



Fernando
Pullum
Community
Arts Center



FPCAC Choir performs with John Legend on his Christmas CD

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20

PULLUMCENTER.ORG

A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



2019-20 school year was a challenging year.

During the first six months of the 2019-20 school year, the Fernando Pullum Community Arts Center (FPCAC or Pullum Center) was teaching more than 850 students. In March 2020, we shut our doors with the onset of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic. The Pullum Center has always been more than an arts center. We are part of the South Central Los Angeles community. When our communities needed help, we found ways to offer our support. Pullum Center continued to provide student families, the community and homeless individuals with food.

We quickly reconfigured our regular classes for online instruction, and created an exciting new form of instruction, Masterclasses, featuring exceptional artists including Jackson Browne, John Mayer, Kamasi Washington, and Wynton Marsalis.

With the support of our generous supporters, the Pullum Center continues to serve students during the pandemic. We are pleased to share the progress we have made in the last school year. Thank you for your continued support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fernando Pullum', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Fernando Pullum
Executive Director



KCBS features Pullum Center in 'People Making A Difference'

870

Number of students who took classes at the Pullum Center in the 2019-20 school year

110

Number of classes offered per week during the 2019-20 school year

100%

Percentage of high school seniors in the program who have successfully graduated



FPCAC REACHES 870 STUDENTS BEFORE THE PANDEMIC

During the 2019-20 school year, FPCAC served more than 870 students with 110 performing arts weekly classes until the Coronavirus pandemic shutdown. Classes were provided at the FPCAC headquarters and four partners schools. All of our high school seniors graduated and moved on to colleges or universities.

Community events and outreach were cut short in the middle of March 2020 due to the Coronavirus shutdown. Even so, FPCAC staged eighteen Jazz Band performances, thirteen visits to senior centers, and held three feedings for the homeless.

The in-person musicals and the summer program were canceled due to the pandemic shutdown. However, FPCAC provided eighty-five regularly scheduled weekly classes through Zoom throughout the summer months.

Seventy-five students attended virtual classes during the summer. Many students attended multiple classes.

TWELVE MILLION PEOPLE REACHED

The FPCAC activities reached more than twelve million people through TV features produced by KCBS Los Angeles, John Legend Christmas promotions, and TV audiences for the *U.S. Tennis Open* and *The Voice*.

On the Sunday night of the second week of the U.S. Tennis Open, FPCAC student Simone Baker (age 14) sang *America the Beautiful* at the beginning of the evening session in Arthur Ashe Stadium. In October 2019, the FPCAC Jazz Band Combo with Simone Baker performed for five hundred people at a major gala event at the Dolby Theater for Hollywood Community Housing, which provides affordable housing to more than 2,200 people.

In November 2019, FPCAC Choir members recorded a John Lennon song ("Happy Christmas [War is Over]") with singer and songwriter John Legend for his Christmas CD. Later in the month, the Choir performed live with John Legend at the Union Station in Los Angeles to an estimated radio and TV audience of 2,900,000.

In December 2019, all classes from FPCAC and Marcus Garvey School performed for family and friends at a combined program showcase. Families were delighted with the results.

In January 2020, the Jazz Band Combo played in the Kawai America Corp suite at the Anaheim Convention Center during the NAMM annual convention. The performance was streamed live through Facebook and posted on YouTube. The NAMM Show is the world's largest trade-only event for the music products, pro audio, and event tech industry.

In January 2020, the Marching Band (middle and elementary school students) and the Dance Team performed in the Los Angeles Martin Luther King Jr. parade. The 2.5-mile parade is the nation's biggest celebration of the life and legacy of MLK. It includes more than 150 floats, bands, equestrian units, dance, martial arts ensembles, and other groups, involving more than 3,000 people.

Also in January 2020, FPCAC participated in several events sponsored by the John Lennon Educational Tour Bus (JLETB) and the Grammy Music Education Coalition (GMEC). Our 20-member Jazz Band performed in front of Staples Center with Grammy winner Janice Marie Johnson, co-founder of A Taste of Honey. Videos were posted on the JLETB website and YouTube. JLETB also interviewed Fernando Pullum, Pullum Center student Ronnie Heard, and Mark Barden, father of Sandy Hook victim Daniel Barden, gun violence activist, and founder of Sandy Hook Promise, for a new documentary on the subject of gun violence. Additionally, GMEC interviewed Pullum Center student Micah Heard, Susan Larson, President of NAMM Foundation, and Darryl Matthews McDaniels, founder of hip hop group Run-D.M.C., for a film project on music education.



FA MULAN

At the time of the Coronavirus shutdown, our students were partway into rehearsing for the major musical of the year-- *Twisted Fate: The Ballad of Fa Mulan*. Regretfully, rehearsals had to be canceled. However, a scene from the show appears in our 2020 Virtual Gala, which was presented online in November 2020 and can be seen at the Pullum Center channel on YouTube. FPCAC plans to stage the show to a live audience once Coronavirus social distancing is a thing of the past.

