "Latrina's New York City," which has a huge park with ponds and purple bathrooms next to a secret hideout. She rules her city as the Queen. Malekai is a huge Spiderman fan, so "Peter Parker City" has Spidey himself poised on top of a building to watch over everyone.



# MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS

## Music Recording with Hathaway-Sycamores



Hathaway-Sycamores Child and Family Services is a large facility in Pasadena that provides residential treatment for children dealing with mental health or emotional distress. The kids that Hathaway-Sycamores help have endured serious life challenges that no child should experience. Create Now is proud to have offered a therapeutic opportunity for these youth to both express themselves and learn life-long skills through our 12-week *Music Recording* workshop. Our teaching artist, Eddy Lloreda, introduced a group of teenage foster boys to the elements that create the structure of a song and guided them as they applied their new knowledge into developing their own professional demos. This workshop not only helped these kids to develop their music skills, but it also gave them a boost of confidence as they experienced how rewarding it is to create something tangible that reflected their hard work, passion, and talents.



Eddy Lloreda, our teaching artist, reflects on the way the group transformed on the first day, from being shy and unengaged to motivated, focused, and excited:

*"They were hanging on my every word and asking tons of questions! We stayed an extra hour because we were so into it"*

## Guitar Workshop with Ramona Elementary School



Tommy, age 10 who participated in the workshop, remarked:

*"I like when we play guitar and sing together as a class. The teacher is very helpful."*

We're proud to have been selected for the second year by Youth Policy Institute (YPI) to participate in Los Angeles Promise Neighborhood (LAPN), a Department of Education initiative that's targeting 18 schools in Hollywood and Pacoima through a variety of services. In spite of Hollywood's famous glamour, only 50% of youth living in Hollywood graduate high school.

Studies show that music education is associated with higher chances of graduation and a lower risk of gang involvement and addiction, which is why we were eager to bring music coaching to Ramona youth. Our teaching artist Megan Hook taught two classes of 12-session *Guitar* workshops to 15 sixth-grade children during which they learned fundamental chords and techniques to play great songs. This extremely popular workshop helped the kids at Ramona make positive associations between having fun and working hard. Instilling a passion for creative expression and a continued eagerness for learning is the key to keeping at-risk kids on the right path for the long-term.

# Dance Workshop

with Vista Del Mar



Vista Del Mar Activities Director Karen Vine was incredibly impressed with the positive impact that the *Dance Workshop* had on the youth she works with. Describing the significance of the workshop she says:

"It's so hard to get these youth to try new things. Some of them are shy, or they're ashamed if they can't dance, but Bianca is so easy-going. She doesn't put pressure on them and encourages them to keep dancing. It's great exercise and they build their self-esteem. This workshop energizes the kids and also helps with their coping skills."

Flo, one of the girls who participated in the workshop exclaims:

**"Dance lets me express myself. When I feel bad, it makes me feel better. Today I learned a whole new routine!"**

Vista Del Mar in Culver City is a residential facility that provides a safe, nurturing and structured environment for troubled youth. The Department of Children & Family Services uses ratings to identify the impairment of the youth in their system with Levels 12-14 representing the most challenged foster kids living in group homes. These are children who suffer serious mental health disorders, like bipolar, schizophrenia, PTSD, self-injury and depression. Vista Del Mar serves around 60 of these emotionally-disturbed teenagers.

Children who suffer from severe emotional and behavior challenges benefit immensely from opportunities in which they can positively channel their energy and emotions. Last year, our volunteer Bianca Talia taught a *Dance* workshop to 10 teenage foster youths from VDM, and it was such a hit that they begged her to do it again this year! These teenagers had an amazing and rewarding experience working with Bianca, whose patience and enthusiasm brought joy to all participants. The youth had fun and discovered the therapeutic benefits of channeling their energy through the physical and creative platform of dance.

# The Art of Illusion with Covenant House



Covenant House was founded in 1972 with the goal to help homeless youth ultimately get off the streets and break the cycle of adult homelessness. Their goal is to instill the kids that come through their doors with the love, care, guidance, and information that will help them create a better future in which they can thrive.

Covenant's mission to give homeless youth the tools they need to get off the streets was a perfect fit for one of our volunteers, magician Josh G. He worked with homeless young adults at the Covenant House to teach them card tricks that they can use to make money instead of being forced to beg on the streets. The lessons these young adults took away from *The Art of Illusion* workshop were not limited to card tricks however. On a larger scale, they learned that it is never too late to teach themselves ways to support themselves even though they have not had access to the same basic resources and support systems that most people have been privileged with. Further, the magic lessons reinforced the idea that developing skills of performance, talent, and social interaction is an important tool to stop the isolating cycle of begging and living on the streets. While these youth may not become magicians in the long run, watching the impossible happen in front of their own eyes was a powerful experience that provided them with hope, inspiration, motivation...and of course, some much-needed entertainment!



