



developing character through arts education

2020 - 2021
Annual Report

In this year's Annual Report, you will find the story of our journey back to the stage. We hope that, in sharing this journey, we have communicated our deep commitment to the students and communities we serve. There were moments during this pandemic where we wondered if COVID would destroy the performing arts industry in its entirety. And, while our industry has taken a great hit, it's encouraging to see the resurrection of arts education in particular. In a way, it feels like starting over, but not like a true beginning. It's a new beginning, but with all the knowledge and experience we didn't have the first time around.

As we welcome back students for live instruction and resume performances in front of live audiences, we have had the unique opportunity to reevaluate each program and process through the lens of our mission. Out of this evaluation process, our leadership has identified 5 values we want to keep at the forefront as we rebuild an even better future for Haven Academy of the Arts.

RELATIONSHIPS- While relationships have always been central to our mission, the pandemic highlighted for us what makes Haven so special. A core component of our mission is the community we've created for our students. With intentional mentorship and an opportunity for healthy peer relationships to develop, Haven strives to create a home where our students can thrive.

EQUITY- As we move out of the pandemic, equal access to arts education carries more urgency. Haven is committed to strengthen both our tuition-free Pico Union programming and our South Bay scholarship fund so that we can continue ensuring that students from all backgrounds have access to Haven's programs. This commitment goes hand in hand with our newly crafted CEII policy (see pg. 14) as we look to expand the diversity of voices in our organization, so we can reach a wider demographic of students. We look forward to seeing both our Pico Union and hART of the City Summer Camp programs expand in the coming years as we increase our impact in communities with barriers to quality arts education.

Message from the
*Executive
Director*

QUALITY- At Haven, we educate the entire child. We hire teaching artists who are both experts in their fields and have a heart for education. We were able to maintain this quality even during the pandemic by developing curriculum based on the needs of our student population. As we return to our more recognizable programming, we are committed to continue this tradition of quality in our curriculum and instruction.

EFFICIENCY- The pandemic forced us to adapt to a more virtual landscape to better serve our customers. This shift led us to assess other areas where efficiency could be improved resulting in new hires and a restructure of staff roles. We also invested in better on-line platforms for both external things (like registration and ticketing) and internal things (like payroll). These changes have enabled us to better serve our students and their families, and to make the Haven experience more seamless.

STABILITY- Haven's financial stability as we entered into the pandemic became the reason we were able to continue serving our community when other organizations had to temporarily pause programming. As we rebuild our programs post-pandemic, we want to ensure a financial stability that creates a strong future for Haven Academy. This stability comes from robust programs that bring in tuition and ticket income in the South Bay, but also from the financial support of foundations, corporations, and individual donors, so we can continue to prioritize equity in the arts. We need donors and funders who can commit to re-stabilizing our organization so that Haven can continue doing our work for many years to come.

From our staff and board to you, thank you for your partnership with Haven over this difficult season. We feel humbled and blessed to have survived the challenges of the pandemic and continue our work in the communities we serve. So much has changed over the past 18 months, but Haven, at its core, is still the same special place that our students have always called home.

- *Rebekah Kellaway*
Founder and Executive Director

Message from the
*Executive
Director*

Fall

Our 20-21 season launched amidst many unknowns. As we settled in for the long haul of programming during a pandemic, our Haven staff put their heads together to create brand new curriculum at both our South Bay and LA City sites. Our students desperately needed their community, their teachers, and their avenue to express themselves; it was Haven's job to adapt and make sure that still existed. Utilizing Zoom, Dropbox, blocking on PowerPoint presentations, crafts, mics, at-home music studios, boxes of sanitizing wipes, outdoor dress rehearsals in the rain, and a good bit of perseverance and grit from our students, we were able to experience a once in a lifetime fall!



HAVEN FALL 2020

SOUTH BAY SEPTEMBER PREPARATORY CLASS

To begin the season, we offered a series of fully virtual voice and dance classes. 32 students met over Zoom to hone their skills and be in community with their fellow performers in a safe way.

PICO UNION VIRTUAL ARTS

Our fall programming at Pico Union pivoted to meet the needs of our students' community. 30 students met weekly over Zoom for art projects, with supplies and food delivered each week by Pico staff. At this point, our Pico community was highly affected by Covid, so it was imperative for us to provide programming in the safest manner possible.

