



developing character through arts education

2019-2020
Annual Report

Finding our Roots

MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Haven Community,

I have had a lot of long conversations with my husband – who is also in the performing arts – about the impact of all live performances disappearing in the span of just a single day. I remember that day well. March 13th. The prior day, I received a phone call from my husband that the University and Community College where he taught were shutting down all in-person instruction, and cancelling all concerts and performances for the remainder of the year. I knew at that moment that *Frozen Jr.* wouldn't be going up in two weeks as scheduled, but there was a lot I didn't know... I didn't know that when I filled my gas tank that day that I wouldn't need to do it again for two months. Or that when I stocked up on groceries at Trader Joes that this season would last so much longer than my 5 bags of pasta indicated. Or that when we postponed *Frozen Jr.*, I would be sitting here, 9 months later, still unable to dance kids shoulder to shoulder, unmasked, for an audience.

We lost a lot on March 13th: ticket income from our most financially successful production of the fiscal year, donation income from our Gala, tuition from our subsequently cancelled summer musical. But we didn't lose Haven. For a moment, when we shuttered the doors to our facility and our offices closed, I thought, "How can we go on without our performances?" But that was the wrong question. Because Haven isn't about the performance. Oh, yes, we put on great performances! Our students work hard and we are always so proud of what they accomplish when they take the stage. But that's not our purpose, or our mission.

As I stumbled through what we had lost, I found who we are. I found our roots. Where did Haven come from? Haven came from a teacher who saw how the performing arts transformed lives and asked herself, "Can I be a part of changing lives every day? Can I wake up each day and do the kind of work that impacts youth for the long run?" So, 12 years later, I began to ask these questions again. The answers that came felt a little like beginning again, but they also grounded me. I felt rooted in who I was as an educator, and in what Haven is at its core mission. Haven exists to develop character and to grow future leaders. This can be done on stage, but it can also be done on a computer screen, in private Zoom lessons, in masks, and even in person, six feet apart in a backyard. The arts live and breathe beyond the stage and beyond those fleeting moments of live performances. The arts work quietly – powerfully – in the lives of our students. This transformation never happened on stage. It happened in rehearsal, in a coaching session, in an intermission pep talk from an instructor, in the friendships and community that are birthed out of a shared goal in a safe space. The stage was merely the platform for this change to be momentarily displayed for all to see.

Since March 13th, 2020, our staff has held tight to our roots, revisiting who we really are in what we believe was a successful effort to stay true to our mission. In this annual report, we are excited to share how we adapted to the challenges that COVID presented. We created new curriculum, restructured our programs, even wrote some of our own performance content. But we are still Haven. We know and see that the good work of Haven is still happening. Our mission is alive and well. We hope that as you read about the work that Haven is doing, you will be inspired to join us as we remember and celebrate who we really are. It has been my experience that this season of diving back into the roots of our mission has only solidified the importance of the work that we do. To our donors, to our grant funders, to our corporate sponsors: thank you for helping us keep the power of arts education alive, even when the stage lights are dark.

Sincerely,

Rebekah Cellaway

Founder and Executive Director

September

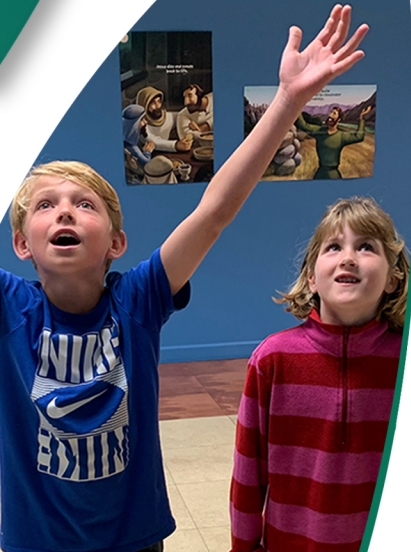


Sept 3 - *Les Mis* Auditions Begin

Our South Bay students take on the challenge of tackling the *Les Miserable School Edition*, a version of the beloved Broadway musical adapted for young voices. After three days of auditions and two days of Call Backs, our creative team casts 95 students. With our recent focus on challenging dance shows – *Westside Story* and *Newsies* – we are excited to focus on a difficult vocal piece this fall. Our Haven students rise to the occasion with their usual work ethic and commitment to excellence.