INFORMATION PROGRAM

Throughout the pandemic shutdown, Pullum Center has provided parents and neighbors with information on how to get tested, how to find food, how to apply for funding and how to get housing. The communication has been conducted through emails and phone conversations.

"On behalf of the Grace Hopper STEM Academy, I would like to thank you for the wonderful feature about the Fernando Pullum Community Arts Center. Over the past few years, we have been blessed to count Fernando and the Center among our collaborative partners. In addition to the classes in the arts, he has included our students on extracurricular activities, including the opportunity to go to Cal State LA and meet Nikki Giovanni, and an all-expenses-paid trip to a Dodger game. Your feature allowed our stakeholders to have a much clearer picture of the man behind the dream and how he is impacting the lives of children in South Los Angeles. In today's turbulent times, it was a breath of fresh air to see something positive in the news."

**- Principal Karen Wheeler Anderson
Grace Hopper STEM Academy**

FOOD PROGRAM

For many years, Empowered 4 Life, a nonprofit organization, has been providing FPCAC students with hot dinner meals during the school and breakfast and lunch during the summer session. The in-kind value of their donation is over \$100,000 per year. During the pandemic shutdown, their support has continued, allowing FPCAC to provide student families, the community, and homeless persons with a hundred lunch/dinner packages three times per week.

Additionally, *Poppy & Rose*, a downtown restaurant, provided hundreds of tasty sandwiches, and *Delicious Pizza*, a restaurant owned by Board member Mike Ross, provided hundreds of pizzas pies. Through the end of August 2020, FPCAC had distributed food to 6,500 people. FPCAC staff distribute the food.



FPCAC PRODUCED A CD

In August 2020, FPCAC completed the production of a CD featuring our Jazz Band performing nine tunes, three of which with singer and Grammy Award Winner Aloe Blacc, *What's Going On*, *Someday We'll All Be Free*, and *Lean on Me*. Producing a CD was the culmination of hundreds of live performances staged over the years by the Jazz Band. Band members received a valuable education on recording in a studio with professional technicians and witnessing how a recording comes together as the individual tracks are combined to make a whole.

FPCAC is grateful for the many people who helped us with the production:

- Jackson Browne for volunteering his recording staff and donating his studio.
- Aloe Blacc for donating his time, music talent, and support.
- Noland Shaheed for the recording mixes. Among other roles, Noland was Marvin Gaye's musical director and the first trumpet player for Count Basie and Diana Ross.
- Mark Cargill for the printing of the CD. Mark was a former colleague of Fernando at Washington High School, and he now runs a CD production company.
- Pullum Center parent Maria Elana Cruz and Wendell Wiggins, for artwork and graphic design.
- Aloe Blacc for putting the CD online.
- And to our very talented Jazz Band members.



CONSTRUCTION PROJECT AND SPACE EXPANSION

Pullum Center took advantage of the pandemic shutdown to upgrade its current space at 3351 W. 43rd St. ("Main") and to lease and upgrade additional space next door at 3349 W. 43rd St. ("Annex"). The improvements were long overdue. FPCAC needed a more functional and professional looking space for our students and teachers, as well as for visitors. The improvements included new flooring and lighting throughout, new entry doors, wall and window repairs, classroom upgrades including new doors, a new ceiling in the Annex, new paint, new rest room, electrical and plumbing repairs and upgraded kitchen and dining area.

With the Annex, FPCAC is able to add two large classrooms for dance, theater and drum classes, more storage space for supplies and instruments and two quiet offices away from the noise of classes and rehearsals.

MASTERCLASSES

The COVID-19 shutdown occurred suddenly in mid-March. One day, we were an operating school. The next day we weren't. In response, the Center retained its teachers on payroll, educated itself on Zoom technology, reconfigured its regularly scheduled classes for online instruction and was back to providing classes in early April.

Regretfully the number of students we were able to reach dropped significantly. This was due in part to some student households not having suitable internet connectivity, but more significantly because so many of our students are reached through participating schools which are all closed and unable to release student contact information for privacy reasons.

In response, FPCAC put together an exciting new form of instruction—Masterclasses. Knowing that most professional musicians, actors and producers were no longer touring, Fernando contacted his many friends in the business to invite them to teach our students. The response was uniformly positive. A class format was developed that provided the students with a piece of music or a dramatic scene that they had to learn by memory before the class. In the class itself they would perform for the teacher/artist and receive a critique. The interactions between the students and the teachers have been inspiring to watch and the students have grown measurably. The classes have been open to all of our students at any age level. Given our success, Fernando has reached out to students in Chicago to invite them to join. We have also been contacted by students at the Brass Band School connected with the North Sea Jazz Festival in Rotterdam, Netherlands. Our Jazz Band has been invited to perform at this jazz festival next summer. Alicia Keys and Lionel Richie will be performing at the festival.