→ CREATE YOUR OWN HAVEN

This highly adaptive curriculum allowed for a hybrid of both in person and virtual instruction. To reduce cost, current staff members stepped in to instruct free of charge while our finances reeled from the shut-downs. Much of the curriculum consisted of 1-on-1 instruction, which was an amazing opportunity to mentor and develop relationships with our students who – just like adults – were struggling. This was the first and only time we have ever been able to offer this kind of intensive instruction, and the lasting impact on our students both as artists and people was incredible to watch.

Cast Yourself

45 students met both virtually and in small scheduled duos in local backyards to rehearse their dream roles! Each cast member had the opportunity to choose a musical theatre role, and were coached individually and in pairs to prepare for their performance. After multiple private vocal and acting lessons, our students were ready to present two songs and two scenes from shows like *Les Miserables*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Legally Blonde*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, and many, many more. For our performance, we filmed our students outdoors

and at home, and our video editor compiled a review, which premiered at the end of January.



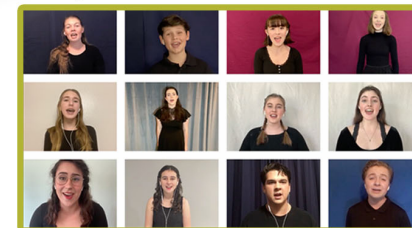
Backyard Black Box

Try saying that three times fast! A trio of students developed their own show, wrote their own songs, and worked collaboratively with Director Claire Griswold to create a story about friendship and self-worth. Students met both virtually, and socially distanced in the director's front yard. For our performance, students submitted home recordings of their roles, and our video editor compiled a virtual show that premiered in early February.



Original Musical

For our most advanced students, Executive Director Rebekah Kellaway wrote the libretto for an original musical, with original compositions written by Margy Emmons. 14 cast members rehearsed music from afar over Zoom with Emmons, and did scene work both virtually and in-person (outdoors, masked and socially distanced in local backyards). For our performance, each child filmed their role at home, and our amazing video editor compiled their show, which was presented as a live-stream on Feb 6th.



Spring

Spring brought a small but exciting sense of normalcy as we were able to do our full length musicals for the first time in a year! Our staff and students were challenged both logistically and artistically as we navigated socially distanced blocking and pre-recorded in-person performances. With a handful of incredibly gifted and hardworking students, we brought the stories of *Little Women* and *The Little Mermaid* – along with countless other narratives at our Pico Union Cast Yourself show – to life. Our students continued to grow and mature as performers and people, pushing up from the tumultuous and cold world around them like tenacious blooms. To say we were proud of them would be a vast understatement.



HAVEN SPRING 2021

SOCIALLY DISTANCED MUSICALS

SOUTH BAY Little Women

Our season of small enrollment and limited cohort sizing actually allowed us to attack some repertoire that we have never been able to offer our students before! 13 of our most advanced young performers met three times weekly in-person, outdoors to rehearse for their socially distanced musical. Our casts performed two prerecorded shows back-to-back on the OCF stage, masked and socially distanced. The production was presented virtually in early June.



The Little Mermaid Jr.

We resumed our traditional spring curriculum with many logistics tweaks! 49 cast members met twice weekly outdoors to rehearse for a socially distanced show on the OCF stage. For our performance, our cast performed *The Little Mermaid Jr.* in bits and pieces on the stage, and our video editor created a digital show, which was livestreamed in late May.

PICO UNION Cast Yourself

24 students met weekly in person (masked and socially distanced) to rehearse songs and scenes for a musical review. For their performance, students were recorded individually, and their performances were edited together to create a virtual show, presented on May 22nd.



Valentine's Baskets

In February, 25 donors sponsored 40 baskets filled with crafts and treats for our Pico community kids! For our students affected by economic hardship, a little care goes a long way. We are grateful to our donors who are always willing to jump in and help us provide extra love to our Pico kids!



Summer

The sun came out, and along with it, a long-awaited surge in enrollment. We were finally able to offer fully in-person programming after 15 long months of virtual and hybrid curriculum. Perhaps most thrilling? Our first live audience! All of the challenges associated with the constant pivoting and adapting melted away in the moments when our cast members were finally – FINALLY – able to take their bows in front of a live, cheering audience. Our students were home!