# A Few Special Create Now Events

## 1

### POWER OF THE ARTS PARTIES at the Create Now Office

This year, we hosted five *Power of the Arts* parties at our youth center! These are fun, one-day events in which 40-50 youth from some of our partner agencies get to explore a variety of arts disciplines. At the same time, our volunteers are able to connect with these youngsters and share their skills and develop relationships. The kids become more motivated as they gain self-esteem and confidence from these experiences.

Some of the experts who volunteer their time and talents include graphic designers, musicians, dance teachers, and video producers. One of the profound distinctions about these *Power of the Arts* parties is that the youth who come are encouraged to *choose* everything they want to do. While structured and focused lessons are very important, most of these youth rarely have freedom to decide how they spend their time so it is empowering for them to assess all of their options, and select what they are truly interested in. Watching the kids light up when they find their inspiration sparked is truly moving to watch.



#### *Something to Last Forever*

One of the most meaningful activities we offer the kids during our *Power of the Arts* parties is creating "treasure boxes." Repurposing wooden cigar boxes and decorating them with a variety of craft supplies, the kids create a container that can fit items that have sentimental value for them. Often times these kids are forced to move around frequently and cannot hold onto a lot of belongings, so having a special place to store their keepsakes at arms reach is comforting to them and makes them feel connected, validated, and important.

## 2

### GUITAR PERFORMANCE at The House of Blues



One of LA's most iconic music venues, the House of Blues, generously hosted Create Now during an amazing event in which a number of kids from Ramona and New Dawn group home got to perform on stage.

This incredible event instilled in them the important reminder that their creativity is just as worthy of being heard as every famous musician who has ever performed on the House of Blues stage.

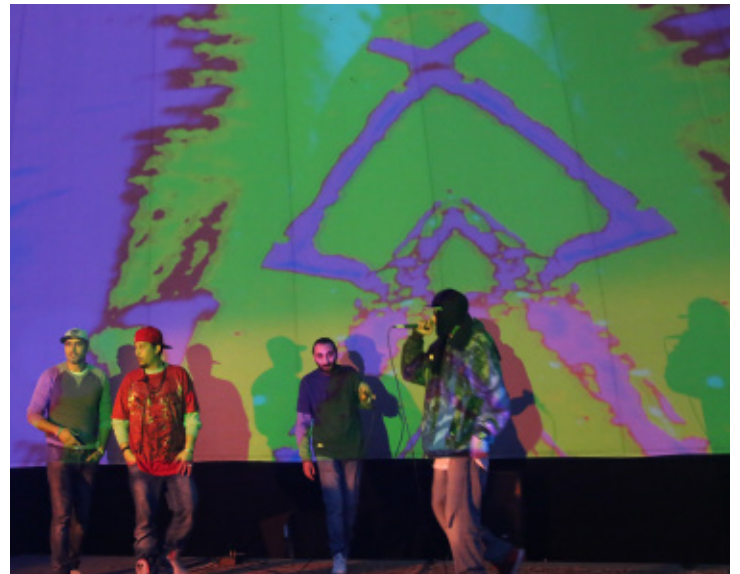


# 3

# HIP-HOP xCHANGE

at the Create Now Office and the Vortex Dome

We hosted four artists who have a wide sphere of influence in Egypt and Tunisia through the U.S. Department of State. Our team included Board Member Mark Schulman, who's a drummer for P!nk and Cher, guitarist teaching artist Mike Madariaga, and musician/rapper/activist Gabe Rosales. We first met with them at the Create Now office. The visiting artists shared their motivational stories about using hip-hop music to prevent their youth from becoming jihadists. After a powerful and inspiring meeting, everyone met up at the Vortex Dome where the visiting artists got to perform. Deep connections were generated through this meeting, including the initiation of the global hip-hop group "Universal Zulu Nation" in the Middle East and North Africa.



# 4

# ARTS FAIR FOR YOUTH

at the LA Film School

**VISIT OUR ARTS FAIR FOR YOUTH**

Create Now @ Hollywood Music + Arts Festival

Transforming lives through creative arts mentoring and opportunities

**Saturday, Nov 7<sup>th</sup> & Sunday, Nov 8<sup>th</sup>**  
between 1 pm and 5:30 pm

**FREE ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:**  
Make fun decorations.  
Create a story, then work with pros to star in, shoot, and edit your video... right in the heart of Hollywood.