Sept 9 - Petite Players *Seussical Kids* Rehearsals Begin

Our Petite Players production launches its third year of programming. With curriculum developed exclusively for K-3 grade students, our Petite Players program increases in size each year. This year 94 students, split into four casts, take on *Seussical Kids*. Our casts include our first ever Homeschool only cast, featuring 31 students, K-8. Also beginning this week is our Friday Dance Classes, Pretend and Play Class for pre-school students, and Children's Choir, serving an additional 73 students.



Oct 5 - *Les Mis* Saturday Rehearsals Begin

It's 9AM, and our *Les Mis* cast members pour into the lobby, sign-in, check the board for their room assignments, then disperse to their rehearsal space to get to work. Fall Saturday rehearsals at Haven are long, creative, and filled with time spent together overcoming challenges and perfecting songs, dances, and scenework as a cast. At this point in the rehearsal process, cast members are at our facility 3 times a week as they prepare for their performance. Oftentimes, they are sharing the facility with a multitude of students from other programs: Pretend and Play, Petite Players, Choir... but Saturdays are these *Les Mis* cast members' days to spread out and put large group numbers together. Around noon, most of the cast goes home, while leads eat lunch together and fuel up for another 4 hours of intensive scenework.



October

November

Nov 14 - Opening Weekend of *Les Mis* AND *Seussical Kids*

Like always, our Fall Show weekends are busy, fun, and a little bit crazy here at Haven! With 2 casts of *Les Mis* and 4 casts of *Seussical Kids*, we present 8 performances over the course of two weekends. This requires 8 dress rehearsals, 1 cue to cue technical rehearsal, 2 clean up rehearsals, 2 stage placement rehearsals, 2 load ins, and 2 set strikes. With an average of 2,000 audience members over the two weekends, our instructors, administrative staff, technical team, and an army of volunteers work around the clock to bring two successful musicals to the stage at the same time.



Dec 4 – Opening Night of Haven Pico Union’s Fall Musical Review

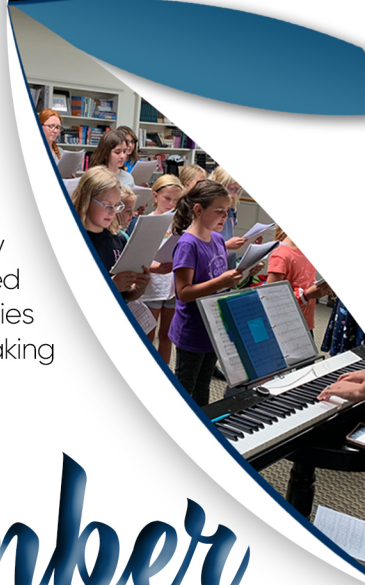
This fall marks our new Urban Outreach Director, Emily Barish’s first production at Pico Union. Emily served as an instructor for two years prior to her taking over the program, and the leadership transition goes smoothly for our students. Emily is especially gifted at building relationships in the community, a skill we will soon be thankful for in a year with so much unexpected change.

Dec 10 and 12 – Holiday Read-Thru Parties

Our Read-Thru Parties are an opportunity for our South Bay students to come together over our holiday break and interact with the material from our upcoming Spring and Summer Musicals (while wearing holiday PJs and “ugly Christmas sweaters”!). The event also serves as a fundraiser for our Pico Union programs, a way for our South Bay families to give back to the program and make Haven a home for our Pico Union students, too!

Dec 15th – Winter Choir Concert

December also brings our annual Winter Concert. This year, our concert features both our Children’s Choir, directed by Gianna Summers and our Adult Community Choir, directed by Matthew Kellaway. At Haven, we love opportunities to bring together multiple generations in the art making process, and this concert is no exception.



December

Jan 14 – South Bay Frozen Jr. Auditions Begin

We kick off 2020 with auditions for our elementary and junior high cast of *Frozen Jr.* As a newly released musical, our 4 casts of 160 students are especially excited to take on these on well-loved roles. Spring is an opportunity for our students to learn in age-specific casts, allowing us to tailor the curriculum to each developmental level. We always see a great deal of growth in our students when they participate in a production designed just for them.



January

Jan 20 – Cabaret Rehearsals Begin

While our younger students take on their own musical, our high school and college students begin rehearsing for our second Haven Cabaret program. Our Cabaret production is built by our instructors for the individual students who audition with the goal of growing each performer. The production allows our students to take on musical numbers from shows that we wouldn't regularly produce at Haven. This year's production line up includes songs from *Chicago*, *In the Heights*, and *A Chorus Line*.

