



TulalipCares.org

Tulalip Charitable Contributions Funds Distribution Report

NAME OF AGENCY: BAYFEST International Youth Theatre

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GENERAL GOALS: BAYFEST was founded to encourage the rigorous use of theatre and “active arts” training to significantly enhance the education and lives of young people.

SPECIFIC USE FOR THIS AWARD:

BAYFEST is grateful for the Tulalip Tribes’ support of our K-12 Educator Professional Development programs.

For more information please read the attached report from BAYFEST.



January 15, 2017

Marilyn Sheldon
Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund
8802 27th Avenue NE
Tulalip, WA 98271

Dear Ms. Sheldon:

BAYFEST is grateful for the Tulalip Tribe's support of our K-12 Educator Professional Development programs. Your grant of [REDACTED] has allowed us to provide a meaningful experience for 35 teachers and administrators, reaching an estimated 900 students during the 2015/16 year.

Educator Professional Development Program Results

BAYFEST conducted three workshops for the entire staff at Gatewood Elementary School in Seattle. The professional development workshops were designed to meet several goals that school administration articulated to us. These included introducing curriculum-linked drama and active arts activities to get students out of their seats and moving during the school day, and finding fun and meaningful ways to address learning differences in all grades.

Many teachers, including those at Gatewood Elementary report that, due to the increased pressures of standardized testing, recess and other free time has steadily been cut. Teachers understand that they have a significant number of students who learn best when they get enough physical activity. Our Educator Professional Development program provides teachers with the ability to bring this creative and physical activity into the classroom in strictly controlled ways. Led by BAYFEST staff, teachers who attended the workshops learned and practiced exercises that they can quickly and easily build into the school day to increase class attentiveness, ease transitions between activities, and further explore topics that they are studying in ways that engage different learning modalities.

In addition to a discussion period with all the educators during the sessions, after each workshop teachers and administrative staff perspectives were captured through written surveys. These surveys provide insight into which methods and exercises were most useful, which activities teachers planned to use in their classrooms, and the overall impressions of workshop quality.

Some of the direct feedback that we received from Gatewood Elementary included:

- "I have loved using the "spell your name with your body" exercise. Getting students to move 'like you're in jello', 'like you're boiling water', 'like you're crystals' has really taught them a lot and made them think about movement and their bodies in new ways – Thank You!"
- "I sure wish we could do more of this kind of training! [The BAYFEST training] is actually useful rather than some of the district-mandated stuff that we'll never use again."

Conversations with the Principal and Vice Principal after the workshops confirmed that their goals had been well met, and the Principal at Gatewood Elementary was so pleased with our work that she recommended the BAYFEST professional development workshops to all other Seattle Principals. In her email, she stated that: "BAYFEST's excellent trainings, which teachers and administrators have highly praised, are very interactive and enjoyable, and I was thrilled to have them come back. In the feedback survey at the end of the [professional development] workshop we asked staff to note what they thought the most valuable activities were, and a majority of participants noted that the BAYFEST sessions were the highlight for them, because they learned relevant instructional strategies they could easily integrate into a variety of subject areas."

In addition to the workshops at Gatewood Elementary, your grant helped cover the costs of planning sessions with Pathfinder K-8 School in Seattle, where we will be doing a professional development with teachers and a workshop



with students in the spring of 2017. Pathfinder 'Guiding Principles' include Native American-inspired environmental awareness and respect for the Earth, community-building, and storytelling. For many years, Roger Fernandes of the Lower Elwha Band of the S'Klallam Indians has come regularly to the school to tell stories to the students, and we will be working with him to build our own creation myth about "The Spirit of Pathfinder" that will be told with the help of a giant puppet that students will help build, and will reinforce the School Values in a lively theatrical way. The finished performance will be shown to the entire school and, we hope, at one or two other local venues.

Organizational Updates

After facilitating more than 20 successful Public Performance Development projects in other regions, BAYFEST is eager to partner with Bailey Gatzert Elementary School in Seattle, as well as a host of other Seattle arts and culture, government, and school partners, to produce and perform our inaugural Public Performance Development project in the Pacific Northwest. Beginning in January 2017, we will produce an original show entitled "City of Refuge: Stories From The Harlem Renaissance," which will include 5th-6th grade performers working alongside professional actors to develop a theatrical piece that will explore issues of race, urban/rural life, honesty and hope. Teachers and the entire student population at the school will also be involved through in-class lessons that explore the subject matter of the play. Actors will perform 4-6 shows at schools and to the public between May and October 2017, reaching more than 1,000 members of the public. Each performance will be accompanied by post-play audience discussions on topics raised in the piece.

In Summer 2017, we are also excited to run our annual 3-week Youth Theatre Training Intensive in Seattle that brings together 25 performers (ages 14 to 19) from around the region, the U.S., and U.K. As always, participants for our summer program are accepted without regard to ability to pay, and we work hard to build ensembles that are extremely diverse in terms of age, gender, race/ethnicity, and socioeconomic status. The cultural-exchange aspects of the summer program are as important as the professional-level theatrical training, and many years-long friendships have been forged over the 25-year history of this program.

Thanks to the stellar recommendation from the principal at Gatewood Elementary, BAYFEST is also currently working with other area schools to plan future professional development workshops that will reach even more teachers in the 2016/17 year. We expect that the number of teachers and students in our program will at least triple next year, as we build on our growing regional connections to scale up our programs to include more schools for our professional development workshops, and more school and public performances around the area.

BAYFEST previously sustained operations through a large individual donor base and significant in-kind support – these revenue sources remain critical portions of our overall financial stability. This year we worked with a contract grant writer to catalyze institutional support and diversify revenue, increasing organizational sustainability as we build our services in the region. As a result, we are proud to receive support from Tulalip Tribes as one of our first local foundation supporters. Our goal is to make our programs accessible to all interested schools without regard to their ability to pay as we scale up our work in the Puget Sound region, and again, we are very grateful to Tulalip Tribes for helping us achieve this.

We look forward to future opportunities to keep the Tulalip Tribes informed of our plans and progress about our Educator Professional Development program. We hope to be able to partner with Tulalip Tribes again to provide teachers with the skills to integrate drama and arts into their classroom, providing students with students with critical life skills and expanded learning experiences.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Shampain".

Robert Shampain, Executive Director