



Spring Newsletter 2020

## Pullum Center Responds to the Coronavirus Pandemic

### Our Classes

At the end of the second week in March, Pullum Center closed down its classes in response to the coronavirus and the closure of the L.A. Unified School District. But, by the first week in April, we were up and running again on the internet giving classes via Zoom. All of our teachers have been retained and are offering a full class load of quality instruction (music, dance & theater). The retention of our staff has been made possible, in part, through funds from the Federal Paycheck Protection Plan.

Through a generous gift from Ernie Fields (musician, educator and music contractor for American Idol, The Voice etc.) via the Rheuben Allen Music Education Foundation, Pullum Center has secured badly needed new musical instruments that have been provided to students for use at home along with needed supplies.



*Thanks to Ernie Fields Jr. who provided much needed musical instruments*



*Piano teacher, Pooh Mayo, conducting class*



*Students with their new trumpets attending beginner instrument class*

Once “stay-at-home” orders were in place around the country, Fernando and board member Ken Pace started contacting noteworthy performers to ask them to teach our students as part of a “master class” series. The response was overwhelming. To date classes have been given by: Kamasi Washington (jazz saxophonist), Christian McBride (jazz bassist), Ralph LaLama (NYU professor and saxophonist), Jack Bender (director of “Game of Thrones”, “Lost”, and “The Sopranos”), Vince Wilburn Jr. (drummer, producer and nephew of Miles Davis) and Wynton Marsalis (virtuoso trumpeter, composer, teacher, and artistic director of Jazz at Lincoln Center).



*Student performs for Wynton Marsalis*



*Wynton Marsalis*

[Click here to see a clip from a master class with Wynton Marsalis!](#)



*Acting student responds to Jack Bender*



*Jack Bender*




*Student receives valuable advice from Kamasi Washington*



*Kamasi Washington*

Upcoming classes include: Billy Childs, George Bohanon, Terrace Martin, Jackson Browne, Reggie Young & Rickey Minor.

These classes are providing our students with the opportunity to perform for famed artists and receive priceless feedback as well as gain deeper respect for the history and traditions of the jazz and theater art forms. Most importantly they are learning how to access the unique voices of expression that lie inside them.

 **Kamala Gipson-McElroy** is at **Fernando Pullum Community Arts Center.** ...  
Yesterday at 6:08 PM · Los Angeles, CA · 🌐

Mackenzie, at 5 years-old, is on a Zoom tutorial with thee Wynton Marsalis 😊 Legend. Speechless really. I told Zie, he plays both your instruments 😊 Mr. Fernando Pullum still out here creating once in a life time opportunities for generations of children smh 😊👍



*Enthusiastic parents have put out posts on social media. Here are two examples.*

 **Keisha Browder** is with **Charles C. Browder II.** ...  
Yesterday at 8:45 PM · 👤

Legendary // There are no words to fully describe the awesomeness of tonight's music class via Zoom! The twins learned from Legendary Jazz Musician **Wynton Marsalis!** The twins are learning to play the trumpet and piano...this was a magical experience! Thank you **Fernando Pullum Community Arts Center** and Mr. Marsalis! ❤️ #PullumCenter



❤️👍👏 80

13 Comments

### **Our Food Program**

During our normal school year and summer program, our at-risk students are the beneficiaries of prepared lunches and dinners provided by a sister nonprofit “180 Degrees”. During the pandemic shutdown, we have worked with 180 Degrees to provide one hundred lunch/dinner packages that volunteers and staff hand out to student families and neighbors three times per week. Board member Mike Ross has also provided pizzas from his restaurant “Delicious Vinyl.”



### **Leasehold Improvements**

We have used the pandemic shutdown as an opportunity to make our leasehold space more functional and attractive for students and visitors alike. The renovations are much needed. Our space has been subject to the daily influx of lively students since inception in 2011 with little attention paid to its physical condition. Improvements underway include: new doors, flooring, lighting, and signage; a “head to foot” paint job; and plumbing, electrical and wall repairs. We would love for you to come by once the project is finished.



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Please consider making a donation to support the Pullum Center during these challenging times. Despite the shutdown, we continue to provide 80 weekly virtual performing arts classes and once-in-a-lifetime opportunities for students.

[DONATE](#)

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