Explore all the free art and music at this special festival. For more festival info: [onlyinhollywood.org](http://onlyinhollywood.org)

LA Film School  
6353 Sunset Blvd.  
On Sunset and less  
across from the  
Cinerama Dome

Parking available at  
Pershing and  
Hollywood Interchanges

Thanks to our sponsors:  
Champion Real Estate Company  
and Robertson Properties Group

In early November, Create Now was invited to participate in the "Only in Hollywood Music & Arts Festival." The LA Film School on Sunset Boulevard hosted us. Thanks to our sponsors Champion Real Estate Company and Robertson Properties Group and our volunteers, we were able to provide foster youth from group homes in our network with the opportunity to participate in a number of arts activities including: making holiday decorations and working with video professionals to star in, shoot, and edit their own video!

The kids had a wonderful opportunity to explore all of the incredible art and live performances showcased by talented artists throughout Hollywood during this event. The experience was a fun and memorable way for all of the kids to get engaged in their community and be inspired by other people pursuing their creative dreams.

# CULTURAL JOURNEYS

CULTURAL JOURNEYS  
BY THE NUMBERS 962 YOUTH SERVED 26 CULTURAL EXCURSION OPPORTUNITIES

But we can't put a number on how important this program is to the youth we serve.

Year after year, Create Now's most popular program is *Cultural Journeys*, where we provide thousands of the neediest kids in Southern California with the opportunity to attend concerts, plays and special events at premiere venues in the region. In 2015, 962 of the most vulnerable youth in Southern California had the chance to enjoy a remarkable variety of events. Thanks to generous donations, this year's outings included performances of *Little Red Riding Hood*, Los Angeles Ballet, Ringling Brothers Extreme Circus, *iPalpiti International Youth Orchestra* at Walt Disney Concert Hall and the Hollywood Bowl.



## Star Wars Premiere

ProSearch Strategies donated 30 tickets for our youth to attend the premiere of *Star Wars* at LA Live. Kids from foster group homes, along with fathers and children through Project Fatherhood got to attend.

These cultural outings not only provide fun and exciting moments for the youth we serve, but they also make positive contributions to their emotional and social wellness. These children have often been traumatized by experiences of neglect, abandonment, and abuse and consequently can struggle with things as basic as going out in public. Research suggests that outings, like the experiences offered through *Cultural Journeys*, help youth develop stronger communication skills, physical dexterity, mental concentration, discipline, imagination and creativity.

Confirming the science, every year our partner agencies tell us that after attending Create Now field trips, their youth are better behaved, more focused and able to concentrate longer.



## SPOTLIGHT ON: CIRQUE DU SOLEIL

In 2015, Create Now had the honor of being selected by Cirque du Soleil as their Community Partner for "Kurios" at Dodger Stadium on January 19th. They donated 62 tickets for our youth to see the show, plus 100 more tickets for Create Now to sell to raise money for our work with 100% of the proceeds going to our organization. Thank you Cirque du Soleil for making it a little easier for us to touch the lives of the thousands of at-risk youth in Southern California!

The youth who participate in *Cultural Journeys* are extremely grateful to the ticket donors who make these experiences possible. One of the important aspects of these field trips is the thank you cards that the children make for our donors. The kids get to use their creativity while also learning how to express gratitude. All of these handmade cards and letters of appreciation enable our ticket donors to directly experience the impact of their contributions. Create Now is incredibly grateful for the support from all of our donors in providing these cultural excursions for youth in need.

# RESOURCES SHARED WITH PARTNER AGENCIES

At Create Now, we are proud of the opportunities that we're able to provide youth in need. We're especially grateful for the partnerships that we have with 100 youth agencies in our network that share our passion for helping at-risk youth experience joy and learning through creative outlets. Working with agencies that share our goals allows us to reach as many youth as possible. Create Now regularly sends out notices to the staff at our partner agencies, like social workers, teachers, case workers, therapists, probation officers, administrators and others who are dedicated to impacting youth in need. This information reaches thousands of the most vulnerable kids. No matter how big or small, every act of generosity positively touched the lives of some of the most disadvantaged youth in Southern California.

