

EAST BAY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS



Dear Friends of the Center,

In the spirit of the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday, all of us here at East Bay Center would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for you, our readers, and for the many ways you support what we do and partner with us in this community and in our mission to transform lives through the arts. We have much to be thankful for - our recent Gala which was a huge success, our 130 Young Artist Diploma students who continue to grow as artists and as individuals, the programs we have in 25 schools and community centers which are reaching 4,500 students from preschool through 12th grade, and the commitment shown by our dedicated staff, generous donors, faithful volunteers, and talented faculty who pour into our students and our work each day.

There is always more to share than what might fit into one newsletter, so please do not hesitate to reach out to us to learn more, schedule a tour or share ideas on ways in which you might like to be involved. We are grateful for all of our partners who continue to [support the Center's efforts](#) in our community. We wish you and those you love a wonderful Thanksgiving season.

UPCOMING HIGHLIGHTS + EVENTS

November 22 - 25- Thanksgiving Break

November 30 - [Theater Recital](#)

December 9 & 10 - [Sharing the Spirit](#)

December 13 - [Downtown Holiday Festival](#)

January 4 - Winter Session Enrollment Begins

January 26 - Winters Concert



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: ABIGAIL ARMENDARIS

2011 Young Artist Diploma Program Graduate

Abigail began taking classes at the Center when she was three years old, following in the footsteps of her older sister. In her years of studying and training at the Center, Abigail mainly focused on hip-hop dance, ballet and Mexican music and dance. She was also part of several ensemble groups playing the violin, jarana and harp. After graduating from the Diploma Program in 2011, she went on to pursue higher education at Contra Costa College, where she received an Associate Degree. During her studies, she remained connected and involved with the Center as an intern for two years and then as a stage technician. She is also now a Teaching Assistant at the Center, sharing her knowledge of dance with a new generation of students through our School Partnerships Program. Abigail shares that the Center helped her to discover valuable skills that she never would have thought she'd need and taught her a strong work ethic. She is currently working towards a BA in Theater Design and a BS in Criminology, hoping to pursue a career in both lighting design and juvenile re-entry programs.

"The Center was the first step into knowing myself."

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: JOE KELLY

Bringing Steel Pans to Local Schools

[Visit Our Faculty Page](#)



Center faculty member Joe Kelly is excited to have launched an all-new steel pans class this year at Nyström Elementary School for students in the 4th-6th grades. The students are enjoying this new class, and are looking forward to two upcoming performances - one this winter and a second in the spring, where they will showcase what they've been working on. Joe has been a regular presenter at colleges and universities, giving clinics and workshops on steel pan tuning, performance, history, and culture. Joe has also performed internationally with artists and ensembles like Pan Harmony, Panyard All-Stars, Island Grooves, Greg Pare' Quartet, Mariachi Libre, Wynnona Judd, Burt Bacharach, Pink Martini and locally with the Napa Valley, California, and San Francisco Symphonies.

RICHMOND DOWNTOWN HOLIDAY FESTIVAL



**Wednesday, December 13
4:00-8:00pm**

The Downtown Holiday Festival is presented annually by Richmond Main Street Initiative & East Bay Center for the Performing Arts. This year's event will be held at East Bay Center from 4:00 - 8:00PM, and will include visits with Santa, TWO performances of East Bay Center's original "A Richmond Nutcracker" at 5:00 and 6:30pm, holiday street lighting and caroling, and much more! It's a wonderful event for children and adults of all ages! Light refreshments will be provided.

[View Event](#)

[VISIT US ONLINE](#)



[DONATE NOW!](#)

We welcome all members of the community – businesses, residents, other community-based organizations and friends in the greater Bay Area and beyond – to visit us at our Iron Triangle home, the Winters Building.

You are receiving this email because you've expressed interest in the programs affiliated with East Bay Center for the Performing Arts. We appreciate your participation in our community.

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