HAVEN SUMMER 2021

SOUTH BAY

4 SUMMER CAMPS

We ran four, 2-week long summer theatre camps over the month of July, serving a total of 77 students. Our Tap Intensive, *Beauty and the Beast Jr.*, *Singin' In The Rain Jr.*, and *Winnie the Pooh KIDS* camps were all in-person at our South Bay facility. Each camp performed for a live audience on the OCF stage. Campers rehearsed daily in our outdoor spaces until their dress rehearsals.



HAVEN SUMMER 2021

BENEFIT CONCERT

Keeping quality arts education accessible to all is a core component of Haven's mission and culture, and our robust Scholarship Fund has always been the primary tool for making that possible. This year, our communities needed financial aid more than ever, and our generous donors stepped in to sponsor students in need. Our in-person Benefit Concert, and the Scholarship funding raised that evening, launched a season of renewed commitment to closing the gap and reaching students of all economic backgrounds.



HAVEN SUMMER 2021

PICO UNION

hART OF THE CITY



PICO UNION SUMMER CAMP

Our Pico students were also finally in-person again this summer! Summer Camp at Pico ran as usual, with 19 campers performing songs and dances from *School House Rock Jr.* on the First EV Free Church stage just for family members.



hART OF THE CITY SUMMER CAMP

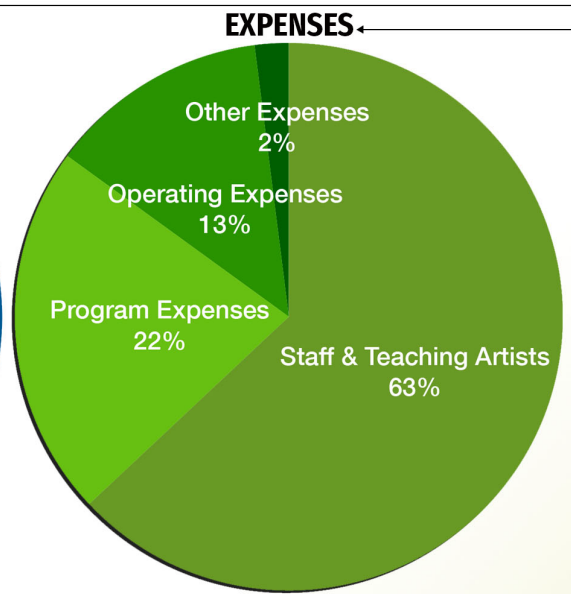
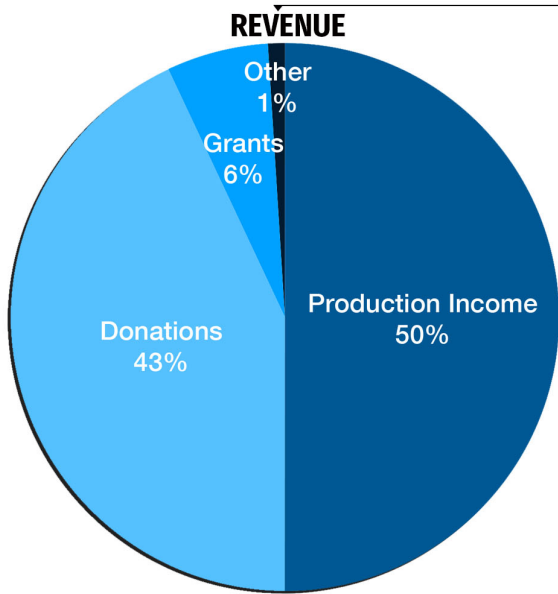
This summer, we were thrilled to be able to resume our hART of the City programming after a year off. Our in-person hART of the City Summer Camp partnered with the Rock Church to serve 15 students from the Pico Union and West Adams communities. At the end of the 2-week camp, students performed a private in-person show for families only.

This last year, much like the year prior, Haven's financial picture has looked a bit different. Entering into Fiscal Year 20-21 with in-person programming still greatly stunted by the virus, we relied heavily on CARES Act Funding and great donor generosity from our Year-End Campaign. However, even with these additional, fortuitous monies, and an aggressive cutting of expenses, the reality was that our reduced revenue stream was unsustainable due to the limitations of the pandemic. The early half of the Fiscal Year saw significant dipping into our reserve fund with the hopes that, soon, our programs, and thereby revenue stream, could resume in a more traditional manner. A second PPP loan in February eased our expense burden slightly in the mid-year, and we began to pursue an Employee Retention Tax Credit for additional staffing funds. It was a challenging time.

