Next spring, East Bay Center for the Performing Arts celebrates fifty years of arts education. Just a few blocks away from the Richmond BART station, the center serves around 500 students. Off site, it serves 5,000 more in schools and community centers in Richmond and San Pablo. Inside the building facilities, which were renovated in 2011, the center offers young people, between the ages of three to eighteen, music, theatre and dance group classes in the fall and spring, and opportunities to join ensembles, as well as year-round private lessons for all levels of experience. Notably, its young artist diploma program, which serves more than 120 students a year, is a six-year program offered at full scholarship to students in Richmond and San Pablo entering seventh grade. The intensive cross disciplinary program builds the agency and creativity of its young participants through high level arts training. During summer months, East Bay Center offers a Saturday series of group classes that are open to any student at all levels. The center is remarkable in the caliber of experiential education it offers along with the financial aid available for students with an interest in the arts. 339 11th Street, Richmond, EastBayCenter.org. (RG)