

EAST BAY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS



Dear Friends of East Bay Center,

Classes are back in session at the Center, and we are happy to have the sights and sounds of our talented and inspiring students back in the building each day.

New this fall, we have expanded our [in-school programs](#) throughout the West County. During the month of September, we provided two weeks of daily dance classes at Summit K2 in El Cerrito. Additional in-school music programs will launch this month at Nystrom and King Elementary Schools in Richmond, as well as Richmond College Prep. We also have returning programs at Stege, Wilson, and E.M. Downer Elementary Schools in Richmond.

We are grateful to our community of partners and supporters who make our work possible. One way you can help support our efforts is through the [donation of instruments and equipment](#). Learn more about how to make these donations and what our current needs are below.

Finally, we realize that this is a difficult time in Northern California. Our hearts go out to everyone affected by the fires, including our families, supporters, staff, and faculty.

UPCOMING HIGHLIGHTS + EVENTS

October 21- [7th Annual Fall Gala](#)

October 28 - [RYSE Film Festival](#)

October 28 - [Fandango](#)

November 1 - [Xantolo \(Dia de los Muertos\)](#)

November 11 & 12- [Soul Endeavor](#)

November 30- [Theater Recital](#)

EAST BAY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

You are invited

7th Annual Fall Gala Dinner

Saturday, October 21, 2017, 6 pm

The Winters Building

339 11th Street
Richmond, CA

Featured performances by students,
faculty and alumni

Reserved VIP parking provided. Festive Attire

"What makes life worth living? For our young students - and, we believe, for all of us - it's a chance to find one's gift and to build a vision of life. Each fall, we come together collectively to advance the work of the Center and celebrate our students' lives. We hope you will join us."

Jordan Simmons, Artistic Director

SEVENTH ANNUAL FALL GALA
Saturday, October 21, 2017

Forty-nine years ago in the wake of the Martin Luther King, Jr. assassination, East Bay

Center began with a humble offering of jazz and classical music instruction in a neighborhood where children had little access to music classes. Today, 60 faculty artists from across the globe engage 5,000 youth in re-imagining and creating new worlds for themselves and new visions for their community through a rigorous curriculum of music, dance and theater training. In the course of this training, the Center continually finds fresh and creative ways of nurturing and uplifting children, youth, and families – even as too many continue to struggle with systemic poverty, violence, and other barriers to peace, justice, and prosperity.

We are looking forward to a special evening that binds together Center students, alumni, faculty artists, staff, and our deeply valued family of supporters. Please contact us ([link to development@eastbaycenter.org](mailto:development@eastbaycenter.org)) to learn more!



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:
AZIZA THOMAS
*4th Year Young Artist
Diploma Student*

Aziza entered the [Young Artist Diploma Program](#) four years ago when he was in the seventh grade. Before coming to the Center, he had a passion and gift for dance, but had not had formal training. Four years later, Aziza says the dance training and instruction he's received through the Center has helped him to become stronger both personally and as a performer, and for that he is grateful. A rising star, Aziza is currently focusing on aerial, hip-hop, West African dance, and ballet. He welcomes new challenges as he continues to develop and refine his performances. Aziza will join 50-60 other Center students as a featured performer at this year's [7th Annual Fall Gala](#).

FACULTY PROFILE:
FRANCIS KOFI AKOTUAH

Born and raised in the melting pot neighborhood of New Town, Accra, Francis grew up surrounded by the sights and sounds of all of Ghana's many ethnic groups. As a drumming instructor at the University of Ghana for almost two decades, he has mentored many of Ghana's up-and-coming performers and introduced countless students from around the world to Ghanaian traditions. He regularly performs with many of Ghana's leading traditional and neo-traditional ensembles and Afropop bands in North America, and he has performed, taught master classes, and conducted workshops at universities throughout the US and Canada, including McGill, Tufts, Wesleyan, SUNY Stony Brook, Mount Holyoke, Brandeis, UC Irvine, and CalArts. A newcomer



[Visit Our Faculty Page](#)

to the Bay Area, he is also teaching at the University of San Francisco and Mills College.



[View Event](#)

RYSE FILM FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 28, 2017
7:00PM

Truth Be Told: Justice Through My Eyes highlights and empowers youth voices and visions by showcasing riveting films from young filmmakers speaking their truth of what justice is through their eyes.

This is a community event held at East Bay Center for the Performing Arts, and all are welcome. Please note: some of the subject matter will touch on sensitive topics, so parental guidance is suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children under 13.

OCTOBER FANDANGO

Saturday, October 28, 2017
9:00AM - 12:00PM

Son de La Tierra (one of the Center's nine Resident Companies), led by Maestro Artemio Posadas and co-director Lolis García, continues to host monthly regional Fandangos and warmly welcomes members of the public of all ages to join (no experience necessary). Fandangos are improvised community celebrations in the Son Jarocho genre from Veracruz, Mexico that combine Afro-Caribbean, Spanish and indigenous traditions. October's Fandango, Jarocho, features traditional music from the Sotavento region of Mexico. We hope to see you there!



[View Event](#)



XANTOLO

Tuesday, November 1, 2017
6:30PM - 8:00PM

We invite you to honor Xantolo (Día de los Muertos), a time to remember and thank our ancestors. Please come to participate in this beautiful celebration, as we share food enjoy music and spend time with family and friends. This is a FREE event and open to everyone!



DONATE AN INSTRUMENT

East Bay Center welcomes instrument donations year-round. These donations are extremely helpful in cutting our operating expenses, saving us thousands of dollars per year.

Currently, we have a specific need for guitars, violins and cellos of all sizes in good condition.

We are also looking for donations of portable Bluetooth audio speakers for our School Partnerships Program.

If you have an instrument you are interested in donating to the Center, please contact TT Robson at 510-221-6355 or tt.robson@eastbaycenter.org.

The Center is also pleased to announce that Music in Schools Today (MUST), in partnership with Classical KDFC, is again including East Bay Center in this year's Instrument Drive, taking place from November 7-18.

[Learn More](#)

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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