But... Summer arrived and student enrollment boomed! Our refreshed revenue stream in June of '21 and the approval of a significant ERC allowed us to reinvest into our reserve fund, and begin our financial and operational rebuild. Fast forward to today: We began our current fiscal year with an increase in student enrollment, bringing us to traditional Fall programming numbers. This led to a more robust and predictable revenue stream, which will allow us to restore any loss to our reserve fund incurred in FY 20-21, add desperately needed staff to our team, and maintain our tuition-fee programming at our LA City branches. There is still work to do in order to financially rebuild, but we optimistically look towards a future of growing enrollment, an enhanced reserve fund, and strong financial partnership with our donors – all of which will make it possible for Haven to continue its mission of providing quality arts education to all.

- Rachel Schiller-Geis
Director of Operations

Letter from the Director of Operations



Total Revenue \$ Amount: \$ [REDACTED]
 Total Expense \$ Amount: \$ [REDACTED]
TOTAL DEFICIT: -\$ [REDACTED]

Total Expense Dollar Amount: \$ [REDACTED]

Total Revenue Dollar Amount: \$ [REDACTED] Emergency Funding: \$ [REDACTED]

TOTAL PROFIT WITH EMERGENCY FUNDING: \$31,298



Pre-Pandemic Balance: \$ [REDACTED]
 9/1/2020 Balance: \$ [REDACTED]
 7/31/2021 Balance: \$ [REDACTED]

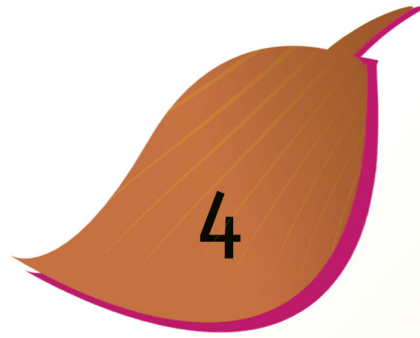
Financial Report



4
In-Person
Summer Camps



359
Students
Served



4
Virtual
Workshops



8
Streamed
Productions

Board of Directors

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Secretary Maria Ferrante

CFO Marie Madera-Gleerup

Members at Large

Samantha Barnes

Dean Sweetman

Tom Johnstone

Haven by the
Numbers

This year, Haven has had the opportunity to revisit our mission statement and recommit to our goal of providing quality arts education to students of all races, genders, and economic backgrounds. We want to share our Equity and Inclusion Statement with our families and donors, so that each of you know how integral equal access is to the Haven culture.

CEII Policy

Haven Academy of the Arts' commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and equal access to arts education is an integral part of its identity as an organization. We believe that every student – regardless of race, gender, ability, or economic standing – should be able to experience the transformative power of the arts. Our mission states that we aim to “develop character in future leaders through the performing arts and give them the tools, life skills, and sense of purpose they need to leave a legacy in their community”. Here at Haven, we strongly believe that means every community.

The arts are a powerful vehicle for bringing light to dark places, and for elevating youth affected by disenfranchisement out of their circumstances. As arts disappear from schools, and the arts desert areas of Los Angeles increasingly become the norm, it is imperative that we are committed to providing access to arts education to as many communities as possible. The arts were made for, and are made by, everyone; we need voices of all types in order to create sustainable, effective art, and we need partnerships with all ethnicities, genders, and communities in order to build place-based programs that appropriately impact and meet the specific needs of the youth involved. To provide theatre arts to one group alone would be a great disservice to the arts in general, and would rob the youth who are the most in-need of a safe space of a powerful and transformative tool.

The future of the arts depends on programs like Haven's willingness to bring the universal experience of the arts to those who would otherwise be excluded due to their circumstances.

Inclusion
and Equity

INDIVIDUAL DONORS:

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GRANTS:

LA County Arts
The Blackburn Giving Fund
Kinecta Community Foundation

CORPORATE DONORS:

Network for Good
UBS
Wonderful Giving

Our 2020-2021

Supporters

Haven Academy of the Arts doesn't exist without its valued donors. Our tuition-free Pico and hART of the City programming, as well as our Scholarship Fund, rely entirely on the generosity of our financial partners. This last year, more than ever, our donors made it possible for us to keep our doors open. As we look to the future, we need the support of donors like YOU to help us rebuild and impact as many students as possible!

If you are inspired by what we do here at Haven and want to join us in making a difference through arts education, will you consider partnering with us this year by joining our community of donors?



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partner
with us!

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DONATE**

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Join Us!