



## FY23 IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

### About the Junior Center

The Junior Center's mission is to cultivate curiosity and creative exploration through the arts and sciences. We harness the power of creativity and experiential learning to inspire big ideas and everyday connections between art and science.

Thanks to your support in FY23, we continued to advance our goal to ensure equitably accessible summer and school-year programming while expanding our partnerships and deepening program impact.



*From left to right: Young learner meeting our Gecko, Izzy, at Emerson ES, Franklin Elementary students exploring painting on a large scale, students at Carl B Munck using collage materials to develop composition, and Teaching artist, Joey Rose and student at our gallery show.*

### Increasing our impact and expanding our reach

In the last year we've been incredibly excited to expand our reach through some astounding program growth. In the 2022/23 school year, the Junior Center of Art and Science is proud to have reached over 1500 young people through school residencies with our partner schools in Oakland and after-school programs in Richmond, CA. Students and families participated in wide-ranging opportunities for creative learning, discovery and artistic expression, including:

### Onsite Afterschool and Summer Camps

- Three nine-week after-school sessions in Carpentry, Creative Technology and the Visual arts (Fall, Winter, Spring) serving over 65 families
- 10 one- and two-week summer camps including Creative Technology, Printmaking and Zines, Carpentry, Stop Motion Animation, and Painting, serving more than 150 students.

- We increased our financial assistance for these camps and classes by 25% in 2023 through our scholarships and sliding scale fees. Our programs engaged students in over 40 East Bay zip codes, with all seven Oakland districts represented.

### **School Residencies and Events in the Community**

- In FY23 JCAS' arts and technology residency programs engaged over 600 OUSD students in three Title One schools ( Emerson, Franklin, and Munck) , an increase of 20% compared to last year.
- We added three new classrooms at Emerson Elementary that included three SPED (Special Education) classes and one transitional Kindergarten.
- At Franklin Elementary, we ended our residency program with a fun-filled showcase where students displayed their design work, 3D prints, and computer games. You can see some of their inventive games here: <https://sites.google.com/view/2023artshowcase>
- We also began a new partnership with Arise High School in Oakland's Fruitvale neighborhood, where we developed a stimulating creative technology program that introduced high school students to robotics, coding, and 3D design and printing.
- Junior Center values being a community resource and creating art with families. In FY 23, we also offered arts and discovery activities through our participation in eight free community events across Oakland.

As we move forward into FY24, we're proud and deeply grateful to acknowledge the support of key funders and school partnerships:

- We expanded our impact at Franklin, Emerson and Munck Elementary Schools, thanks to increased support from the Bernard E. & Alba Witkin Foundation and Arts for Oakland Kids, along with our continuing partnership with the Oakland Unified Visual and Performing Arts Program. Additional support came from the Emerson Elementary PTA.
- The Junior Center was also one of only 17 arts organizations to be awarded funding from the City of Oakland's Cultural Funding Program through its Creative Economies of Belonging Grant Program.
- Essential support for our overall programming came from generous long-time donors, including Jim and Susan Acquistapace & Family, the Ditzler Family Fund, Landreth Family Fund and Fred R. Muhs Foundation. Members of our Board of Directors also matched gifts from new and returning donors, and secured corporate support through employee matching and other donations from Pacific Gas & Electric.
- This spring and summer, the generosity of our individual donors and a new grant from the Tah Dah Foundation will increase our capacity to provide financial assistance to more families registering for after-school and summer programming.
- To meet our increase in programming needs, we've also hired an operations manager and program associate to help round out our team as we prepare to return to our home on Lake Merritt.

## **Back to Our Beloved Building!**

We're thrilled to share early news with you of our return to Lake Merritt at the end of this year! The City of Oakland (which owns our facility) anticipates that repairs on the building will be completed in December. We look forward to updating you with much more information on our progress and plans over the coming months.

**Thank you for your generous, steadfast support!**