*(some highlights)*

1

Mini-Summit

2

Women's Conference

3

Free Dance Classes | Los Angeles Ballet Co

4

Free Tutoring | School on Wheels Tutoring

5

Fashion Internship With Project Runaway

6

Diapers and Toys

7

Bookmark Contest | LA County Library

8

Cal Arts Programs

## FOUNDER

Jill Gurr, **Founder and Executive Director**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS/ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ed Lantz – **Board Chair**

CEO of Vortex Immersion Media

Jake Winett – **Vice-Chair**

VP Consumer Services & Advanced Platforms, Sony Pictures Home Entertainment

Jennifer Vogt – **Secretary**

Show Design and Production Executive, Walt Disney Imagineering

Lena Kent – **Treasurer**

Senior Manager, Revenue, Experian

### BOARD MEMBERS

Eva Chen

Branding/Marketing Consultant

Patti Grant

Artist, Patti Grant Studio

Jennifer Gunderson Kleven

Executive Director, Social and Digital Marketing, Warner Telepictures Productions

Daniel Ohgi

VP Endowments and Foundations Group, JPMorgan Chase

Jessie Quinn

Director of Acquisitions, Hayman Properties, LLC

Mark Schulman

Drummer with P!nk and Cher, Speaker, Author

Corlandos Scott

Attorney at Vorzimer Masserman



Thank you to all of our donors whose contributions have helped us transform thousands of lives through creative arts! Listed below are some of the foundation donors we wish to spotlight whose generosity exceeded \$1,000.

---

---

<i>John W Carson Foundation</i>	\$20,000
<i>Youth Policy Institute</i>	\$19,926
<i>California Community Foundation/Thelma Pearl Howard Foundation</i>	\$17,000
<i>Sanford Anderson Charitable Foundation</i>	\$15,150
<i>The Max &amp; Victoria Dreyfus Foundation</i>	\$8,045
<i>House of Blues Foundation</i>	\$6,250
<i>Dan Murphy Foundation</i>	\$5,000
<i>Fonda Foundation</i>	\$5,000
<i>Callie D. McGrath Foundation</i>	\$5,000
<i>St. Francis Center</i>	\$1,355
<i>310 Young Professionals</i>	\$1,250
<i>Irene Finkelstein Foundation</i>	\$1,000
<i>Ralph M. Parsons Foundation</i>	\$1,000

---

---

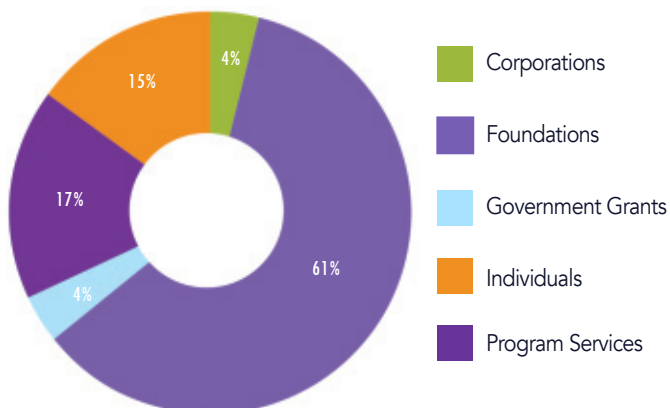
# 2015 Financial

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

### REVENUE & SUPPORT

\$147,362

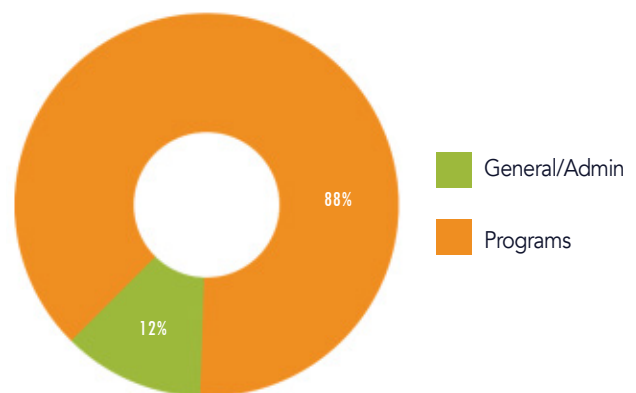
Foundation Contributions	61%
Program Services	17%
Individual Contributions	15%
Government Grants	4%
Corporate Contributions	4%



### EXPENSES

\$128,496

General & Admin	12%
Programs	88%



AT CREATE NOW, WE TAKE PRIDE  
IN USING OUR FUNDS RESPONSIBLY

For every \$1 spent, 88 cents directly supports programs that change the lives of the most vulnerable youth in Southern California.

# Information

---

---

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

---

---

Cash

\$36,289

Total Assets

\$68,936

Net Assets

\$53,471



# Create Now

*Helping youth find their voices  
through arts mentoring and education*

*Phone: (213) 747-2777*

*Fax: (213) 341-2408*

*e-mail: [info@createnow.org](mailto:info@createnow.org)*

*Facebook: [#Createnow](#)*

*Twitter: [#createnow](#)*

*Instagram: [#createnowarts](#)*

*YouTube: [/createnowarts](#)*