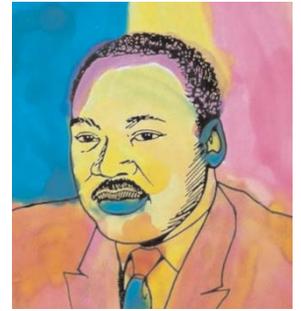


We must remember that intelligence is not enough. Intelligence plus character-that is the goal of true education. The complete education gives one not only power of concentration, but worthy objectives upon which to concentrate.”-- Martin Luther King Jr.



*PHOTOS: Upper: Rooftop's Kinders honor the legacy of Dr. King with a rainbow of color
Lower: Art Parent Mary Mottola assists Mr. R's 4th grade with their auction art project*

Rooftop Art Parents Build Community Through the Arts

Did you know that our Art Parent volunteers have been bringing visual arts learning to Rooftop students for more than 30 years? Decades ago, Rooftop's Art Program founder Aiko Cuneo discovered that there wasn't much art being offered in her child's kindergarten class. She volunteered to lead an art lesson, and soon, more parents joined her, bringing visual art to more classrooms. The Rooftop Art Program was born. Over the years, the program has evolved and expanded, providing students with learning opportunities in multiple arts disciplines (music, dance, performing, media and literary arts), offered through credentialed school district arts providers, teaching artists, and cultural organizations. However, the Art Parent volunteers are still at the core of our program, bringing their passion and dedication to our students every week!

Rooftop's Art Parent program provides the opportunity for parent volunteers and classroom teachers to work together to create unique arts learning experiences for our students.

In working together, parents and teachers model for our children the spirit of collaboration and volunteerism. This year's art program curriculum theme "Art Is . . . Coming Together" explores the ways that the arts invite us to build community. Our Art Parents are a beautiful example of this concept in action. Volunteering as an Art Parent not only brings engaging art lessons to our students, the parents' efforts model for our children (and adults too!) all what it means to engage in service to others as an active member of a caring community. We are very grateful for their dedication and recognize that their efforts demonstrate to our children that art is for everyone!

ROOFTOP ART CALENDAR Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY - K-5 Field Trips to the Contemporary Jewish Museum for "The Snowy Day and the Art of Ezra Jack Keats"

Tues, Feb 12 - 8 am - Burnett MPR ART PARENTS' Artmaking Workshop with a classroom lesson plan for Ezra Jack Keats

March 2-9 - SFUSD Youth Arts Festival - Asian Art Museum

March 9 - Rooftop Auction and Children's Art Show

SPRING SEMESTER ARTIST RESIDENCIES:

StageWrite Theatre Arts & Literacy - 5th grade
SFUSD Dance Residency with Esme - K-5th
Marcus Shelby and Flo Oy Wong @ Burnett Campus
African American Shakespeare Company - 6th-8th

A Culture of Service at Rooftop School

At Rooftop School, our focus on arts learning promotes a culture of service by teaching children from a very young age that everyone can contribute by doing. Art-making involves active participation, problem-solving and decision-making, discipline and self-reliance, and helps to build a school atmosphere of respect, openness and empathy. Arts learning begins by honoring every child's unique perspective and personal experience. The young artist becomes aware that each material has its unique qualities and strengths and comes to understand that diversity is beautiful and to be valued. Jazz musician Marcus Shelby points out to our students that we all have our own original, unique melodies, but by gathering all of our different sounds together as one, we can experience the richness of harmony. In harmony, our collective song becomes richer and more powerful.

Through the arts, we challenge children to see, hear, think and feel more, to take risks, and connect to something beyond their immediate selves. The arts teach us about the accomplishments of people from all cultures, and reveal the truths about our history and our humanity. Through song, dance and images, the arts express thoughts and feelings beyond words and give rise to poetry, the best of language. The arts record growth and change, while helping us to slow and savor time. The arts serve to help us to be more present, and give us a way to better remember the times of our lives, while envisioning the future. The arts give young people the freedom to use and share their unique talents and express their ideas through a most joyful kind of learning. Importantly, in the process of creating, the artist builds his or her own capacity to gain pleasure from their efforts and recognize the worth of their personal contributions in service to others.

Mayeda Students Shine in the North Star Project

January 25

Rooftop was treated to afternoon and evening performances by our 6th - 8th graders in this year's North Star Project. The performing arts showcase was an extension of



Marcus Shelby's "Green & Blues" residency. In this year's study, Marcus and the students explored the history of San Francisco, from native flora and fauna, through the development of our city and its neighborhoods yesterday and today.

Our students created art that reflects on real-world issues of environment and social justice in our city. Included were film, music, poetry, and drama that advocated for the protection of San Francisco's native species. Other student performances and artworks explored our city's neighborhoods, revealing surprising histories and defying persistent stereotypes about the neighborhoods where our students live today. Congratulations to all of our students who opened their minds and hearts to the experience, who created art about the issues that concern them, and who courageously advocated for their beliefs through performances for their peers and parents.

SketchTravel & MLK: A Visit to Yerba Buena Gardens

January 29 - Rooftop's 7th and 8th graders continued their exploration of the ways that individual actions can help to change the world. At the Cartoon Art Museum, students experienced the collaboration of 71 talented artists from around the world in "Sketchtravel." Started by artists Dice Tsutsumi and Gerald Guerlais, a simple red sketchbook was passed from one artist to another, each adding their creative contribution. When filled, the original Sketchtravel book was sold at auction to benefit Room to Read, an international literacy non-profit that helps to build libraries in developing countries. At the exhibit, students viewed giclee prints of the original Sketchtravel works, examples of the ways that artists can use their unique talents to be agents of change.

Across the Esplanade of Yerba Buena Gardens, students next visited the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, which features photos and quotes from the civil rights movement, situated behind a majestic waterfall fifty feet high. The memorial was designed as "a sacred space ... meant to be experienced as a cultural pilgrimage and a journey of transformation." Students recorded reflections on their experiences at the memorial. One student wrote that, "The memorial inspires people to believe and become better members of society."