To date, Masterclasses have been given by:

- Amy Allen (song writer, record producer)
- Billy Childs (jazz pianist, arranger and conductor)
- Christian McBride (jazz bassist)
- Ernie Fields (saxophonist, music contractor)
- George Bohanon (jazz trombonist)
- Herbie Hancock - Tentative (pianist, keyboardist, bandleader, composer, and actor)
- Jack Bender (former actor, television producer and director of Lost, The Sopranos, and Game of Thrones)
- Jackson Browne (singer, songwriter)
- John Mayer (singer-songwriter, guitarist and record producer)
- Kamasi Washington (jazz saxophonist)
- Ralph LaLama (professor of music at NYU)
- Rickey Minor (bass player, music director, composer and music producer)
- Ryan Porter (jazz trombonist)
- Terrace Martin (musician, rapper, singer, songwriter, record producer)
- Vince Wilburn Jr (drummer, record producer, nephew of Miles Davis)
- Wynton Marsalis (trumpeter, composer, teacher, and artistic director of Jazz at Lincoln Center)



NICKOLAS ORTIZ

2017 GRADUATE

My name is Nickolas Ortiz. I am currently attending California State University of Dominguez Hills as a music major. I wouldn't be in college with a goal in life if I hadn't found the Pullum Center.

I was a junior at Centennial High School, located in Compton, when I discovered the Pullum Center. My life was going nowhere. I was hanging out with the wrong kind of friends and paying little attention to my schoolwork, earning low grades and a lot of F's. If I had stayed where I was, I doubt that I would have graduated from high school, and I may have gotten myself into a lot of trouble like my Dad who is in prison.

I started playing music in 6th grade. It was the one thing I liked in school, but I didn't take it very seriously. Then I discovered the Pullum Center in my junior year in high school through one of my band gigs and everything changed. Playing with talented kids who had a purpose in life really opened my eyes. As I learned and progressed, I joined the Jazz Band and had the opportunity to open for Earth Wind & Fire, Faith Evans, and Frankie Beverly and to be conducted by Rickey Minor and play with Kamasi Washington...all giants in the music world.

I feel that Mr. Pullum is one of the country's great music teachers, as well as a friend, because he treated us all with respect and accountability. Everything he does is for the sake of his students. He mentored me and taught me the importance of making good decisions for myself and aspiring to do good in life. He taught me that even though you come from the ghetto you don't have to be the ghetto.

I improved in my grades after joining Pullum Center, earning As and Bs. I am doing the same in college. Mr. Pullum always made sure I was performing well in school. And the Jazz Band made me realize that I wanted to be involved in music for the rest of my life. I am now heading towards being a music educator, just like Mr. Pullum.

I strongly recommend that anyone interested in the performing arts come down to the Center. They will be welcomed with open arms. They will never be criticized for who they are and they will grow both their performing arts skills and their life skills. The Center is a great place for students of all ages to grow and become inspired.



THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

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Jim & Judy O'Brien
Empowered 4 Life
Steve & Agatha Luczo

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THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

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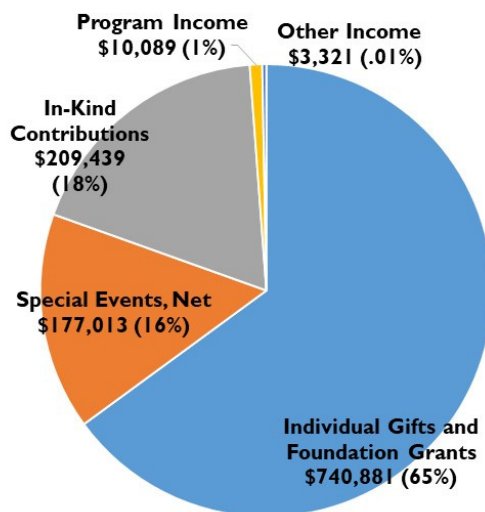
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#LunchBag - Pullum Center students help pack and distribute meals to the homeless.

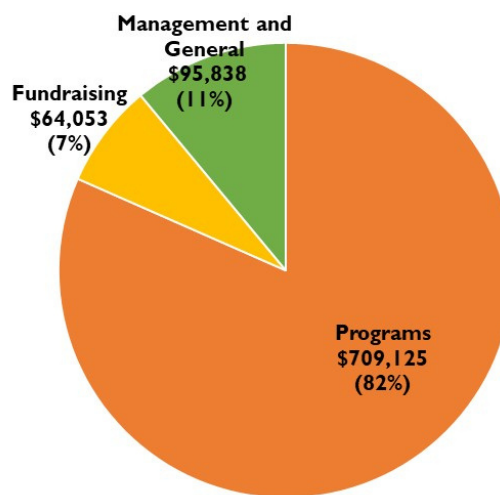
2019-20 FINANCIALS

REVENUE



Total Revenue \$1,140,734

EXPENSES



Total Expenses \$869,016

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