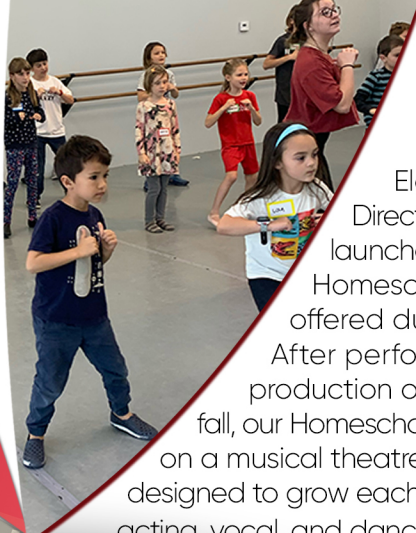
Jan 27 – Haven Pico Union Takes on *Frozen Jr.* Too!

Our Pico Union students are thrilled to take on the same Spring Show as their South Bay friends! Our Pico Union and South Bay students regularly attend each other's productions to show support, and both branches are excited to take on the same material this year. Sharing shows allows for shared sets and costumes as well, allowing us to "step up" the production quality at our tuition-free Pico Union site.



Feb 19 – Homeschool Program Begins

Elementary Program Director, Kelsea Maynard, launches Haven's first ever Homeschool only program, offered during school hours. After performing in their own production of *Seussical Jr.* in the fall, our Homeschool students embark on a musical theatre review production designed to grow each student in their acting, vocal, and dance skills.



February



March 1 – hARTs for Haven

A special event for our key financial partners held at Tin Roof. We invite a select group of donors (those giving \$500 or above annually) to an evening of appetizers, drinks and a special presentation about Haven's future financial plans. This event allows our staff and board to build relationships with our key donors and keeps our donors informed about how Haven uses their generosity to make a difference in our community.

March

March 13 – COVID-19 Forces Shut Down

Less than two weeks away from opening night of *Frozen Jr.*, Haven, along with many other businesses, is forced to close its doors for all in person classes, rehearsals, and performances due to COVID-19 quarantine regulations. Postponing our production significantly impacts our budget as all profit from ticket income and lobby sales for the show evaporates. Each year, this crucial South Bay income helps fund not only our South Bay programs, but also our Urban Outreach programs, and administrative overhead costs.

March 16 – Continued Cabaret, Choir, Homeschool Virtually

Although we are unable to move forward with our live performances, our staff pivots quickly and moves all our other weekly classes and rehearsals to an on-line format through Zoom so our students can continue learning. By the end of summer, we serve a total of 238 students through our virtual programs.

March 20 – Launched Virtual Dance Class

Thinking we are still in for a temporary shut down, our staff plans a few light-hearted virtual educational experiences to keep our students engaged during a scary time. Virtual Tap Classes through Instagram taught by Ashley Chaney start immediately, while we make plans for our weekly Read-Thru program to begin in May.



April

April 15th – PPP Loan

Haven applies for, and is eventually awarded, a critical Paycheck Protection Loan. This loan enables us to keep all our administrative staff on payroll through the end of the fiscal year.

May

May 5 – Virtual Read-Thru Program Begins

Haven launches a weekly Virtual Read-Thru program at both our South Bay and Pico Union sites where students gather together on Zoom to read through popular musicals. It turns into a wonderful opportunity to keep our community alive and stay in touch with our students as our staff races to develop longer-term curriculum plans for the pandemic.



June

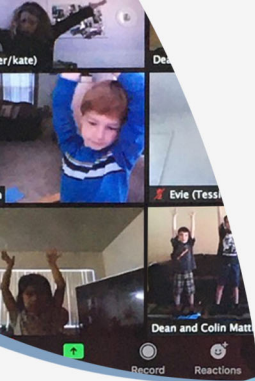
June 6th – Virtual Family Talent Show

Our June 6th Gala was canceled, and, along with it, all of our budgeted donations from the fundraising event. To make up for the loss of donation income, our staff gets creative with our virtual fundraising. Our first virtual fundraising event, A Virtual Family Talent Show, is a hit with our community! Haven families enter videos in the contest and our community donates to vote - \$1 per vote - raising over \$3,500 for our Urban Outreach Program.

June 15th – Virtual Summer Workshops Begin

Once it is confirmed that our programs have to remain virtual for the remainder of the Summer, our staff works tirelessly to create a brand-new virtual curriculum in lieu of our usual Summer Camps and Summer Musical. Before launching our Virtual Camps in July, we create 3 weeks of virtual workshops and master classes, in which we address areas of theatrical training that we always wished we had time to cover in rehearsal. Students have the opportunity explore Shakespeare, script analysis, and vocal technique in a small group environment.





July 6th – Virtual Summer Camps Begin at South Bay

Haven's Summer Camps go virtual this year, with an *Annie Kids Camp* for our K-5 students and a *High School Musical 2 Camp* for our middle school students. We also offer our first ever Shakespeare camp for our teens. Students participate over Zoom and work together to film excerpts from their production which are edited together in a special video presentation for their families.

July 8th – Pico Union Summer Camp Begins

For our Pico Union virtual camp, we run a weekly program over the month of July instead of our typical two week summer program. Early on in lockdown, we discovered that the consistent relational check ins with our students was the most important resource we had to provide. Each week our Urban Outreach Director, Emily Barish, delivers a "Camp Care Package" to each student in the program. "Camp Care Packages" include art supplies, snacks, and personal touches like a handwritten note. We are intentional to choose supplies that our students express they no longer have access to at home with the schools closed. Ms. Barish then meets with our students via Zoom for a weekly arts related activity. We focus our camp activities this summer away from accomplishing a big show and instead take more of an art therapy route. Our instructors take our students through visual arts projects, an expression through movement activity and a creative writing exercise that allows our students to process their experiences during the pandemic.

July



Demystifying Your Sheet Music

Melody, Rhythm, Harmony... it's all in your sheet music!

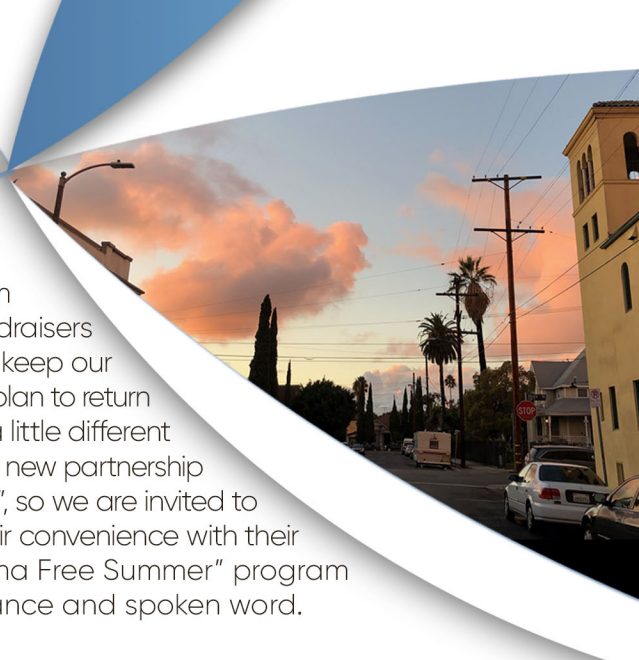
• Title: name of song!

Key Signature: how many # or b

Time Signature: how many beats in a measure.

Tempo: fast or slow do we do this thing?!

Articulation: how do we sing or play



July 13th – Virtual hART of the City Camp

At Haven, our commitment is to cultivating long-term relationships with our students. Through the virtual fundraisers and our faithful monthly donor support, we are able to keep our commitments with our Urban Program partnerships. Our plan to return to World Impact for a second summer of camp looks a little different during quarantine, but we are committed to keeping this new partnership alive. For this community, our students are “zoomed out”, so we are invited to create instructional videos that they can access at their convenience with their families. Haven partners with World Impact’s “Trauma Free Summer” program for its students by offering art therapy videos on dance and spoken word.

July 18th – Haven at Home: A Virtual Benefit Concert

Our partners at First EV Free Church Los Angeles and the SAY YES! tutoring center share with us an important need in the community we serve: with a high population of first generation immigrant families in our Pico program, many of our students’ parents are out of work, but ineligible for government unemployment benefits. The danger of going hungry becomes a reality in the lives of our students.

We decide that, as a program that cares for the whole child, it was in line with our mission and paramount to address our students’ physical needs during this season. We put together a professionally edited Virtual Benefit Concert featuring our Haven staff and alumni. Through this concert, our community raises over \$9,800 in funds – 50% goes toward grocery gift cards to families in the Pico Union community who are struggling to put food on the table, and 50% goes toward funding our Urban Outreach programming this summer.

August 25th – Fall 2020 Registration Goes Live

After months of board meetings, committee meetings, and staff meetings, our team builds a special hybrid program that allows Haven's arts education to continue into Fall 2020. In this season, we want to do more than just train our students – we want to inspire. Called "Create Your Own Haven," we construct 3 adaptive high-level performance courses that develop both the creative and theatrical skills required to be a well-rounded performer. With a focus on breaking out of the box and creating as a team like never before, our new curriculum is a once in a lifetime opportunity for our students to come together and create something new, something their own. We've spent over a decade training our young performers... it's time to take them to the next level!



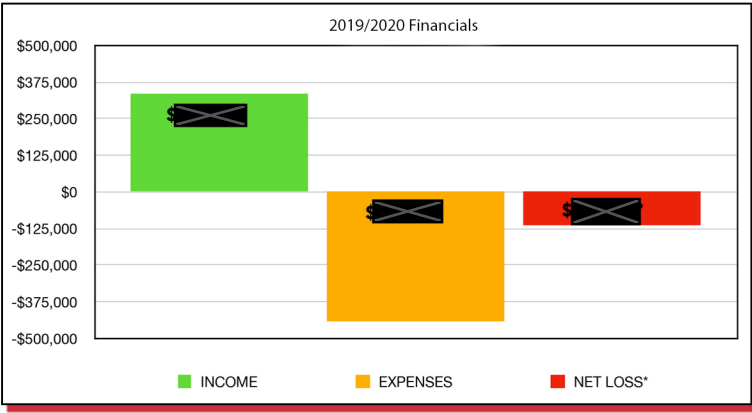
August

Financials -

While this season brought difficulties and challenges, we were blessed to have entered into this uncertain financial year with a healthy reserve fund. This reserve fund allowed us to continue paying our administrative and program staff through the end of the fiscal year despite low enrollment and a significant loss in proceeds from our tuition, ticket sales, and gala due to our canceled productions and events. It also allowed us to keep our doors open "virtually" and continue offering programming for South Bay, Pico Union, and hART of the City students. A heartfelt thank you to our monthly donors who faithfully stayed the course with us and everyone who helped make our Virtual Talent Show and Virtual Benefit Concert a success.

As we enter into the Fall, we expect to continue dipping into our reserve fund until regulations are lifted. At this time, we can only provide small group, socially distanced instruction and are unable to offer any live performances. While we can't go on like this forever, we are committed to keeping our programming going for as long as possible and optimistic that Haven will be able to weather this storm. We have cut back on staffing and administrative costs wherever we are able without sacrificing

the quality of the programming for our students. We reduced operating costs by 25% and employee costs by 20%. Currently, our South Bay program costs are being covered by tuition, our Urban Outreach program costs are being covered by donations and grants. Our reserve fund is currently being used to cover the overhead administrative costs that usually get covered by the South Bay ticket sales and the higher tuition income we see during a typical year. We are spending roughly \$10,000 from our reserve each month.



*Out Net Loss of \$100,000 was taken from our reserve fund

OUR 2019-2020 SUPPORTERS

Corporate Donations

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Wonderful Giving
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Benevity Community Impact Fund
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Kroll, Roxanne
Kubler Financial
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Linehan, John and Renee
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Monk, Clara
Monk, John
Morales, Brandi
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Mukai, Stephanie
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Foundations

California Community Foundation
Dwight Stuart Youth Fund
Los Angeles County Arts Commission
Pipkin Family Foundation

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Riegner, Laura
Rodriguez, Maria
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Scrafano, Elissa
Simon, Kelsey
Smith (Chen), Stephanie
Smith, Tony and Andrea
Sullivan, Jennifer
Syta, Teressa and Tom
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Thomas, Gerald and Ann
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Elliott, Jennifer
Espinoza, Robin and Chuck
Ferrante, Vincenzo and Maria
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Ford, Mike and Ashley

If you have partnered with us in the past, we ask that you consider continuing to support us during this season. Here is how you can help us protect Haven's future...



Scan here to partner with us!

Donate Now

Make a donation today to help Haven continue to keep its programming going. Things may look a little different, but our students are still engaged, learning, and growing. Please help us!

Sign Up for Programs

We are thankful for the many families who have stayed invested in our community and continue to register their children for our programming. Your involvement has helped Haven preserve our financial health during this season. Unable to participate? Consider sponsoring a scholarship student!

<http://www.havenartsacademy.org/donate-now>